

**WHO IN
THE WORLD,
IN CHRIST,
ARE YOU**

BY

BILL KAISER

INTRODUCTION

WHO IN THE WORLD IN CHRIST ARE YOU is a book about you. As the title implies, it is a book about you "in the world", or you "in Christ". It is a book about you before you were born again. It is a book about you after you were born again. This book also talks about your soul, when one day you walk after the spirit and another day you walk after the flesh.

All of this description of you is accomplished by defining you as spirit, soul, and body. For this purpose several chapters about spirit, soul, and body have been borrowed from WHO IS CHRIST by Bill Kaiser.

The greater emphasis will be placed upon the new birth of the spirit man. By far, most doctrinal differences between Christians arise because of their different understanding of what it means to be born again. Of course, the Biblical truth of being born again cannot be understood unless we also fully understand spirit, soul, and body.

For example, many people understand only that the life of Jesus Christ was an example we must follow in order to go to heaven. They see He was willing to die on the cross rather than compromise His life style of love and service. Therefore, the cross becomes only an emotional appeal for us to change our way of living from immorality to morality by our own disciplined decision making. Certainly the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ does have a strong appeal to respond to this kind of love by changing our moral conduct. However, this appeal alone is not sufficient to accomplish what God has for His people.

The body of Christ, the church, has fallen short of reflecting the love and service exemplified by Jesus Christ. For that reason, the world does not know that we are His disciples. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another." (John 13:35) The problem is not that the church members do not want to love one another (although a few may not want to love); the problem is that they have no ability to "agape love" one another. In ourselves we can not decide to love like Jesus loved and

accomplish it without His help. The new birth must be more than a decision to change our life style in response to the emotional appeal of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Others have a broader understanding to the saving work of Jesus Christ. They understand that you must be born again of the Spirit, as Jesus instructed Nicodemus in John Chapter Three. "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit." These people understand that we must trust in the shed blood of Jesus to cleanse our spirit from the death that came from past sin (death in the spirit of man). However, they live as though there is little assurance of cleansing from present sin. Therefore, much emphasis is placed on obedience by turning back to the discipline of the flesh for present and future cleansing and salvation. Those with this understanding know that by grace we are born again through faith. But the Bible says in Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

There is a difference between born again and saved. To be born again is to be saved in the spirit realm. But a person can be saved or born again in the spirit realm and still have problems in the soul realm. When we entertain continuing soul-realm unbelief, worry, vain imaginations, lack of peace, we are not saved in the soul realm, although we may have been born again or saved in the spirit realm. Salvation goes beyond the spirit realm. It includes the soul realm, body realm, social realm, and financial realm.

Yes, we must be born again in the spirit. Does the work of the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ have any application to the soul realm or is soul- realm salvation only a matter of fleshly self discipline? Even the soul realm must be saved by grace through faith, and that not of ourselves. Nevertheless, we do not continue in sin that grace may abound. In this book WHO IN THE WORLD IN CHRIST ARE YOU, I hope to shed some light on learning how to walk after the Spirit to experience soul-realm salvation which can only be experienced after the new birth of the spirit.

Still others are beginning to understand through diligent study of the Bible, the Word of God, that the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ has provided salvation for us in every realm of life. We are beginning to see what is ours in Christ, not that things become our

objective, but that Christ is our all in all. With Christ as our all in all, we place ourselves in the hands of a loving Father who provides all of our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. We are beginning to see that this love for us, that caused God to give His only begotten Son, is so great, that we are motivated to live a life far beyond what the law required of us. We are becoming so aware of what the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ has provided for us in the spirit-realm new birth, in soul realm peace and understanding, in body realm health and strength, in social realm favor, and in financial realm prosperity, that we are energized to glorify God every moment of our lives. We are energized by the Spirit of the living God to live and move and have our being in him. We are energized to be like Jesus. We are energized to be like Jesus not because the law demands it (although it does) but because love inspires it.

Having been born again of the Spirit, you now have a choice. Are you going to be in the world or in Christ. WHO IN THE WORLD IN CHRIST ARE YOU?

All Scripture quotations
from the King James Version
of the Bible unless otherwise stated

Other books authored or edited by Bill Kaiser

A Comprehensive Study of Righteousness
Adam, Jesus & Us; Spirit, Soul, & Body: A study in Scriptures
Spirit, A Study in Scriptures
Who Is Christ
From the Heart
The Living Word
No Other Gospel
The Gospel of Jesus & Paul

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Chapter 1

THE FIRST MAN, ADAM

Surely, the most frustrating thing that natural man has ever tried to do is to define himself. Great psychologists and psychiatrists have written volumes without any significant conclusions. They talk about ego, id, and subconscious, never coming to understanding.

If men would have simply turned to the Word of God, they would have found the answer to WHO IN THE WORLD IN CHRIST ARE YOU?

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created he them." (Genesis 1:27) In Genesis 1:26, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...."

God made man in his own image, after His likeness. The word for image in the Hebrew is *tselem*. It means shade, phantom, illusion, or resemblance. The idea here is one of "intangibility". The word for likeness in the Hebrew is *demooth*. It means model, shape, or resemblance. The idea here is one of "tangibility".

So we see man is created in the tangible likeness of God's shape (with head, hands, feet, arms, legs, etc.). We also see man is created in the intangible image of God, that is, with His ability to think, feel, and decide.

It is also interesting to note that Genesis 1:26 uses the word "make" and Genesis 1:27 uses the word "create". This word for create *bawraw* is the same word used in Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created...." We find a third word used in Genesis 2:7, "And the Lord God formed" The Hebrew word for formed is *yatsar*. It meaning to mold under pressure or extrude.

So we see, God made man in His tangible likeness by forming Adam's body from dust under pressure. God then created (as He created the heaven and the earth) man's intangible image, his personality.

This understanding of man as God's creation is not sufficient to satisfy natural man. We must pursue this into greater detail. As we consider further scriptural evidence we find that man is a triune being=spirit, soul, and body.

We have received wonderful teaching about spirit, soul, and body in recent years. This teaching has greatly enlarged our understanding of redemption. However, I believe we have lost some truth in the over emphasis of spirit, soul, and body. We have become a bit dogmatic about it. Let's examine the Word of God to see what we can find.

Our basic understanding of spirit, soul, and body comes from three primary scriptures:

1. God's creation of Adam:

Genesis 2:7, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, an breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

2. Paul's prayer;

1 Thessalonians 5:23, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

3. Separable spirit and soul;

Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

For these three basic scriptures we find basic principles. From Number One, we see that God breathed of Himself (John 4:24; God is Spirit) into a clay body, and the result was Adam becoming a living soul (thus, Spirit activating soul in the body). This is reflected in the New Testament; see Number Two. The Greek text specifically states "spirit and the soul and the body", distinguishing between the three.

Since the Hebrew, the most probable original New Testament manuscripts, does not distinguish between spirit and soul as clearly as the Greek, many scholars interpret the spirit and the soul as one. But this is inconsistent with Hebrews 4:12, which clearly states that the "quick and powerful" Word of God can divide asunder the soul and spirit. Since spirit and soul can be divided (even though only by the Word of God), spirit and soul must have distinguishing characteristics.

These three references (Genesis 2:7, I Thessalonians 5.23, and Hebrews 4:12) are most frequently used when teaching about spirit, and soul, and body. However, these are not the only references to this distinction. The terms spirit, soul, and body are used throughout the Bible, Old and New Testament.

	SPIRIT	SOUL	BODY
In the Old Testament:	241 uses	415 uses	39 uses
In the New Testament:	253 uses	38 uses	134 uses

We cannot base our argument on the use of English words only since the translators may have been biased (without knowing) to translate from the Greek or Hebrew into some other word than spirit, soul, or body.

Hebrew Word

In some instances the Hebrew word *n'shah-mah* has been translated spirit, and in other instances the same word has been translated soul. The wisdom of the translators obviously is influenced by their personal understanding of triune man (spirit, soul, and body). The writing of the original manuscripts under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit was flavored by the personality and understanding of the chosen writer. I simply mean to say that God's idea may not have completely been understood by men, but interpreted in the light of their present understanding. For this reason, we must not only look at how a word was used in the language of that day, but we should also consider the context of the use of particular words by God through the whole Word of God.

Let us consider:

1. The English words: spirit, breathed, breath, and soul;
2. The Hebrew words that English words are translated from; and
3. Other English words into which the Hebrew words have been translated.

(see table on page 29)

English: Spirit	Breathed	Breath	Soul
Hebrew: rooagh	nahphagh	n'shah-ma	nehphesh
OT uses: 353	12	24	679

Other words: air blow blast any anger breathe breath appetite blast give up breatheth beast breath blow inspiration body cool lose life soul breath courage snuff spirit creature mind dead quarters deadly aide desire spirit discontent spiritual fish tempest ghost vain greedy whirlwind hath life wind he windy heart mind her herself himself jeopardy life lust man me mind mortality myself one own person pleasure self slay soul tablet themselves they thing thyself will yourselves

Make note that both *rooagh* and *n'shah-mah* are translated spirit. Also, note that both *n'shah-mah* and *nehphesh* are translated soul.

Further note the word *n'saha-mah* is translated both spirit and soul. This is not surprising since only the word of God which is quick and powerful can divide or distinguish between soul and spirit. The translators may not have properly translated *n'shah-mah* for two reasons. Possibly, they did not understand that spirit and soul can be divided, or there may not be so great a difference between spirit and soul as others may believe.

Now let us examine with even greater detail Genesis 2:7:

"And the Lord God (Jehovah; covenant keeper, grace giver who dwells with His people; Elohim: creator, sustainer mighty object of worship) formed man (adam; small "a") of the dust of the ground, and breathed (*nahphagh*: blow, breathe, give up) into his nostrils the breath (*n'shah-mah*: blast, breath, inspiration, spirit, soul) of life; and man (adam: small "a") became a living soul (*nehphesh*: see previous listing of 44 English words.)."

God breathed of Himself (God is Spirit; John 4:24.) the breath (*n'shah-mah*) of life meaning soul and spirit. This is subject to interpretation. But, it seems apparent to me that since God breathed of Himself (Who is Spirit) into Adam that the proper interpretation of *n'shah-mah* would be SPIRIT, not soul (as seems to be an acceptable option). And man became a living *nephesh* (soul), which is never translated spirit. By this we see that Adam became a living soul by the action of the Spirit of God blowing into the dust-of-the-ground body of Adam. Thus we see spirit, soul, and body in this creation scripture. (Genesis 2:7)

In the following chapters, a more specific definition will be given of the spirit, soul, and body. In summary, we consider the following points:

1. Spirit, soul, and body are clear Biblical concepts.
2. The distinction between spirit and soul is not as clear as one might think.
3. Since the Word of God can divide them, there is a difference between spirit and soul.

4. When the soul is in agreement with the Word of God, there is no difference between the spirit and soul. For this reason, Jesus Christ appeared to be a two-part Being.

Chapter 2

THE BODY REALM

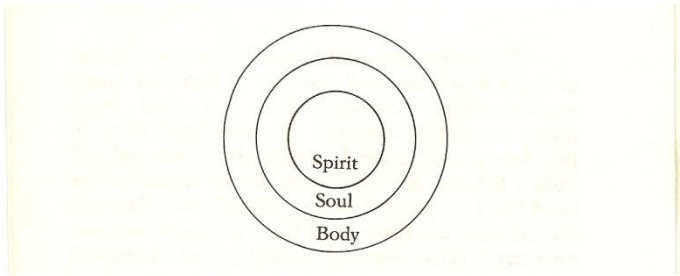
Now that the Biblical foundation for spirit, soul, and body (the triune being) has been established, we can proceed to more details which give further appreciation of this concept. Let us consider the familiar graphic representation of spirit, soul, and body: the three-circle diagram. This illustration is very helpful in building an image of the triune being. You will notice the advantages and disadvantages of the use of this diagram as we progress with the study.

As you look at the diagram, the outer circle represents the body, the inner circle represents the soul, and the center circle represents the spirit. Our body contains the inner man (or the soul) and the soul contains the spirit.

This is a basic diagram; it gives a basic image. The improper idea that the diagram may suggest is that the spirit and soul are easily separated by a simple, well-defined line. Likewise, it gives the idea that the soul and body are separated by a simple, well-defined line. This is not actually the case. It is not quite so difficult to separate the body and the soul, for the body can be measured, weighed, photographed and defined in many ways. However, the soul is defined by what and how we think, feel, and decide. These things cannot be so easily defined by what we say: by what comes out of our mouth. For you see, words are carriers of mental images (as well as spirit images). However difficult it may be to distinguish between body and soul, it is impossible to distinguish between soul and spirit, except by the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12).

Body

By subdividing the elements of the body, we can gain an understanding of both the soul-realm functions and the spirit-realm functions.



The body is composed of three basic elements: bone, blood and flesh. Therefore, in our three circle diagram we can separate the body circle into three pie shaped areas: one, labeled "bone"; one, labeled "blood"; and one, labeled "flesh". All three elements perform a vital function.

Bones

Bones give the body strength, form, and structure. The Hebrew word for bone literally means binding together strong parts. Bones give us the same image that God has. We have a head (skull), arms, legs, fingers, hands, and feet; like the Father; all formed and structured by bone. Without bones we would look like basketballs rolling down the aisles to the altar; feet flopping, ears flopping, hands flopping along as we roll over and over. This is not the image that God had in mind. He created us in His image (Genesis 1:26). The Bible speaks of God as having bodily parts: a head, feet, hands, fingers, arms, ears (to hear), a mouth (God said), etc., just as He created us. These bodily parts are shaped by bone with the possible exception of ears which are formed by cartilage. Bone gives man form and structure to be in the image of God.

Flesh

Of course without flesh, our bones would only be skeletons hanging in the doctor's office dripping with blood. Oh, how ugly. What a disgusting image!

But God, in His wisdom, designed us to have our bones wrapped in flesh. This flesh (muscle and skin) gives fullness and shape to the structure of our bones. Flesh (or muscle) gives our bones mobility. Muscle moves our bones; the skeleton becomes mobile. Without flesh, we would look like a skeleton, dripping with blood, hanging in the anatomy office. We would go nowhere. We would just hang around. That sounds like some people I know, who when asked what they are doing, say, "I'm just hanging around." God did not create us to just hang around. He created us unto good works. (Ephesians 2:10) Adam was commissioned to dress and keep the garden of Eden. (Genesis 2:15) We should not just hang around. Therefore, we have muscle and skin to mobilize our bone (skeleton).

Blood

Without flesh, the blood would have no container. Without flesh, the skeleton in the anatomy office would need an eight-quart bucket to contain the blood. God designed the flesh so perfectly that we do not leak. If we leak (or bleed) it's unusual, even uncommon. If someone finds us leaking, sirens blow and medics run to help us, for the leaking must be stopped or death will set in. Everybody (there is a pun there somewhere) knows that if the blood leaks out, we die. As a matter of fact Leviticus 17:11, 14 tell us that "the life of the flesh is in the blood".

The blood brings life to flesh. It delivers oxygen and protein to the flesh and bone. The fluids (including blood) keep the flesh (skin, muscle) supple and movable. If all the blood leaks out, we die and rigor mortis (temporary rigidity of the muscles) sets in. Thus, flesh cannot do its job of moving the bone. If the flesh called "heart" stops pumping the blood through the body, the blood solidifies (clots), oxygen and protein are not delivered, death occurs, and rigor mortis sets in.

A study of physical blood reveals many interesting things. It is produced in bone marrow and is contained in the flesh. It contains red corpuscles for oxygen transportation. It contains white corpuscles for defence against the enemy, bacteria. It has fibrinogen that forms blood clots to prevent bleeding to death. It has plasma to carry protein and sugar to feed your body and carry waste products. What a wonderful creation God made it to be! No wonder

there is so much emphasis on the blood and its physical typology of spiritual truth.

Summary

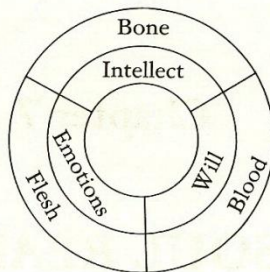
In closing (or should I say clothing) this discussion of the body, let us consider the relationship between bone, flesh, and blood; these inter-relationships will help us later in the consideration of soul functions and spirit functions.

1. Bone produces blood.
2. Bone shapes flesh.
3. Flesh moves bone.
4. Flesh contains blood.
5. Blood feeds bone and flesh.
6. Blood keeps flesh supple and mobile.

Chapter 3

THE SOUL REALM

As we turn our attention from the body to the soul realm, we find the Word of God to be less specific about the three functions of the soul realm than it is about the three body-realm functions: bone, blood, and flesh. The three functions of the soul realm are: emotions, intellect, and will. Possibly more descriptive words for these three functions are: feeler, thinker, and decider. In either case the Bible does not use the word emotions (although it does speak of joy, peace, love, hatred, anger, etc.). The Bible does not use the word intellect although it makes extensive use of the words mind and think or thought. The Bible does use the word will. However, in researching the word will, we must remember that it is mostly used as a helping verb and not used so much as the noun (which speaks of the decision making process). It is the latter meaning which is a function of the soul realm.



Emotions

Space does not permit a complete analysis of all the elements of the soul (emotions, intellect, and will) in this writing. Speaking of the emotions (or feelers), we find the positive definition of emotions in the fruit of the spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22, 23, "...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Negative attributes of the emotions are also found in Galatians 5 as well as other scriptures. These are hatred, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, and envyings, etc. The New International Version lists the negative attributes of the emotions as: "Hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy." (Verses 20,21) We have just looked at the positive and negative Biblical words for emotions.

We have been told that the emotions and emotionalism are undesirable. It is true; in and of themselves, emotions and emotionalism are self defeating. However, without these feelings, we can find no life; for in the emotions we find the satisfactions of life. We do not go by feelings, but the positive emotions are given to us by God to enjoy. As we will see, emotions have governed all of our lives before we were born again far more than we realize. Now that we are born again, we should be letting the Word of God govern our lives and enjoying the positive emotions of knowing God and Christ.

Intellect

Defining the intellect of the mind is even more difficult from the Word of God since the Hebrew or Greek words of the Bible are not translated intellect. We must look for other words to define the intellect, such as, mind, thought, think, ponder, meditate, know, reason, and others. To illustrate the complexity of the analysis of the intellect or mind, let us consider just three English words and the numerous Old Testament Hebrew and New Testament Greek words from which they are translated.

Starting with the English word, MIND:

<u>Hebrew Usage</u>	<u>English Usage</u>	<u>Other word: English:</u>
yehtzer 9	mind 1	imagination, thought
lehv 561	mind 12	heart

lehvahu 236 courage	mind 4	heart, understanding,
nehphesh 679	mind 11	soul, life, creature, persons, yourselves, the dead
peh 455	mind 1	mouth
rooagh 353	mind 5	spirit, anger, blast, breath, courage, tempest, rain, wind, whirlwind

<u>Greek Usage</u>	<u>English Usage</u>	<u>Other word: English:</u>
gnomee 31 advice, will, to wit	mind 2	judgment, know, declare,
diamoya 13	mind 6	understanding, imagination
ennoia 2	mind 1	intents
noeema 6	mind 4	devices, thought
nous 24	mind 17	understanding
phroneema 4	mind 4	
psukee 98	mind 3	soul, life, heart
mello 124	mind 1	come, will, should
phroneo 22	mind 12	
sophroneo 6	mind 3	sober

Next the English word, THOUGHT:

<u>Hebrew Usage</u>	<u>English Usage</u>	<u>Other word: English:</u>
Dahvahr 1327 promise, sentence, word of Lord, counsel, rumor, report, thing done, a course	thought 2	words, speech, discourse,
harhohr 1	thought 1	
zimmah 29	thought counsel,	wickedness
ghehkek 2	thought 1	
maddahg 6	thought 2	knowledge
m'aimmah 19	thought 3	wicked devices
geshtohmohth 1	thought 1	
sehagh 1	thought 1	
rehag 2	thought 2	
ragyohn 5	thought 4	

<u>Greek Usage</u>	<u>English Usage</u>	<u>Other word: English:</u>
Dialogismos 14	thought 12	doubts,

Dianoeema 1	thought 1
enthumeesis 4	thought 3
epinoia 1	thought 1
logismos 2	thought 1
noeema 6	thought 1

The next English word, THINK;

<u>Hebrew Usage</u>	<u>English Usage</u>	<u>Other word: English:</u>
ahmar 4762	think 3	Answer, appoint, bid, call, certify, challenge, charge, command, commune, consider, declare, demand, desire, determine, expressly, give, command, indeed, intend, name, plainly, report, requite, say, speak, still, suppose, talk, boast, that is, think, use speech, utter, verily, yet, said, termed, avouch been 170, think 0
beenah 37	think 0	understanding, meaning
dahvar 971	think 0	spoken, utter, command, promised talk, pronounce
zahmam 13	think 3	thought, devised, considereth, purposed, imagined, plotted
ghahshav 122	think 0	thought, devise, imagined, regardeth, esteemed, conceived, counteth, cunning, imputed, reckoned
s'var 1	think 1	
gasheeth 1	think 1	
gahshath 2	think 1	shine
pahlal 83	think 2	judge, pray, thought
rasah 1193	think 0	advise self, appear, approve, behold, enjoy, take heed, look on, mark, meet, be near, perceive, present, provide

shah-gag 8 think cry, delight, dandled, shut, cry
out

gah-yin 900 think 4 your eyes, in sight

Greek Usage English Usage Other word: English:
Dialogizomai 16 think 1 reasoned, dispute, cast in
mind, muse, thought, consider

dokeo 63 think 21 seemed, pleased, supposing

enthumeomai 3 think 3

heegeomai 28 think 2 govern, chief, esteem,
supposed, count, judged, account

krino 109 think determined, law, judge, condemned,
avenged

logizomai 40 think 6 reasoned, conclude,
reckoned, imputeth

noe 14 think 1 understand, perceive

huponoeo 3 think 1

oiomai 2 think 1 supposing

phaino 31 think 1 appear, shine

phroneo 22 think 4 Savourest, mind, regardeth,
understand, likeminded, set affection

Thus we see from the great number of words used in the Greek and Hebrew languages as well as the great variety of English words translated from them that the concept of thinking or reasoning is not a simple one in the Word of God. The volume of words representing the intellect is significant. As you read over the English words used, you will see that the intellect varies from cold logic to presumption, from worrying to pondering, from speaking to silence, from plotting to blessing, and many other shades of meaning. The mind is a

wonderful thing as God created it. Only now is modern science beginning to understand the wonder of the mind. Even the micro chips of computer technology have not approached the precision and sophistication of God's molecular circuitry.

The Will

The will is our capacity to make decisions. It is a soul-realm function. The will draws facts from the intellect and the emotions to make a judgment of what we should do or what we want to do. Generally the emotions influence more often.

Example

Let me give you an example of how emotions and the intellect affect the will. We look at a hot fudge sundae. Yes, a hot fudge sundae. Our emotions rejoice with, "You had one of those last week and it was really good," as you are remembering the cold, sweet vanilla ice cream sliding across your tongue; the hot chocolaty fudge dripping down your throat; the crunchy nuts and whipped cream. How delicious it was!

The intellect looks at this delicious morsel and says, "Hot fudge sundaes are full of calories. You are already 50 pounds over weight; you do not need any more calories. You should not have that hot fudge sundae."

Having received communication from emotions and the intellect, the will goes into action and says, "Pass the spoon." Yes, that is it. The emotions generally override our intellect to get its way. You say, "That's not true. I am a very disciplined person. I make well thought-out decisions; emotions do not rule my will." If that is the way you think, you could be very proud of your discipline, in which case your emotional pride is still ruling your decision making.

Now, there is the case of rationalization, changing your reasoning to support your emotions. For example: your mind justifies, "You have been sticking to your diet now for three wonderful disciplined days. It's time for a reward; you deserve a hot fudge sundae." This is called rationalization or self-justification.

Body And Soul

This may all seem a little vague and ill-defined. If that is true it simply illustrates what I am trying to say, although I do not mean to be vague. My point is this. The body can easily be defined, but the soul is more abstract in it's definition. Therefore, the definition of the soul becomes a little more complex and not so clear as the body definition. However, there are some parallels between the body and soul that can help clarify the definition of the soul.

Bone And Intellect

As bone is to the body, defining shape and structure, so intellect is to the soul. Logical thinking gives shape and structure to the soul. The intellect is the backbone of the soul. It is very important since the Word of God says that "a double minded man is unstable in all his ways." (James 1:8) And James 1:7 says, "For let not that man think he shall receive any thing of the Lord." Therefore it is important that we think the thoughts of God and put on the mind of Christ. Philippians 4:8 tells us to think on the following things: "whatsoever things are true... honest... just... pure... lovely... of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." This kind of thinking will become the backbone to our soul. It will give shape and structure to our soul, our personality.

Flesh And Emotions

As flesh is to the body, giving mobility and form to the bones, so the emotions are to the soul, giving activity to the thinking. Man has discovered that cutting off the front part of the brain, a frontal lobotomy, cuts the emotions out. People who have experienced this lobotomy become living robots. There is no emotion mixed with their thinking. They become mechanical servants in their nature. This is not God's desire for us. He wants our lives to be filled with the positive emotions of the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law (Galatians 5:22, 23). Emotions should be our servant to bring joy and life to our thinking, not our master.

Blood And Will

As the blood is to the body, bringing life to flesh and bone, keeping the flesh supple and the bones fed, so our will is to our soul. A mature man of God once said, "We make decisions, and then decisions make us." How true this is. We decide who we will marry. As we live together through the years, we become more and more like the one we chose to marry, not because we are forced to, but because we love them and want to be like them. So it should be with Jesus Christ. We decide to ask Jesus into our hearts and lives. That decision, once it is made, should begin to make us, make us more like Jesus, make us more loving, make us more creative, make us more authoritative, make us prosperous, make us healthy and make us into the image of God.

As the blood feeds and removes waste from bone and flesh, our decisions feed our intellect and emotions. As we decide to read the Word of God, our mind is renewed. As we decide to read the newspaper, our intellect becomes programmed with things of the world. We partake of life or death by the decisions we make on a daily basis. We feed our emotions positive or negative images by deciding to partake of positive or negative images whether they be worldly or religious.

As the blood is fluid and, therefore, free to flow throughout our bodies to perform functions, so God has made our will free from any directional influence. We are free moral agents. It is necessary for us to operate in love, for the God-kind-of-love can only come forth from our free will. We often jokingly say, "You have to love me anyway." This makes a good joke, but a terrible truth. If we have to love someone, it is not the God-kind-of-love at all, but simply a determined decision to exercise a benevolent attitude toward someone. This is not God's way. Love must have a free will to operate effectively. It is impossible to have agape love toward someone if we "have to." This is contrary to the agape love of God. Agape love can come from a willing heart only.

Summary, Body And Soul

Once again, let us look at the summary of the body- realm relationship and add a summary of soul-realm relationship in a parallel way:

BODY REALM SOUL REALM

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Bone produces blood. | 1. Intellect contributes to the will. |
| 2. Bone shapes flesh. | 2. Intellect shapes the emotions. |
| 3. Flesh moves bone | 3. Emotions vitalize the intellect. |
| 4. Flesh contains blood. | 4. Emotions influence the will. |
| 5. Blood feeds bone. | 5. Will feeds the intellect. |
| 6. Blood keeps the flesh
supple, mobile. | 6. Will keeps the emotions
sensitive and vital. |

Thus from the apparent definitions and functions of the body, we find some help to define the more abstract and difficult to define soul-realm functions: intellect, emotions and will.

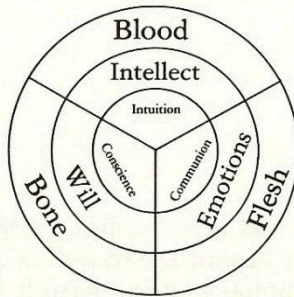
Chapter 4

THE SPIRIT REALM

We have defined the body realm in general terms. We have attempted to define the soul-realm functions in a similar way, comparing the two realms for understanding. Now we attempt to help you with understanding the spirit realm of man.

Let me say at the outset that most theological arguments stem from differences in understanding of the soul and the spirit. Therefore, I preface this section by saying that I do not intend to present all the truth of this spirit-realm definition, nor do I desire to be dogmatic about what I present. I especially do not want my presentation to be any source of division by missing something or making a definition contrary to your current understanding. Too much of this has already happened in the body of Christ. I merely want to get you started in some understanding that will help you see WHO IN THE WORLD IN CHRIST ARE YOU.

As you read John, Chapter Three, you will see that Jesus Christ was somewhat perturbed with Nicodemus in that he called himself a ruler of the Jews. Yet Nicodemus did not understand being born of the Spirit, seeing the kingdom of God, or being born of the water and the Spirit to enter into the kingdom of God. Jesus expected Nicodemus to understand something about the spirit. Therefore understanding about spirit must be available through the Word of God. We have already presented a basic definition of spirit in a previous chapter. Now let us go on to take a closer look at the meaning of spirit.



There are three functions of the spirit realm, which are very similar to the three functions of the soul realm. (Remember that spirit and soul can only be divided by the Word of God; Hebrews 4:12.) These functions are:

1. knowledge of God,
2. communion with God, and
3. a functioning conscience.

They correspond similarly to the soul-realm functions:

1. intellect,
2. emotions, and
3. will.

Knowledge of God

The knowledge of God, a function of the spirit realm, is not head knowledge of God that comes from philosophy nor is it knowledge of Bible verses about God. It is the intuitive knowledge of God that comes to us when our spirit is alive toward God. When God created Adam, breathed into his clay body making Adam a living soul. He may have opened his eyes and said, "Hi, God." Because he had God's *n'shah-mah* in him, he had an intuitive knowledge of God. Although I use the word intuitive, I do not mean intuition as in woman's intuition. Woman's intuition is a function of the soul realm

or the subconscious. (Although some believe that the subconscious mind and the conscience [a function of the spirit of man] are one in the same, I do not agree. The two may be related more closely than I fully understand, but they are not identical.) Woman's intuition is born out of emotional sensitivity, a soul-realm function, which is part of her maternal equipment; a great love capacity for her children. Intuitive knowledge of God is much more than woman's intuition; it is a spirit-realm function.

Before we are born of the Spirit, we have no knowledge of God. We may have questions about the existence of God, even doubts of His existence at all. Some believe that there is a God but admit that they do not, or even cannot know Him. Once we are born again of the Spirit of God, we are like Adam, opening our eyes and saying, "Hi, God." Somehow we know, that we know, that we know, that we know, that we know, that God IS. We have that intuitive knowledge of God in our spirit man functioning.

Intuitive knowledge of God is to the spirit as the intellect is to the soul, even as bone is to the body. This knowledge of God is the backbone of our spirit. It gives strength and authority, form, and definition to our spirit man. Second Peter 1:2,3 tell us that "grace and peace" is multiplied unto us "through the KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the KNOWLEDGE OF HIM that hath called us to glory and virtue." This intuitive knowledge of God initially comes to us by the Spirit; but after receiving it, we feed it by the Word of God; by the words of Jesus Christ, John 6:63; "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

It is the knowledge of God by the spirit and by the living Word that is the backbone of our spirit. This knowledge of God gives stability and authority to our spirit man. Without a knowledge of God which comes only by being born again, our spirit is like that double minded man receiving no good thing from God, having no spiritual backbone, just rolling around without direction like spiritual basketballs.

Communion With God

Communion with God is to the spirit as emotions are to the soul, even as flesh is to the body. We can have spiritual knowledge of God, but unless we act on communing with God, there will be no vitality in our spirit. Jesus told the woman at the well that "God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24) We must exercise our communion with God in prayer, praise, and worship to clothe the bare bones of our intuitive knowledge of God; so that our knowledge of God will become mobile and vital with the muscle of communion, so that our spiritual intellect will be vitalized with the reality of spiritual emotions, love, joy, and peace. This happens through communion with God in prayer, praise and worship. Through communion with God, an experiential confidence that God is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him is intensified. (Hebrews 11:6)

Conscience

Conscience is to the spirit as the will is to the soul, even as the blood is to the body. The life of the flesh is in the blood. The life of the soul is in our will or decision making process. The life of the spirit is in the conscience. Conscience is something that is part of our spirit, not our minds. It is the knowledge of good and evil that Adam partook of and thereby fell away from God. Adam ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and took upon himself the knowledge of good and evil. In doing so, he lost his intuitive knowledge of God and his spirit-to-spirit communion with God. Adam in his fallen state, and all who were born of woman after Adam, are born with a functioning conscience. It would lead us to Christ if we would follow it, but we do not all do so. We follow the senses and thereby ignore the conscience. In doing so, we defile (1 Corinthians 8:7) and sear (1 Timothy 4:2) our conscience, making it inoperable. Conscience is like a right tube and a bucket called wrong. Anything that we do or experience that is right goes into the right tube, passing through without disturbing the operation of the conscience. Anything that we do or experience that is wrong, in God's sight, goes into the bucket called wrong, filling it up and ultimately overflowing into our soul-realm thinking, emotions, and decisions.

There is no way to cleanse the wrong bucket from sin (defilement, and searing) before we are born again. This can only be done by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Only by faith in the shed

blood of Jesus Christ whereby we are born again can our conscience be cleansed from dead works to serve the living God (Hebrews 9:14). For this reason, I place the conscience in the spirit realm.

Few would disagree that conscience is a function of the spirit; however, they often continue to treat conscience as though it were a soul-realm function. (Keep in mind that there is little difference between the spirit and the soul, so this point I am making may not be of great significance). Some teach us that our conscience can be cleansed by repentance and restitution. They sincerely believe that we receive forgiveness from God only by receiving forgiveness from men and women whom we have wronged. Thereby, our conscience is cleansed by our own acts of repentance and restitution. Repentance and restitution are both good and desirable of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit. But there are some things that we cannot restore simply by an act of our will. If we had murdered someone years before we were born again, we could not always (seldom, if at all) raise him from the dead in order to earn a clean conscience from God. No. Restitution is good but not always possible or wise. It is only by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ that God will cleanse our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

A clean, freely operating conscience is as important to our spirit as a freely operating will is to our soul; these compare to freely flowing blood that feeds and cleanses the body. Therefore, 1 John 1:9 is a great encouragement to us; "If we confess our sins (moral transgressions that produce spiritual separation, or conscience defilement), he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (cleanse our conscience)." A clean conscience is to our spirit as right decision making is to our soul, even as clean blood is to our body.

Body, Soul, And Spirit Summary

BODY REALM

1. Bone produces blood
2. Bone shapes flesh
3. Flesh moves bone
4. Flesh contains blood

SOUL REALM

1. Intellect feeds will
2. Intellect shapes emotions
3. Emotions vitalize intellect
4. Emotions influences will

SPIRIT REALM

1. Intuitive knowledge
Feeds conscience.
2. Intuitive knowledge
Shapes communion.
3. Communion vitalizes
knowledge.
4. Communion

5. Blood feeds bone
and flesh.

5. Will feeds intellect
And emotions

6. Blood keeps flesh mobile
flesh mobile emotions keeps
alive

6. Will keeps emotions
supple and sensitive
alive

influences conscience.

5. Conscience feeds
knowledge and
communion

6. Conscience keeps
communion vital and
alive

Chapter 5

WHAT HAPPENED TO ADAM

Likeness And Image

We have examined the creation of man (in Adam) in Genesis 2:7. We also have defined the triune nature of spirit, soul, and body. Adam's body was bone, flesh, and blood. His soul functioned with an intellect, will, and emotions. His spirit had an intuitive knowledge of God, a conscience that knew only good, and communion of spirit to Spirit fellowship with God.

Made, Created, And Formed

God made man in His likeness (tangible) and image (intangible) according to Genesis 1:26. God created man in His own image (Genesis 1:27). "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground" (Genesis 2:7).

Freedom To Choose

In this state of being in the image and likeness of God, Adam had the freedom of choice. It was necessary for God to create him with that freedom of choice if Adam were to love God and to glorify God.

The God kind of love, "agape", can only come forth from a willingness, from a choice of the free will. By its definition, by its nature, "agape" love can only be released through a willing heart. If Adam had no freedom of choice, he could not have had a willing heart; therefore he could not have exercised "agape" love. He could not have willingly glorified the God.

However, Adam was created with the freedom of choice. In a sense of the word, God took a chance by giving Adam freedom of choice. But it was a chance God had to take if His creation, Adam, was to "agape" love Him and glorify Him.

Freedom To Be Creative

With the freedom of choice, Adam was creative also. Adam named all the beasts of the field that God brought to him (Genesis 2:19). Whatever Adam creatively called them, became their name. God did not change the name Adam gave, for God did not want to quinch Adam's creativity by judging or correcting it. God accepted Adam's creative addition to name the beasts of the field that He (God) had formed.

Freedom To Fall

Adam's freedom of choice was a freedom to choose God, or to choose self. For that reason Adam and Eve were vulnerable to temptation. Had they been robots without a free will, temptation would not have had any effect on them. But they were not robots from God, they were created after the image and likeness of God Himself, and they had a free will. Yet they still had a dependence on God.

Adam and Eve did not have the knowledge of good and evil that God possessed. But they really had no need for it, because they were not called to judge all matters. They were called to fellowship with God, to know Him, and to obey Him in one command. Their protection from evil and sin was to choose God, to fellowship with God, and to obey Him by their own choice. In doing so, temptation would have no effect on them. They would have been protected by God if they would have chosen Him, fellowshiped with Him, and obeyed Him.

In that knowledge of God (intuitive knowledge in the spirit) and in their fellowship with God (spirit to spirit communion), they did not have to have their conscience programmed with knowledge of good and evil.

In this created image of God, Adam had an active intellect in his soul realm. This is revealed in Genesis 2:19 as Adam named all the beasts of the field. He had perfect peace with no shame as the Bible tells us in Genesis 2:25. His will was free to choose to participate in God's creation with Him. His soul realm was whole.

In this formed and made likeness (tangible) of God, Adam had a body that was whole and healthy. I personally do not believe that Adam had physical eternal life. I believe that the Tree of Life in the midst of the garden would have given him physical eternal life. Remember, he was free to eat of it (Genesis 2:15). God even commanded him to eat of every tree of the garden before he forbade him to eat.

Only One Negative

"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (Genesis 2:17) Just one negative instruction from God. Had Adam chosen (with his free will) to ignore the serpent and call on God, he never would have fallen.

Adam chose to yield to the temptation. I do not care to enter the eternal debate about whose fault it was. Some would blame Eve, trying to whitewash poor Adam. Others would blame Adam for not instructing Eve. I have never seen this debate bare any fruit in the church. The point is they both chose to eat of the tree. They both disobeyed God. They both fell and suffered the consequences.

(I am going to bypass this wonderful opportunity to straighten out the male-female debate. [As if I could if I tried. Ha, Ha.]

What Happened To Adam And Eve

The quick and simple answer is that they fell. Yes, that is right. But what did they fall from? Where did they fall to? What do you mean fall?

In Genesis 2:17 we see, "...for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." When they disobeyed God, they died; for God said they would. Yet they did not die physically. They continued to

live physically. Even after the fall, God talked to Adam and Eve. "And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever: therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." (Genesis 3:22-24) It seems plain to me that Adam and Eve continued to live physically since God talked to them and drove them out of the Garden after the day they had eaten and died. God even drove them out of the garden to prevent them from partaking of the Tree of Life and living forever. I can only conclude that the Tree of Life was a tree that would impart eternal life physically.

What Do You Mean, Died?

That is an excellent question. Adam did not die physically that day? Did he die in his soul realm that day? Surely there were some soul-realm influences on his emotions, intellect, and will. But we saw in his creation that the soul realm was a product of the spirit acting upon the clay, making Adam a living soul.

I believe that we can draw but one conclusion. Adam died in his spirit man, in the spirit realm; the realm of the intuitive knowledge of God, communion with God, and conscience.

When Adam ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, he programmed his conscience to know good and evil. Remember, when he was created, his conscience had no knowledge of good and evil. We are not talking about intellectual knowledge that comes from logic and memorization in the mind. We are not talking about judgments of moral situations. We are talking about a spiritual function, a spiritual impartation.

God did not want Adam to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil and "become as one of us." (Genesis 3:22) God knew that with a knowledge of good and evil, Adam would lose his intuitive knowledge of God and would lose his communion with God, spirit to spirit. So we see, Adam exchanged His intuitive knowledge of God and His fellowship with God for a knowledge of good and evil. Of course Adam did not know that what he was about to do was evil,

for you see he had no knowledge of evil before he ate. You might think that it is not fair of God to put Adam in such a state. But remember, Adam had all he needed in his knowledge of God and His fellowship with God. He had no necessity for knowledge of good and evil.

This is what God means by death. Adam's spirit was cut off from God. Now we must think about this a little. We have such a stilted idea of death that spiritual death holds hardly any meaning for us at all.

It is necessary and appropriate for me to insert a brief examination of what is meant by death. It is necessary for us to understand physical death if we are to understand what God is trying to teach us about the soul realm and the spirit realm through the physical type of death. If we do not understand physical death, how will we see what God is showing us about the soul realm and spirit realm.

Death is not disappearance. When a body dies, it does not disappear. If a body disappears, we get the authorities involved thinking there has been foul play. People have been known to drag lakes and rivers for days to find missing bodies in order to prove that there was a death. No, bodies are still bodies, dead or alive. They do not disappear when they die.

Years ago, before medical science was so advanced as they are today, breathing was considered the indicator of life or death. The physician would place a cold glass under the nostrils of the patient. If there was no moisture accumulation on the mirror, indicating breath, the patient would be pronounced dead. Today, we know that this is not a true test. People can be made to breathe again through resuscitation and artificial respiration. We know that absence of breathing is not death.

For many years, we have used the absence of the pulse of the heart as an indicator of death. Now we find this is not true since the heart can be restored even after a period of time. The heart can even be replaced with another heart or a mechanical heart to sustain life. Death is not the absence of a heart beat.

Others would reason that when chemical action ceases in one's body, he is dead. This is not true. Chemical action continues after death, but it no longer brings reconstruction to the body cells. The

chemical action promotes decay. Absence of chemical action is not death. Chemical action continues, but it brings decay rather than life.

Doctors are now considering brain waves as a test for life. This would be a valid measure if we really understood what causes brain waves. Yes, they do have to do with the nervous system and electrical impulses, but even this is not the absolute test of death.

We can only define death as the absence of life. I can hear you saying, "This is a cop-out." It may sound like it, but I do not mean it to be so. The Bible says the life of the flesh is in the blood. (Leviticus 17:11, 14) But in the New Testament we find, "the spirit is life because of righteousness." (Romans 8:10) Death is the absence of the spirit of life.

When Adam disobeyed and ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, he died. He did not die physically. He did not die in His soul realm. He died spiritually. His spirit did not disappear or cease to exist (as our bodies do not disappear when they die). His spirit did not cease to function. (It just could not function toward God.) When Adam died spiritually, he lost his intuitive knowledge of God. When Adam died spiritually, he lost his spirit to spirit communion with God. When Adam died spiritually, he gained a spiritual know ledge of good and evil.

Soul Realm Consequences

After Adam and Eve ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in Genesis 3:6, they became body conscious. They knew they were naked, so they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. They were naked before they ate, but were not aware that nakedness had any need for covering. Their conscience did not condemn them, for they had no knowledge of good or evil.

In Genesis 3:8 they hid themselves from the presence of God in the garden. They had lost their spiritual communion, so they hid themselves from God's manifest presence in the garden. They had enjoyed His presence before they ate, but now they were afraid. Fear had replaced love. Condemnation had replaced confidence.

When Adam lost his spiritual relationship with God, his soul-realm emotions entertained fear.

Before he ate, his emotions were obviously at peace. But after he ate, he was motivated by fear.

When Adam lost his spiritual relationship with God, his intellect began to reason to justify himself.

When God asked, "Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat?"

Adam quickly reasoned and passed the blame to Eve, his wife, his help meet. He had used his marvelous intelligence to name all the beasts of the field in such a wonderfully creative way. Now, without the support of the knowledge of God and how He would think, Adam's mind turned to self justification and tried to pass the blame to Eve.

When Adam lost his spiritual relationship with God, he forfeited the freedom in life to be creative. If he was going to eat, he would have to,...Have To,...*HAVE TO*, in sorrow eat of it all the days of thy life. He could no longer enjoy the fruit of the garden of Eden. He would no longer enjoy being creative in the garden. He would no longer enjoy the freedom to grow his own food as a hobby, so to speak. If he wanted to eat, he was going to have to till the soil by the sweat of his brow.

This is real death. To live in a physical body, without creativity, full of fear, constantly needing to justify ourselves by the reasoning power of the intellect. Out of that comes emotional sickness. Out of emotional sickness comes physical sickness. Out of physical sickness comes physical death.

What happened to Adam? He ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and died that day. He died spiritually. He lost his knowledge of God. He lost his fellowship with God. He gained a knowledge of good and evil. Ultimately physical death came as a result of the separation from God.

CHAPTER 6

WHO

IN THE WORLD

ARE YOU

Who in the world are you? This chapter is literally about you in the world, about you before you were born again. This chapter is about you while you were yet a member of Adam's family.

We have given much space in this book to describe Adam; how God created, made, and formed him, in His own image and likeness. We have defined Adam as spirit, soul, and body before he ate of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Then we considered what happened to Adam in his spirit, soul, and body as a consequence of disobeying God, eating of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

We have given space to all of this because it brings us to understand Adam and Eve after they disobeyed and ate. They died spiritually. Spiritually they lost their knowledge of God, they lost their spirit to Spirit communion with God. They now had but one help within themselves, a knowledge of good and evil. They lost their direct help from God, only to rely on that still small voice of their conscience.

Patriarchs Cut Off

So Adam and Eve were cut off from God as were all generations born after them; they were born of the flesh, born separated from God. The sons of Adam and Eve, Cain, Abel and Seth had no spiritual knowledge of God, no communion with God spirit to Spirit. All generations through Noah, and Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and Joseph were spiritually dead toward God. Even outstanding Bible characters like Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon, and even John the Baptist had no spiritual knowledge of God. They all had no spirit to Spirit communion with God.

But Bro. Kaiser, you are talking about God's chosen leaders. You are talking about those we find in Hebrews, Chapter 11, the who's who of faith. Surely they knew God. They knew about God. God spoke to them. He sent the Angel of the Lord to direct them. He anointed them for special ministry and service. But they still needed to be born again. Romans 5:14 tells us, "Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam unto Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come." They all died in faith toward the coming of the Messiah, who would redeem them from the spiritual death which they had inherited from their father Adam. They were born in the image of Adam, in the image of Adam in his fallen state, in the image of Adam who had no intuitive knowledge of God, in the image of Adam who had no spirit to spirit communion with God.

We Were Cut Off

Now we examine you and me. We also were born into the image of Adam. First Corinthians 15:49 says, "And as we have borne the image of the earthly...." We were born of the flesh, born into the spiritual state that Adam had fallen into after he had eaten of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed where there is no law." (Romans 5:12,13)

No Knowledge

Because we were born after the likeness and image of Adam in his fallen state, we had no knowledge of God. I am not talking about Bible knowledge of God, or about theological knowledge of God, or about philosophy, or religious knowledge. I am talking about spirit realm intuitive knowledge of God. The spirit-realm knowledge of God that Adam had before the fall. Because Adam lost it, we did not have it.

For this reason, most of us had many questions about the existence of God. Some just simply laughed at the possibility of God's existence, since they cannot see Him, or feel Him, or hear Him. They are guided only by their senses or their own reasoning power that was programmed by their senses. We call these people atheist. They claim they do not believe in God. Yet they use His Name in cursing. They blame Him for disasters in their insurance contracts (referring to acts of God when in fact it is the devil that steals, kills and destroys through his use of nature).

Others realize that there is an emptiness within themselves but do not understand what it is, or how to satisfy it. They turn to the stars for guidance, to fortune telling, or even to witchcraft. Of course, this emptiness is not all so apparent. Some of it is labeled humanism, a belief that man and his government is his own godhead. They give some pretence to religion, but make sure it includes everybody's favorite patriarch so that no one is offended. "After all," they say, "God (if there is one) would be a loving God and would not deny heaven to anyone." They believe that murderers are the way they are because of handicaps they had in life. Therefore, we should not blame them or exclude them from Heaven. We call these people agnostics or doubters.

People think this way because they have no spirit- realm knowledge of God. Even we who were raised in good, moral families had our questions about the existence of God because we had no spirit-realm knowledge of Him. We were living in the fallen spiritual state inherited from our father even from Adam.

No Communion

Not only did we not have any spirit-realm knowledge of God, we had no spiritual capacity to communicate with Him. Certainly our spirits could commune with the spirit realm. We see this with witches that

conjure up familiar spirits. But we had no capacity to commune with God by the spirit, because Adam lost his spirit to Spirit communion with God through the Fall.

I am not saying that we could not pray. Certainly we could participate in religious services, religiously pray, and practice rituals. But we could not have spirit to Spirit communion with God because of our fallen state of spirit.

For years before my wife and I were born again, we sang in church choirs. We wore long black robes, slowly marched in step down the aisles of beautiful cathedrals, and we lifted our voices in anthems, (some very excellent scriptural anthems). Not once did we ever touch the heart of God with our praise and worship, for our spirits were dead toward God. We had no spiritual capacity to commune with God. Jesus told the woman at the well in John 4:24 "God is Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." We had no spirit to worship Him, for Adam had lost man's capacity to spiritually commune with God the Father.

Conscience

Although my wife and I were dead in spirit, having no spirit-realm knowledge of God and no spiritual communion with God, we were not left without some redeeming help. Adam gained a functioning conscience. In the fall it became programmed with knowledge of good and evil. Even before we were born again, we had a conscience that knew good and evil. Therefore, when we were conceived by our parents, our spirits had built into them the knowledge of good and evil. If we would have followed the knowledge of good from our spirit man, it would have led us to Jesus. But we did not.

As free moral agents and people who free to choose between good and evil, we did not always choose good even though our conscience tried to warn us. I am not talking about the moral training we received from our parents and teachers. Thank God for that, but that is not spirit-realm knowledge of good and evil. That is soul-realm, intellectual judgment. I am talking about the spirit of man. We had a functioning conscience. If we would have listened to it we would have found God through Christ.

By The Flesh

As God created Adam before the Fall, Adam was to be led of the spirit. The real Adam was the spirit man. His soul was alive and was to be Lord over the flesh. His flesh was simply to be a container, a servant. But when Adam fell, his flesh became the constant dictator; "I want food, I want shelter, I want satisfaction; I want my way," his flesh would cry out. Without a living spirit within him to tell the flesh to sit down and be quiet, he was a slave to his flesh, even to the unrighteous satisfaction of that flesh.

So we, being born in that same image of Adam after the fall, were slaves to the flesh. Romans 7:5 says, "For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins (ASV: sinful passions), which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death." As Adam was designed to have a living spirit in order to function righteously, so we also were designed to function with a living spirit righteously. The problem is, Adam lost his knowledge of God and his communion with God; in so doing, we lost communion with God as well, since we were members of Adam's family.

Original Sin?

Many people label this whole area of understanding "original sin." They say, "because of original sin we are cut off from God." Many object to this, thinking it is not just or fair for God to judge us for something Adam did thousands of years ago. Since Adam was the one who disobeyed, he is the one who should pay for it. It is not right for God to punish me for something Adam did, they think.

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heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.") This Lucifer that Isaiah speaks of is none other than Satan. In Luke 10:18 Jesus said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven." Satan coveted God's power and was thrown out of Heaven by God. Lucifer or Satan was the first sinner. Let's keep our dictionary in agreement with the Word of God if we are going to use the phrase "original sin."

Yes, Adam did sin, but he was not the first sinner. Satan was the first sinner. Because of Adam's sin, we are born in sin. This is not because we have done wrong in our mothers womb; certainly it is not because the act of physical conception is a sin (although out of the bonds of marriage, physical intercourse is called sin by God). No. We are sinners because we have a spirit that is cut off from God. As Adam after the fall, we have no intuitive knowledge of God; we have no spirit to Spirit communion with God.

Yet we are not without excuse. Because we did not listen to our conscience, the blame for our judgment by God could no longer be transferred to Adam. Yes, he left us with a handicap, but it was not a total handicap. We had help to lead us to God if we would have listened. Therefore, we became responsible in the sight of God for our own moral transgressions and sins. You cannot blame Adam because you refused to listen to the voice of your own conscience.

Help!!!

In this fallen state, the state of being dead toward God in our spirit, we needed help if we were going to live this life as God desired Adam and us to live it. If we are going to take dominion over the flesh and Satan, we need to be restored to God, spirit to spirit. Somehow God had to reverse the curse. God had to restore our knowledge of Him and our communion with Him, so that we might walk after a living spirit. Man had proven that he could not in himself obey the law, for the letter kills but the spirit gives life. The law was ministering death to man, but God would minister life to man through the living Word.

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made a way of escape from this state of sin and death, through the Lord Jesus Christ. Are you in Christ? If not, ask Him to be Lord of your life, right now before you continue to read any more. If you have made Him Lord of your life, read on to see, WHO IN CHRIST ARE YOU.

CHAPTER 6

WHO

IN THE WORLD

ARE YOU

Who in the world are you? This chapter is literally about you in the world, about you before you were born again. This chapter is about you while you were yet a member of Adam's family.

We have given much space in this book to describe Adam; how God created, made, and formed him, in His own image and likeness. We have defined Adam as spirit, soul, and body before he ate of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Then we considered what happened to Adam in his spirit, soul, and body as a consequence of disobeying God, eating of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

We have given space to all of this because it brings us to understand Adam and Eve after they disobeyed and ate. They died spiritually. Spiritually they lost their knowledge of God, they lost their spirit to Spirit communion with God. They now had but one help within themselves, a knowledge of good and evil. They lost their direct help from God, only to rely on that still small voice of their conscience.

Patriarchs Cut Off

So Adam and Eve were cut off from God as were all generations born after them; they were born of the flesh, born separated from God. The sons of Adam and Eve, Cain, Abel and Seth had no spiritual knowledge of God, no communion with God spirit to Spirit. All generations through Noah, and Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and Joseph were spiritually dead toward God. Even outstanding Bible characters like Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon, and even John the Baptist had no spiritual knowledge of God. They all had no spirit to Spirit communion with God.

But Bro. Kaiser, you are talking about God's chosen leaders. You are talking about those we find in Hebrews, Chapter 11, the who's who of faith. Surely they knew God. They knew about God. God spoke to them. He sent the Angel of the Lord to direct them. He anointed them for special ministry and service. But they still needed to be born again. Romans 5:14 tells us, "Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam unto Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come." They all died in faith toward the coming of the Messiah, who would redeem them from the spiritual death which they had inherited from their father Adam. They were born in the image of Adam, in the image of Adam in his fallen state, in the image of Adam who had no intuitive knowledge of God, in the image of Adam who had no spirit to spirit communion with God.

We Were Cut Off

Now we examine you and me. We also were born into the image of Adam. First Corinthians 15:49 says, "And as we have borne the image of the earthly...." We were born of the flesh, born into the spiritual state that Adam had fallen into after he had eaten of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed where there is no law." (Romans 5:12,13)

No Knowledge

Because we were born after the likeness and image of Adam in his fallen state, we had no knowledge of God. I am not talking about Bible knowledge of God, or about theological knowledge of God, or about philosophy, or religious knowledge. I am talking about spirit realm intuitive knowledge of God. The spirit-realm knowledge of God that Adam had before the fall. Because Adam lost it, we did not have it.

For this reason, most of us had many questions about the existence of God. Some just simply laughed at the possibility of God's existence, since they cannot see Him, or feel Him, or hear Him. They are guided only by their senses or their own reasoning power that was programmed by their senses. We call these people atheist. They claim they do not believe in God. Yet they use His Name in cursing. They blame Him for disasters in their insurance contracts (referring to acts of God when in fact it is the devil that steals, kills and destroys through his use of nature).

Others realize that there is an emptiness within themselves but do not understand what it is, or how to satisfy it. They turn to the stars for guidance, to fortune telling, or even to witchcraft. Of course, this emptiness is not all so apparent. Some of it is labeled humanism, a belief that man and his government is his own godhead. They give some pretence to religion, but make sure it includes everybody's favorite patriarch so that no one is offended. "After all," they say, "God (if there is one) would be a loving God and would not deny heaven to anyone." They believe that murderers are the way they are because of handicaps they had in life. Therefore, we should not blame them or exclude them from Heaven. We call these people agnostics or doubters.

People think this way because they have no spirit- realm knowledge of God. Even we who were raised in good, moral families had our questions about the existence of God because we had no spirit-realm knowledge of Him. We were living in the fallen spiritual state inherited from our father even from Adam.

No Communion

Not only did we not have any spirit-realm knowledge of God, we had no spiritual capacity to communicate with Him. Certainly our spirits could commune with the spirit realm. We see this with witches that

conjure up familiar spirits. But we had no capacity to commune with God by the spirit, because Adam lost his spirit to Spirit communion with God through the Fall.

I am not saying that we could not pray. Certainly we could participate in religious services, religiously pray, and practice rituals. But we could not have spirit to Spirit communion with God because of our fallen state of spirit.

For years before my wife and I were born again, we sang in church choirs. We wore long black robes, slowly marched in step down the aisles of beautiful cathedrals, and we lifted our voices in anthems, (some very excellent scriptural anthems). Not once did we ever touch the heart of God with our praise and worship, for our spirits were dead toward God. We had no spiritual capacity to commune with God. Jesus told the woman at the well in John 4:24 "God is Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." We had no spirit to worship Him, for Adam had lost man's capacity to spiritually commune with God the Father.

Conscience

Although my wife and I were dead in spirit, having no spirit-realm knowledge of God and no spiritual communion with God, we were not left without some redeeming help. Adam gained a functioning conscience. In the fall it became programmed with knowledge of good and evil. Even before we were born again, we had a conscience that knew good and evil. Therefore, when we were conceived by our parents, our spirits had built into them the knowledge of good and evil. If we would have followed the knowledge of good from our spirit man, it would have led us to Jesus. But we did not.

As free moral agents and people who free to choose between good and evil, we did not always choose good even though our conscience tried to warn us. I am not talking about the moral training we received from our parents and teachers. Thank God for that, but that is not spirit-realm knowledge of good and evil. That is soul-realm, intellectual judgment. I am talking about the spirit of man. We had a functioning conscience. If we would have listened to it we would have found God through Christ.

By The Flesh

As God created Adam before the Fall, Adam was to be led of the spirit. The real Adam was the spirit man. His soul was alive and was to be Lord over the flesh. His flesh was simply to be a container, a servant. But when Adam fell, his flesh became the constant dictator; "I want food, I want shelter, I want satisfaction; I want my way," his flesh would cry out. Without a living spirit within him to tell the flesh to sit down and be quiet, he was a slave to his flesh, even to the unrighteous satisfaction of that flesh.

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Chapter 8

WHO IN CHRIST

ARE YOU

A New Creature

We have now defined Adam as being made, created and formed in God's likeness and image. We have defined him as a three-part being: spirit, soul, and body. We have taken this definition so far as to define bone, flesh, and blood in the body realm. We have continued to define intellect, emotions, and will in the soul realm. The detail of defining the spirit realm as intuitive knowledge of God, communion with God, and conscience has been given.

Having defined Adam as a three-part being, we can understand what happened when he ate of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. He lost his intuitive knowledge of God, his communion with God, and his conscience gained a knowledge of good and evil.

Finally, we defined man as descendants of Adam with his fallen spiritual death nature.

In Chapter 7 of this book, we spent considerable time talking about being born again, being made a new creature in Christ by having our intuitive knowledge of God restored, by having our communion with God restored, and by having our conscience cleansed from dead works to serve the living God through the blood of the Lamb.

Now that we are born again, we are in Christ. Remember the title of this book is WHO IN THE WORLD IN CHRIST ARE YOU. Through these chapters we have gotten you out of the world into Christ.

From Sin To Righteousness

Before being born again, the Bible calls us sinners, not because we had transgressed the moral conduct prescribed by God, although we had sinned according to Romans 3:23, ("For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,") but because we were cut off from God, spirit from Spirit.

Now that we are born again, now that we have been reconciled to God by His Spirit, the Bible says that we are the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" [that is in Christ].) In the very same chapter and even the very same paragraph that tells us that we are new creatures in Christ, we find that we are (when born again) reconciled to God (II Corinthians 5:18). The Greek word used here for imputing is "*logizomai*". It literally means to take an inventory, or to estimate. When God takes inventory in us, He assumes He will find no sin. He no longer assumes that we are sinners. He no longer assumes that we are cut off from Him spirit from Spirit. God now assumes that we are right with Him. In that reconciliation, God has made us to be the righteousness of God in Christ. He has put us once again into right standing with Himself.

Jesus' Teaching

In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, Chapter Five, Jesus teaches His disciples about entering into the kingdom of God to know Him and to be known of Him. He starts with the Beatitudes, which we have already looked at in regard to the new birth or spirit-realm prosperity. Now we examine the Beatitudes, looking at the fifth Beatitude, Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Now, there is a promise if I have ever heard one!

I ask you, "How can we be filled with righteousness?" Jesus said that we would be filled, or at least, those who hunger and thirst after righteousness would be filled. He did not say... could be filled. He did not say... should be filled. He said, "shall be filled." The question is this, "Are you hungry?" You must be, or you would not be reading

this book. So you are hungry and thirsty. Bless God, you are going to be filled, if you are not already. Not because I say so, but because Jesus said, "Those that hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled."

Just how hungry and thirsty does one have to be before Jesus will fill him? Jesus did not say how hungry you had to be. Let me ask you this, "When you are hungry, how do you know it?"

You say, "I feel empty in my stomach. My stomach growls if I really get hungry." Well, you have answered your own question. When you have that yearning for something more in life, you are hungry.

Jesus said that you will be filled. When you are hungry, Jesus knows it. Jesus looks on your heart and sees that you are hungry. Do you think that Jesus or the Father would withhold any good thing from you? Certainly not. In Luke 11:13 Jesus teaches, "If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" Since He will fill you with the Holy Spirit, the third person of the trinity, He surely would fill you with that righteousness which He was teaching about in Matthew 5:6.

Persecution Comes With It

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:10)

One very popular teacher once told the story of "crabology." It is a story about crabs in a basket. It seems this man had fished for crabs (or do you crab for crabs), and he knew what happens in a crab basket. Mr. Craber would find a crab and throw it into a basket, just an open basket with no lid on it. As the basket would fill with crabs, he knew there was no danger of one of them crawling out. One crab would crawl up the side of the basket to crawl out. Another crab would grab him from behind and pull his buddy crab back to the bottom of the basket. A lid was not necessary on the basket since the crabs kept themselves in the basket.

Jesus taught that life would be like the crabs in the basket story. No, He did not teach about crabology. He taught about persecution. Whenever we start to climb a little higher in life; whenever we begin

to live, and walk, and talk righteousness; there will always be someone there to try to pull us back to the bottom of the basket through persecution for righteousness sake. Jesus said this is a sure sign you have found the kingdom of heaven, that is, you have found the dominion of the heavenly king. You are on the right track when you get so hungry for the things of God that you can hardly sit still.

Seek Righteousness

Matthew 6:33 exhorts us to "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Here is where we need to apply a little "sanctified common sense." So often we get too mysterious and super-spiritual about interpreting the Word of God that we miss the simple things. What have we missed in Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God...."?

In this passage, Jesus was teaching the Jews, who had knowledge of God only through the Old Testament, the old covenant, law. Yet we apply this teaching to ourselves. If our knowledge of God was only through the Old Testament law, we could apply the teachings of Jesus to ourselves just as those whom Jesus was teaching had to apply them.

Let us remember that we are Christians. Those of us who have invited Jesus Christ into our hearts, have been born again. We are different than the Jews that Jesus was teaching. They saw Jesus only as a teacher, rabbi. They did not know that He was the Son of God until after the resurrection (except for His disciples, who really did not fully understand it since it came only by revelation of the Holy Spirit). So Jesus was preparing their minds to keep on seeking for righteousness. Jesus knew that one day in their lifetime God's righteousness would be theirs.

A Wild Goose Chase?

We read Matthew 6:33, and we set out to seek for righteousness. We never stop to think that Jesus was teaching those who had not

yet been born again. Through this little lapse of thinking, the enemy is able to send us on a wild goose chase, looking for something we might already have.

Stay Away From Geese

For my tenth birthday, my parents gave me the thing I wanted most. They loved me so much they generally gave me what I wanted most, if it was possible for them to do so. I wanted a first class fountain pen (it was before the day of the ball point pen). I needed it for school, and I thought it would improve my penmanship (that is called rationalization).

My parents gave me a beautiful fountain pen; one of the best that money could buy, at least I thought it was the best. It had a slender barrel with a gold clip. It also had a special design where the pen point blended into the barrel. I thought that would make it easier for me to hold, and improve my writing (this too was rationalization). Oh, how I loved that pen. How I rejoiced when I got my birthday present.

I put my new pen in my shirt pocket, pulled on my sweater, and ran off to the movies to celebrate my birthday. After the movie was over I started walking home. After walking several blocks from the movie, I reached into my pocket to admire my pen. THE PEN WAS GONE!!!!

Oh, how I panicked. My pen was lost. I only had it less than four or five hours and it was lost. I turned around and retraced my steps to the movie, looking intently as I went. I could not find my pen. I returned home, continuing to look for my pen. Still I could not find it. My heart was really heavy when I got home. I had to tell Mom. That was really hard to do. Naturally, she scolded me for not taking better care of my new pen.

I ran up stairs and threw myself on my bed. Feeling very sorry for myself, I had quite a pity party. (Of course when you have a pity party, you are the only one that shows up). After a while I stopped crying. As I lay there I felt something hard on my bed. I reached down under my belly to see what I was laying on. It was MY FOUNTAIN PEN!!!

The pen had slipped out of my pocket, and was caught in my sweater. It was there all the time. (Sounds like a song title doesn't it). All the time I was looking for it, I had it with me. I had never lost it at all. It was there in the belly of my sweater.

I am sure you have done the same thing some time or other. Maybe it was with your car keys. They seem to get lost more than anything else (unless it is the checkbook). We scream out "Honey, have you seen the car keys?"

The reply comes, "No dear. You had them last, remember." And so the panic starts. You are already ten minutes late for a very important appointment and your wife (or husband) has lost the car keys. (Of course it is always someone else who lost them.) We rant around the house all bent out of shape because someone else lost "my" car keys. In a fit of fage (it should be "fit of rage", but by this time we cannot even talk right), we thrust our hands into our coat pocket and to our great surprise find the "lost" car keys.

This is the way we have been with righteousness. Because Jesus told the Jews to look for it, we Christians have also been looking for righteousness. But we are different than the Jewish friends of Jesus. (At least, those of us who are born again are different than the Jews.) We have a new and living spirit. We have confessed with our mouth the Lord Jesus, and have believed in our heart that God raised Him from the dead and we have been saved (born again of the spirit) according to Romans 10:9-10. "...For with the heart man believeth unto RIGHTEOUSNESS; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

We have believed unto righteousness. We have found it. We have sought first the Kingdom of God (the dominion of the Heavenly King) in our lives, the righteousness of the Heavenly King, and all these things have been added unto us. We have been filled with righteousness as Jesus promised in Matthew 5:6. (Later in this book we will find out that there is also a performance righteousness which we should continually seek also.)

Confess this aloud in your prayer closet until it becomes part of your own heart and mind:

Jesus is the Lord of my life.

I believe that God raised him from the dead.

I have found what in Christ I was seeking for.

Jesus has filled me with God's righteousness.

CHAPTER 9

JESUS,

THE WORD OF

RIGHTEOUSNESS

"...And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (I John 2:1)

Jesus gave the Jews, and us as well, a promise. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. He said, "seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." We have found Jesus. We have given our hearts to Him. We have confessed the Lord Jesus and believed in our hearts that God raised him from the dead. WE HAVE FOUND AND BEEN FILLED.

How Did Christ Do It

How is it possible for Jesus to keep His word? How is it possible for Jesus to fill us with God's righteousness? We find the answer in I John 2:1, "...And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." Jesus Christ has always been righteous. Jesus Christ was righteous from eternity past, when He, the Father, and the Holy Spirit said, "Let us make man....".(Genesis 1:26)

Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit (Luke 2:27, 31, 35). Jesus was born "not of the blood, nor of the will of the

flesh, nor of the will of the man, but of God." (John 1:13) Jesus was born of the Spirit of God. Because He was born of God's family, He was born with God's righteousness. Jesus was not born into Adam's family as you and I were. Jesus was born into God's family, a partaker of God's righteousness. (Note that it was Jesus that was born into the family of God. The Christ had always been a member of the family of God.)

Jesus Became Sinj

Jesus Christ, the righteous advocate, went to the cross. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (II Corinthians 5:21)

I was recently reading a book about the Cross in every Book of the New Testament. When the author got to II Corinthians 5:21, he had great difficulty. I can understand why he did, for the natural mind cannot understand this verse unless the Holy Spirit had taught our natural mind about spirit, soul, and body. Just as Nicodemus had trouble understanding what it was to be born again, so we have trouble understanding what it is to become sin. The author defined sin as wrong doing and had much trouble explaining what it is to become wrong doing. That is different than "doing" wrong doing. If wrong doing is the definition for the word sin in II Corinthians 5:21, how could Christ do wrong on the cross while He was nailed down?

The natural mind quickly responds, "He did not do all those wrong things. He was punished as though He had done all those wrong things." Yes, it is true. He did suffer the penalty of our sin for us; He became as though he had sinned. For instance, if in fact He had done all of the things God calls sin while hanging on the cross, He could not have been a suitable substitute for us. He would have had to die for His own sin, as we should have died for our sin, and as Adam did die for his sin. But this verse clearly tells us, "He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin...." Jesus knew no sin. Satan had no claim on His life. Therefore, Jesus Christ was a suitable substitute for us who deserved to die because of our own sin.

However, this logic is not sufficient to explain II Corinthians 5:21. It is true, He became as though He had sinned. Jesus Christ took all of the penalties upon the cross that He would have received had He

sinned. But He did not sin, nor did He deserve the penalties. They were your penalties and my penalties; penalties we should have rightfully received for our sin. But II Corinthians 5:21 does not say, "He became as though He had sinned." Second Corinthians 5:21 clearly says, "For He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." "He" (God) made "Him" (Jesus) to be sin, not to be as though He had done wrong. In this passage the word sin is used as a noun, not as a verb. In this passage sin is a state of being, not a name for wrong doing. This verse literally says, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him".

Jesus Christ was made to be sin. The Father put sin upon Jesus. Not just the consequences of sin, but sin itself. This is hard for us to understand because we have consistently defined sin as wrong doing. If wrong doing is the only definition of sin, God is talking in riddles in II Corinthians 5:21. Well, God does not talk in riddles. God is not wrong, and His word is not wrong. We are the ones who have had our thinking messed up about sin and righteousness. We have defined sin as wrong doing only. Is there another definition?

Sin A State Of Being

If sin is only wrong doing, II Corinthians 5:21 does not make sense. But when we see that sin is also a state of being, a state of spiritual separation from God, then II Corinthians 5:21 can be understood. When Jesus became sin for you and for me, He was separated from God; just as you and I had been separated from God all of our lives, just as Adam had been spiritually separated from God when he fell by disobedience. Jesus Christ, the Righteous, who had never been separated from God, became sin (separated from God) so that you and I, who had been separated from God all of our lives, could be reconciled to Him.

This is a difficult thing for people to accept. Because of strong teaching about wrong-doing sin, it is hard for us to understand wrong-being sin. Yes, it is offensive to think of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, taking such a character upon Himself. That is why the work of the Cross and Resurrection is so much more profound and significant than we can imagine.

We are so conscious of the tangible (material) world that we live in that spiritual concepts are not always easy to grasp. That is the very reason Jesus taught in parables, a natural story that portrays a spiritual or moral truth. Nevertheless, I want to examine the concept of separation to find some understanding of what spiritual separation really is.

Separation

There are various kinds of separation. There is physical separation. We can be in the same room with someone and be physically separated from them, that is, not touching them. Yet we can talk and communicate, because we are not separated from them in the mental realm. Or, we can be half way around the world from a person, therefore separated physically by a great distance. In which case, we surely cannot touch them, even though we may still communicate with them by telephone, television, or telegram. Physical separation does not imply soul-realm separation. Therefore, we see that physical separation can be a matter of degrees.

Let's look at soul-realm separation. We can be in the same room physically with someone, even touching, yet we do not agree with them in our thinking or our emotions. We could be arguing or hating one another. That is separation in the soul realm. But we are still physically joined together (possibly by hand cuffs as a sheriff with his prisoner). We can be together, yet separated from one another. For example, a body in a funeral home can be physically present with their loved ones, yet absolutely and permanently unable to communicate with them in the soul realm. Dead people are separated from their environment even though their body is still present in the physical realm.

Can we now see how we can be separated from God before we accepted Jesus Christ as our Saviour and were born again. All men are spirit beings even before being born again. Before new birth, our spirit is sin. Before new birth, our spirit is separated from God. Before new birth we can even communicate with the spirit realm, but not with God in His spirit realm. We have seen this demonstrated with many who communicate with demonic spirits, practicing witchcraft. As a dead body cannot see, feel, taste, hear, or smell the environment around it, so our spirit cannot spiritually see, spiritually

feel, spiritually taste, spiritually hear, spiritually smell God, Christ, nor the Holy Spirit. But after being born again, our spirit man comes alive toward God, and Christ, and the Holy Spirit; we can communicate with God, who is Spirit, and His spirit realm.

Jesus Became Sin

Jesus became sin. The Bible says so! When Jesus became sin He was separated from God the Father. He had never been separated from Him at any time, for any reason. But He became sin, separated from the Father. He longer felt the heart beat of the Father. He no longer felt the spirit (breath) of the Father. He lost his communion with the Father. He lost His family membership. He was cut off out of the land of the living (Isaiah 53:8). He was no longer in right standing with God. He lost His righteousness when He became sin, so we could receive righteousness.

In Mark 15:34 we read that Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" He did not say this just to fulfill prophesy. He did not quote Psalm 22.1 just to tell His disciples that He was being crucified. No. He cried with a loud voice, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" because He felt forsaken. This was the very moment that Jesus took sin upon Himself. This is the very moment that Jesus became separated from the Father. This the very moment that the spirit-realm life of God left Him. This is the moment His soul-realm emotions ruled His life as our emotions had ruled our lives before we knew Him. So His emotions caused Him to cry out with a loud voice. In that moment He acted like any other man that had been crucified. Jesus lost His right standing with the Father. His spirit became sin. He was cut off from God. He was separated from God, spirit from Spirit.

All of this happened before He died physically. He suffered the anguish of spiritual separation from God before He died physically. He gave up His right standing with God so that you and I could have right standing with God. For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

But God did not stop with the death or spiritual separation of Jesus Christ. He was delivered to the Cross for our trespasses, and Jesus

was raised from the grave for our justification (to be made righteous according to Romans 4:24-25). Jesus was the first born from the dead (Colossians 1:18). Jesus is the last Adam, a life-giving spirit (I Corinthians 15:45).

Say this out loud to yourself until you believe it with all your heart:

1. Jesus became sin for me.
2. I became righteous through Christ.

CHAPTER 10

RIGHTEOUSNESS,

A GIFT

God's Gift To Us

"For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:17)

This verse makes a very clear statement about righteousness: "the gift of righteousness." This statement about righteousness gives us insight into the character of righteousness. It is something that is received from God as a gift, even as Jesus implied in His teaching in Matthew 5:6; "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Now I know everyone knows what a gift is. Unfortunately, many people are just like I was for years. I had my definition of a gift distorted by natural teaching. Let's examine the definition of a gift and see what we understand about it.

Santa Claus Brings Gifts

If you will think for one moment you will remember that we first learned about a gift when we were children. This is one of the first things we are taught in life. These first teachings really stick with us. We learn them when our mind is uncluttered with other important things and these first teachings become basic cornerstones in our thinking.

When I learned about a gift it was at Christmas time as a small boy. I must have been only four or five years old. In Sunday School they taught me about the wise men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the infant Jesus in the manger. My brother and sister began to tell me that Santa Claus was going to bring gifts of new toys on Christmas Day. Oh how excited we got dreaming of new toys Santa was going to bring.

Of course everyone knows that Santa does his distribution from the Sears & Roebuck "Wish Book." We three kids would lay on our bellies in front of the fireplace, looking and dreaming; dreaming about the gifts we wanted Santa Claus to bring us on Christmas Day.

My sister and I got so excited one December day that we could not contain ourselves. We were jumping around, shouting about the coming gifts from Santa Claus. We ran around the dining room table into the living room, chasing one another over the joy of the coming gifts from Santa Claus. As we jumped up and down on the living room sofa, Mom walked in. She took one look at us and we froze in guilt. Pointing her finger at us, she scolded, "If you are not good Santa Claus will not come." You better believe we tried to behave after that. With that statement, our fresh little minds were reprogrammed with a new definition of a gift: gifts, even gifts from Santa Claus, were to be earned by our goodness.

Did you ever run around the dining room table? Did you ever jump up and down on the living room sofa? Did you ever get excited about Santa Claus bringing gifts at Christmas? Did your mother or father ever say, "If you are not good Santa Claus will not come"? Chances are they did. Most parents have said that to their kids at one time or another. Now I want you to understand, I believe in disciplining children. We must, however, not distort their understanding of God by making them believe they must earn gifts by their goodness.

So we have this constant reminder that we must be good in order to earn gifts; gifts from Santa Claus, gifts from friends, or gifts from God.

Discouraging Hangover

I know what you are thinking, "That was long ago and I was a kid. I am an intelligent adult now, and I understand that a gift is not earned by my goodness." I know that you are an intelligent adult or you would not be loving the Lord Jesus Christ and seeking God's righteousness with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. I thought that I understood the definition of a gift also, then, the Holy Spirit began to teach me.

Do you mind if we test to see if you have carried that childhood definition of a gift into your adult Christian life. Or do you really understand that a gift cannot be earned with your goodness.

Well, here we go with the test. When did you receive your last gift? Was it last Christmas, your last anniversary, or your birthday? Well, I want you to remember that occasion whenever it was. Secondly I want you to remember if it was a surprise or not. If it was a surprise then the test is especially accurate since out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, and the heart speaks first when you are surprised. When your wife, or your husband, or a friend handed you that surprise gift, how did you feel? What did you say? Quite often we are very humble and we say something like, "You didn't need to do this," or "I don't deserve this."

Well, you are right on both counts. They didn't need to do it. If they did need to do it, it would have been a wage they owed you, not a gift. If you deserved it, again it would have been a wage owed you because of your deserving. No, it simply was a gift.

Gifts are something that people do not need to give us. As a matter of fact, if they needed to give a gift to you, it would not be a gift at all, but an obligation, something required. Gifts cannot be earned, either by works or by goodness. A gift is only a gift when there are no strings attached. (I am not talking about the ribbon around the wrapping.)

With your response, you revealed what was really in your heart. You probably expressed your self with humility. That is good. But if you truly were embarrassed, you may still be trying to earn your gifts by your goodness.

You see, we have carried over this idea about earning gifts by our goodness into our adult life. We still believe what mom or dad told us as a child, "If you are not good, Santa Claus will not come." As

adults we are still thinking, "If we are not good, God will not give us his gift of righteousness."

God Is A Giver

The Bible says that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). While we were yet sinners, God gave His only begotten Son for us (John 3:16). "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." He gave ...Gave ...GAVE ...GAVE His only begotten Son. God's gift to us is Jesus Christ. Receive Him as a gift. Stop trying to earn His love with your goodness. Lay aside your pride and just receive God's gift of love, God's gift of righteousness, God's gift of Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son.

"God spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not also freely give us all things." (Romans 8:32) God freely gives ...Freely Gives ...FREELY GIVES ...FREELY GIVES us all things. God so loves us that He freely gives us all things that we need for this life.

Receive And Be Changed

God gives us these free gifts so that we will be changed. Yes, God wants us to change. He wants us to stop doing wrong. God wants us to be more like Jesus. God has "given us these exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (II Peter 1:4) God has given us these promises so that we can look and act like Jesus. He knew that we could not do that without a new and living spirit within. He knew that we could not do that without the peace that passes understanding in our minds. He knew that we could not be like Jesus unless our bodies were healed. He knew that we could not be like Jesus unless our finances and material needs were met. God has given us all these exceeding great and precious promises. Now we can look and act like Jesus if we will believe, if we will have faith in God, if we will simply receive from God His gift.

God has given us the gift of righteousness (Romans 5:17). God has made us right with Himself. It is His doing. It is His gift to us. It is His

righteousness, not our own; for our own righteousness is as filthy rags according to Isaiah 64.6.

"Every good and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17) God only gives us good things, and He does not change from time to time. So many people in this world do not believe that God is a good God. Many believe that God sent this cancer for a purpose. To believe that is a total misunderstanding of the wonderful and simple work of the Cross of Jesus Christ. God is a giver of good Gifts. He has not changed that goodness.

Say this aloud until you believe it in your heart:

1. God has given me a good gift. (James 1:17)
2. I receive God's free gift of righteousness. (Romans 5:17)
3. With God's righteousness, I have the power to do good. (II Peter 1:4)

Chapter 11

RIGHTEOUSNESS, GOD'S PASSPORT

What has God's Word shown us about righteousness?

Jesus promised that those who hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled. In Jesus Christ we are filled with God's righteousness.

Jesus Christ is the righteousness of God. He became sin so that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Righteousness is a gift from God. Gifts can not be earned with our goodness. Believe and receive God's gift of righteousness.

The Holy Spirit Teaches

"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." (John 16:8)

I have been studying the word righteousness for many years, and I am always learning something new. Recently my wife was reading Hebrews 5:13. As she read, it came alive to me. She read it to me and the Holy Spirit showed me something new in that verse. I should not have been surprised at that, for John 16:8 tells me it is the job of the Holy Spirit to reprove me (convince me of the lack of understanding) of righteousness. The Holy Spirit is the teacher.

Without Him showing us this spiritual truth, none of us can understand God's righteousness.

Mature In Christ

"For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe." (Hebrews 5:13)

Let me give you the Kaiser translation of Hebrews 5:13; "Those of us Christians who are unskillful (inexperienced) in the Word (understanding) righteousness, are babes." I am not pointing my finger at anyone. That is what the word of God says.

I believe that we can state the converse without distorting the meaning of this verse; "Those of us Christians who are skillful (experienced) in the Word (understanding) of righteousness; God calls mature."

Well, there is not one of us who does not want to be called mature by God. So it would be good for us to study this word righteousness and let the Holy Spirit teach us what God really means by this word.

Is Righteousness Right Doing

The most universal definition of righteousness is "right doing". This is the definition that I held for years. So, I would read the Word of God with all the promises to the righteous and I knew that I did not qualify. The enemy was always reminding me where I fell short in obedience. He would not have to lie to me. All he would do is point out some little sin of omission; Good things that I had intended to do but had not done. So I felt I did not qualify for the promises to the righteous.

Natural Thinking

I have found that my experience was not unique. Most people, if not all of us, have defined righteousness as right doing. This is natural thinking. It comes from years of training in this life to be doers. Of course, we find it easy to confirm this thinking by simply looking to the Old Testament for our definition.

We live in a world and in a society that puts emphasis on doing. We are proud of doing things early in life, before others. When our children walk or talk earlier than normal, we let everyone know about it. We are so proud of them. However, if they are a little late about doing these things, we don't say much. Thousands of dollars are spent to teach our children to be doers. Through this emphasis, mankind has accomplished great things. We have even sent men to the moon.

Have We Missed Something

Doing is very important, but there is something more important. Doing speaks of how. This word is spelled H-O-W. But there is another word spelled with the same three letters, W-H-O. The difference seems very small to the eye, but the meanings are poles apart.

We have not realized how we have confused the two, how and who. We have said who when we mean how, and vice versa. For example, we introduce someone like this. "I would like you to meet Joe Dollar, my banker," or "I would like you to meet Bill Parsons, my pastor." We try to say WHO they are, but we add what they DO just for good measure.

The opposite is also true. How often have you asked, "How can I fix my car?" Your friends reply quickly, "Send it to Mr. Goodwrench; He does very good work." You did not ask who can fix your car, but how to fix it. Yet your friends quickly answered who can do it for you. Your friends may know that you are a poor mechanic, so this would be a very practical answer, but it still does not answer your question.

We constantly confuse WHO and HOW.

We have missed something. We have been so programmed in this life to DO that we have overlooked the WHO. So I ask, have we misunderstood righteousness? We have thought that it was a Do word, but maybe it is a Who word.

Who In The World Are You

When someone asks, "Who in the world are you?" What is your immediate thought?

My response is, "My name is Bill Kaiser, I am a Bible teacher."

In the eyes of the world we have an official document that tells WHO IN THE WORLD WE ARE, the birth certificate. It records our name, date of birth, place of birth, and the names of our parents. It does not say a thing about what we do. There is a good reason for that. When we are born we do not do a thing except eat, sleep, and cry. That was all we did on the day our birth certificate was made out. (Well maybe not all; Some things don't need to be mentioned.) When we are born, we have no ability to do anything. Well, yes, babies cry, eat, and sleep. I mean, we don't send babies to the moon. They simply do not have the training.

About all we can do as new-born babies is to accept food and care from our parents. That food and care is simply a gift to us. We receive from our parents because of who we are, not because of what we can do, or how much we can earn, or even how much we may earn some day. They just give to us because we are theirs.

The birth certificate is a document of WHO we are.

International Recognition

With our birth certificate, we can obtain a document from the Federal Government called the passport. This is an official United States document that certifies all the information on our birth certificate. However, it does bring the information up to date, such as weight and height, that has changed since we were born. This passport is recognized throughout all the world by international agreement.

The passport is proof of citizenship. It officially describes WHO IN THE WORLD WE ARE. It also records your birthplace, your date of birth, your name, color of your eyes, color of your hair, your height, your weight, your picture, and the nationality of your parents.

Without a passport, crossing an international border is impossible. It has such great value that men will steal or murder to obtain a

passport to falsify their identification. They want to cross borders as someone they are not, to do things they should not.

The reason a passport has such great value is simply this. Men want to do things in different places. The passport, this document of WHO, is the key to our freedom. With it we can go where we want to go, and do what we want to do.

God's Passport, Righteousness

God has given us a passport as a gift. It is not a political passport issued by the government with the authority of the government behind it. It is a spiritual passport. It has the authority of Jesus Christ behind it.

God's passport is not to go from one political dominion or country to another. God's passport is used to go from one spiritual realm to another. This passport of righteousness is God's passport. It has been given to us as a gift through faith in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This passport of righteousness describes WHO IN CHRIST ARE YOU. The word righteousness is a description of our new-born spirit. Righteousness is to be right with God, because God is our Father and we are His children. Righteousness is to be in the kingdom of God, in the dominion of God the king, under His protection with authority to exercise against God's enemies. Righteousness is to be like God for He is our Father. God has become the Father of our new-born spirit through the agent of the Holy Spirit.

As we confessed with our mouth the Lord Jesus, and believed in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, the Holy Spirit came to us, under orders from the Father to transform our spirit from death unto life by His grace power because we have exercised our faith in His Son Jesus Christ. If we could take a picture of the new-born spirit man in you, it would look just like Jesus. All of God's children look like Jesus, just as Jesus looked like the Father. "...He that hath seen me hath seen the Father...." (John 14:9)

Note carefully that I said, "look like Jesus." Several years ago, before I was born again, my two year old son and I were walking

through a department store in Pittsburgh. We walked past a perfect stranger to us and he volunteered, "You sure can't deny that boy." Now I was tall and my two year old boy was short. My boy had no hair, and I had a full head of hair. There were countless things about us that were different, but that stranger saw the similarity between us. So it is with our new born spirits. We may not be fully developed spiritually as Christ is. We may be spiritually short and Christ spiritually tall. Christ is spiritually strong. We may not yet have developed our spiritual muscle. But if we could take a picture of our spirit man we would look like Jesus The Christ.

Don't Lose Your Who

In the Fall of 1976, my wife and I had been ministering in Switzerland with others for several weeks. After completing our ministry there, we were driving North toward Germany. Arriving at the German border in Basel, Switzerland, I asked my wife for the passports. She replied with surprise, "I don't have them. You do." Panick struck my heart. I knew I did not have the passports. We looked frantically for the passports. They could not be found.

The Swiss customs agent said, "Passport Bitte."

In my broken German I replied, "Ich habe kein passport." (Or, "I do not have my passport.") He sent us into no-mans-land to turn around and come back into Switzerland. We could not cross the border without our passport.

We got to the Swiss customs agent coming back in from no-mans-land. He said, "Passport, bitte."

I replied in my best German, "Ich habe kein passport." He did not want to let us back into Switzerland. We were stuck between two countries until the first customs agent came to explain and rescue us.

We turned away from the border to start the long administrative hassle of reporting and replacing our lost passports. It would be days before we were permitted to travel. We had ministry scheduled in Germany, but we could not cross the border without our passports.

Oh, how we prayed. Where were the passports? Then that still small voice of the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart, "They are on the top of the wardrobe in the room where you stayed in eastern Switzerland."

I stopped at the first telephone and called our friend. She quickly ran to the room and found the passports just where the Spirit of the Lord said I had left them. What a great relief that was! We are a bit more careful with our passports now.

The moral of the story is this. When you lose your WHO, you cannot DO. We had lost our WHO document, our passport, so we could not go and do what we wanted to do.

Remember Your Who

God has given us a spiritual passport, righteousness. It is a gift. It is better than any earthly passport for it will take us safely into spiritual dominions that an earthly passport could never take us. We received it when we were born again. We do not lose it by simply putting it on the top of a wardrobe and forgetting it. But to lose the awareness of righteousness, and how we received it is just as damaging to us. We respond to every situation out of our mind. We either release or hinder the righteousness of the spirit man from working by our thinking. With the awareness of our right standing with God, we can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth us. (Philippians 4:13) But when we lose our awareness of His righteousness in us, our efforts for God become relegated to the realm of the natural, carnal works of the flesh.

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

As we have traveled through Europe and Africa, we have been constantly reminded that we are in a foreign land. The way people eat and drive is different. The way people talk is different. Every time we come to a border we are asked for our passports. By these things we are constantly reminded of the importance of a passport.

Likewise, we are constantly reminded that we are foreigners on this earth. Our new home is Heaven, but we are still sojourners on this earth. We should, therefore, constantly remind ourselves of our spiritual passports from God, His righteousness in us. We should

put on the new man in our thinking, put on the mind of Christ. We should remind ourselves that we have received the gift of righteousness, even God's righteousness, through faith in Jesus Christ. As we begin to see ourselves as the righteousness of God in Christ, we begin to see ourselves as God sees us.

Who In Christ Are You

II Corinthians 5:21 says you are the righteousness of God in Christ. According to II Corinthians 5:17, you are a new creature in Christ. We are the sons of God (Romans 8:14). We are joint heirs with Jesus Christ (Romans 8:17). We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us (Romans 8:37).

Put on this awareness into your soul realm by putting on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Ephesians 4:24)

Say this aloud until you believe it in your heart:

1. Jesus filled me with God's righteousness.
2. I have received the gift of righteousness.
3. I am the righteousness of God in Christ.

Chapter 12

PASSPORT

TO

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Righteousness, A Breastplate

"Stand therefore, having your lions girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness." (Ephesians 6:14)

Righteousness is a breastplate. A breastplate is protective armour. It protects from the fiery darts of the enemy (Ephesians 6:16). Along with the shield of faith and the other armor, the breastplate of righteousness protects us from the condemning accusations of the enemy and his friends.

Romans 8:1 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit."

Even though the Word of God says this is true, we Christians feel condemned most of the time. We feel condemned because we do not go to church enough, because we do not give enough, because we are sick, because we are tempted, because we have been discouraged, or even because we do not feel a burden for something. Yet the Word of God says, there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after

the flesh but after the Spirit. If Jesus doesn't condemn us, then who does? The Devil and his friends.

Why do we receive this condemnation? Because we believe the lies of the Devil. We believe we are right with God because of our goodness, because of our obedience, and because of our spiritual maturity. If this were true, we all should be condemned; for we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). But the Bible says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...."(Why do you keep repeating this, Bro. Kaiser? Because we need to hear it.)

Law of life

There is no condemnation because (Romans 8:2, the very next verse) "the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." The law of the Spirit of life? What does that mean? The use of the word law in this passage has been a stumbling block to our natural minds. To the natural or religious mind the word law means statutes and commandments such as the ten commandments. Of course, we all know that the law requires obedience, or we will pay the consequences, punishment for disobedience.

The original Greek word translated law in this verse is "nomos". It was first used to describe how the shepherds allocated their grazing grounds. They did not build fences, but they sat down to talk about "how it would work." They agreed that all the sheep should be able to eat some of the rich grass, but one flock would not have all of the rich grass. They agreed that all of the sheep should be able to get to the water, but that one flock would not have all of the water, leaving none for the rest of the sheep. They decided "how it would work."

This is far different than the idea that we now have of the law. Our current idea says, "If you drive through a red light, and get caught, you will pay a fine." In a sense, the traffic signals were installed to tell us how things would work in the intersection. But that has long been forgotten. All we think of now is, "I must stop at the red light or I will have to pay a fine." We have come away from the intent of the law. We have come into bondage to it. (Now don't you go out and deliberately run through red lights and tell the policeman that I gave you permission to do so. If you do that you still do not understand

what I am saying. What you should do when you have to stop at the red light is to say, "Thank God for the red light for it shows me how traffic in this intersection works." Now you have the right idea. Obedience without bondage.)

Let's get back to the shepherds. Romans 8:2 would therefore read in the Kaiser translation; "For the way in which the Spirit of life now works in me has set me free from the way sin and death used to work in me." Hallelujah!!! Obedience without bondage. We can now see how it works. The Spirit of life that is now in you through righteousness has set you free from the way in which that old nature, that spirit of sin and death used to work in you.

Why then is there no condemnation therefore? The answer is simply this. Our relationship with God is not based upon our obedience any more. Therefore, the law cannot condemn us. Our relationship with God is based upon faith; our faith in the Cross of Jesus Christ, our faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, our faith that put us in right standing with God. Because our right standing with God is given to us as a gift from God, we did not earn it. Because we did not earn it, the enemy cannot deny our right to have it, claiming that we did not earn it by obedience. The Devil is right. We did not earn it. We received it as a gift from God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the work of the Cross.

This passage, Romans 8:1-2, really says nothing about obedience to the law. It talks about the working of that new and living spirit of righteousness inside us. That new and living spirit of righteousness, received as a gift, protects us from the accusations of the enemy which are accusations of disobedience. The understanding that God's righteousness is ours as a gift will cause those accusing darts of the enemy to bounce off without penetrating or heart. We know that we are in right standing with God, not by our own good works, but by faith in the work of the Cross of Jesus Christ.

We Win

With our breastplate of righteousness firmly in place, we move on to battle knowing that there will be some fiery darts, but trusting in God's righteousness to keep our hearts and lives from condemnation.

"...We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."
(Romans 8:37)

When Jesus filled us with God's righteousness, He gave us
"...power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power
of the enemy." (Luke 10:19)

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I
am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more
abundantly." (John 10:10)

For the way in which the spirit of life now works in you has made
you free from the way sin and death used to work in you. (Kaiser
paraphrased, Romans 8:1-2)

"...But the Spirit is life because of righteousness." (Romans 8:10)

Say this aloud until you believe it in your heart:

1. I have received God's gift of righteousness.
2. God's righteousness is a breastplate to me.
3. There is therefore now no condemnation to me, because I walk
after the Spirit.

Chapter 13

PASSPORT TO HEALING

Righteousness Is Life

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye are healed." (1 Peter 2:24)

This is a scripture about righteousness. It is also a scripture about healing. As a matter of fact, we remember it more as a healing scripture than we do a righteousness scripture. For years I did not understand why the Holy Spirit spoke of healing and righteousness in the same scripture. Finally I began to see what the scripture was saying. Let me try to explain.

Different people look at Biblical healing in different ways. Many people do not believe it is spiritually available to us today. They believed that Peter, James, John, and the other apostles were the last to be able to heal by faith and prayer.

Still others know that Biblical healing is for today, because they observed it in the mighty healing revival of the 1950's. During that time God raised up men who were used in the gifts of healings and

miracles in wonderful ways. However, it appeared that only certain men were used for God's healing touch. Also, many believed that God would only heal certain people. It appeared to be that way, since many would be prayed for and not receive the manifestation of their healing.

There are others who believe that healing is for all of God's children, but we are not all able to find or fulfill the conditions that God requires for us to be healed.

Finally, there are those who believe that God desires to heal all of His children just as He desires to save all in His creation. They believe that He has made every provision for salvation and healing. It is up to us to appropriate our healing through faith in the Word of God and the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What does all of this have to do with I Peter 2:24? Simply this: the Holy Spirit treats healing in the same manner as He treats righteousness. We have seen from the Word of God, Romans 5:17, that righteousness is a free gift from God, that this gift IS right standing with God. Righteousness is a word that describes that new-born spirit. First Peter 2:24 bears this out; "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness...." We were cleansed from sin by the blood of Jesus and the result is a new-born spirit that is in right standing with God.

Then I Peter 2:24 changes the subject from righteousness to healing (at least, I thought the subject was changed). But if you will look closely, you will see there is no subject change at all. After the word "righteousness" there is a colon (:). That means the same thought is now going to be expressed in different words. Then the Holy Spirit proceeds to say, "...By His stripes ye were healed." I know that the original manuscripts had no punctuation. I do not base my argument only on the punctuation, but on the thoughts in the words.

If the Holy Spirit treats righteousness and healing in the same manner, we should also.

Righteousness is a statement or description of our new-born spirit. Therefore, this statement about healing is also a description of our new-born spirit.

You may say, "Oh, I see, Bro. Kaiser. You are saying that I Peter 2:24 does not talk about physical healing but about spiritual healing."

No. I did not say that, you did. Well maybe I put the words in your mouth. But you know what I mean. First Peter 2:24 talks about physical healing, but it is saying your physical healing starts in your new-born spirit. It is saying you have the power for your healing in your new-born spirit right now. You received this spirit of power when you received the spirit of righteousness.

Romans 8:10-11 says, "And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." Hallelujah!!!!!! The Spirit is life because of righteousness. This is the Word of God that brings physical healing power out of our new-born spirit into our mortal bodies.

Well, if it is in our spirits, how do we get it into our bodies?

First of all, we begin to see that healing is already in us. Not will be, not could be, not should be, but healing is...Is...IS IN US NOW. See this in your minds eye. When you think of your new born spirit, see yourself as God sees you. God looks on your new-born spirit. He sees righteousness, authority, healing, and all of His promises resident in your new-born spirit right now. See your spirit as having power to quicken your mortal body right now.

Releasing Healing

Well, Bro. Kaiser, if this is true, why are so many Christians sick? Let me ask you this. Why are so many Christians still walking in the flesh? Why don't we walk after the Spirit? Why don't we follow after righteousness and sin not? (See I Corinthians 15:34, II Timothy 2:22.)

Believe It Or Not

The answer to why we yet have sick Christians is very simple. Satan has us believing that our passports are lost. We have lost our righteousness consciousness. We are looking for something that we have always had (even as I looked for my un-lost fountain pen). We have believed Satan's lies and thought that we were not worthy to receive this gift of righteousness and healing.

So we need to believe in healing. We need to put off the old thoughts and "...Put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness (with built in healing power) and true holiness." (Ephesians 4:24)

Confess It

However, believing is not enough. We must also confess with our mouth that we are healed. When I was first saved, I learned that healing was available now. I did not understand how to receive it, but I was over joyed that God would manifest His healing power to someone (maybe not everyone) in our day. I also learned about confession about the same time. So when I got a head ache I confessed, "By his stripes I was healed." I continued to say it, but nothing happened. (I know I am not supposed to say that in such a book as this, but sometimes you just have to tell the truth about the circumstances.) Every time I said it, the words stuck in my throat. I was saying it with my mouth, but my heart was not believing it. I knew it was the Word of God. But I felt like a hypocrite when I said, "By whose stripes I was healed." My problem was simple. My head did not understand that I Peter 2:24 was talking about the power to heal my body being in my new-born spirit. So I thought that I was playing some kind of psychological positive thinking game. My heart did not really believe what I was confessing, so I did not release that spirit of righteousness and healing to quicken my mortal body.

If we will confess with our mouth and believe in our heart...Heart...HEART we will be saved (Romans 10:9-10). The confession out of the heart is the Biblical confession. This is the confession that will bring the manifestation. This is the confession that will release the spirit of righteousness and healing from or new-born spirits.

Why Call The Elders

If all of this is true, Bro. Kaiser, why does James 5:14-15 instructs us to call the elders; "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

If healing is in our new born spirit now, then why are we to call for the elders of the church for the prayer of faith?

First of all we must ask, Who is an elder? The appropriate answer is found in Hebrews 5:13. (See Chapter 4 of this book.) "For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe." Those who use milk do not understand righteousness. They are babes. Therefore we can conclude that the elders, the non-babes, understand righteousness. The elders understand that with righteousness comes life and vitality that can quicken our mortal bodies. They understand healing power is now resident in our new born spirits. Therefore, the elders pray boldly. They know that the effective fervent pray of a righteous man availeth much (James 5:16).

Of course, when they call the elders, there is no question but that they can come. They are not sick. The Word does not say, call the elders until you find one that is not sick. If the elders were attacked with sickness, they would confess with their mouth and believe in their hearts, "by his stripes I was healed." The same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, that dwells in them, even He that raised Christ from the dead, would quicken, rise up from within them, and quicken their mortal bodies. (Kaiser paraphrased, Romans 8:11)

There is no question about healing in the mind of a scriptural elder. They know, that they know, that they know, that they know, that healing is theirs. So the laying on of hands quickens that spirit that raised Christ from the dead in the person who called for the elders (those babes in Christ who do not understand righteousness). The Holy Spirit then gives the gift of healing to the one who was sick. Yes. It was an unearned gift. It was not given only to those who understand righteousness. The Holy Spirit gave the gift of healing to the one who was sick even though he did not understand that in Christ he were already healed. This is called the grace and mercy of God.

Passport To Healing

The passport of righteousness carries with it the spiritual power which will heal our mortal bodies as we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord over sickness and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead.

Your new born spirit is the righteousness of God in Christ (II Corinthians 5:21). The Spirit is life because of righteousness (Romans 8:10). Healing and righteousness are in your spirit now (I Peter 2:24). Because of righteousness, your mortal body is healed, or quickened (Romans 8:10).

Righteousness is your passport to healing.

When God forgave you through your faith in the Cross of Jesus Christ, God fore-gave (that is, He gave before) you the gift of healing. When you were forgiven you were healed. When you were healed you were forgiven.

Confess this until you believe it in your heart:

1. I am the righteousness of God in Christ.
2. The Spirit in me is life because of righteousness.
3. By the stripes of Jesus I was healed.

Chapter 14

RIGHTEOUSNESS, PASSPORT TO ALL OF GOD'S PROMISES

Jesus' Teaching

Matthew 6:33 exhorts us "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

We have sought God's kingdom and His righteousness.

We have found God's righteousness in the person of Jesus Christ (I John 2:1).

We have received God's righteousness as a gift (Romans 5:17).

Now God promises in His Word, through His Son, Jesus Christ, that He will add all these things unto us. In the Sixth Chapter of Matthew, Jesus is teaching the Sermon on the Mount. We have referred to it in previous chapters and we will refer to it as well in future chapters. In Chapter Six, Jesus is illustrating the Beatitude, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." (verse eight) He is talking about motivation of the heart. If we will keep the motivation of our heart to seek first His dominion in our life, then God will take care of the food, clothing, and shelter that we need (Matthew 6:24-34).

If we will examine the Word of God concerning His promises, we will find that they fall into four distinct areas: the outward material things, the things of the physical body, the promises to the soul realm, and finally, spiritual needs. The way in which these four promise areas are manifest to us is progressive. All of our spiritual needs are met in the new birth as we are made new creatures in Christ Jesus. The soul-realm promises will only be manifest as we allow the Holy Spirit to comfort our emotions, to teach our intellect, and to guide our will. Then it is possible for us to live consistently in strength and health, being healed quickly if the enemy tries to put sickness upon us. Finally then, God wants to manifest to us all of the material- and social-realm blessings as we walk after the Spirit. He does not demand that we become perfect in our soul-realm maturity before He will bless us in the body realm; but as we mature in the soul realm, it is far easier for the Lord to manifest our body-realm blessings. In simple terms, God starts renewing us in the spirit realm first, then He works His way out through soul, body, wallet, and the social realm as fast as we allow Him to move.

Men teach that these promises of God are all conditional. They teach that they are only manifest when we meet certain conditions that God requires. Well, I guess this is true in a sense of the word, but many of the conditions that people talk about are Old Testament conditions of obedience and faithfulness on our part. Obedience and faithfulness are great attributes. I am all for these attributes in our lives and so is God. However, I see a simplicity in the conditions of God's promises to us who are living in the New Covenant. The simple condition I find in the New Testament is that we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we shall be saved (healed, prospered, delivered, and given favor). This condition is great enough for all of God's promises to be fulfilled in us. It was great enough to get us born again while we were yet sinners. It is great enough for us to find forgiveness. First John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." It is great enough to heal our bodies. First Peter 2:24 tells us, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

All of God's promises, whatever realm they are applied to, are first given to us in the spirit just as healing was given to us in the spirit

when we were born again. Romans 8:32 tells us, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" With Jesus we have been given all things. I did not say it. The Holy Spirit said it in the inspired Word of God. This is a spiritual principle that we have missed. We have failed to see that all is ours in our spirit in Jesus Christ when we have been cleansed from sin unto the gift of righteousness.

Because we do not see this principle, we continue to look for our un-lost fountain pens and never come to see that we have had the promises of God right down in our bellies all the time.

Too Good To Be True

This all sounds wonderful, but it is too good to be true. Why would God simply give us all these promises as a gift in the spirit? Wouldn't we all be spoiled if we had manifest all that God promises in His word?

Well, some of us would act like spoiled brats because we have not allowed the Holy Spirit to establish a pure motivation in our heart. But after a while we would see that the Lord has given us these things; all of these promises; for a reason. The reason for these promises is found in II Peter 1:4. "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." In simple modern English it means this: "God has given us all of these things as gifts so that we could look and act like Jesus." (Kaiser paraphrased) God has not given us these promises simply to make life easier, although they will, but that we might look and act more like Jesus. I cannot understand how some people believe that poverty, sickness, discouragement, and division can glorify God. None of these things help us to look and act like Jesus.

"But, Bro. Kaiser, you do not understand that we are vile, that the Lord has to prune us to keep us humble. God has to teach us through suffering." Well, you can believe that if you want to. What you believe is what you will receive. I believe that the Holy Spirit is my teacher, and He teaches me through the Word, and if it is necessary for Him to chastise me, He will do that through then Word of God. Jesus taught us in John 14:26, "the Comforter, which is the

Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

Since the Holy Spirit is the teacher, can we find out how He teaches us? Does He teach us through sickness? No. He comes to heal us according to I Corinthians 12:9. Does He teach us through discouragement? No. He is the Comforter. He does not know how to discourage but only to encourage. Does He teach us through division? No, He comes to bring unity in the church. Does He teach us through poverty? No, II Corinthians 8:9 says, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." It is the devil that comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. The Holy Spirit is come to prosper, bring life, and restore. The Holy Spirit teaches us God's goodness through these wonderful gifts from God.

Now do not misunderstand me. We will suffer with Christ, but this suffering is not from God. It comes from persecution and tribulation that Jesus Himself said we would receive when we accepted God's gift of righteousness (Matthew 5.10).

Releasing Spiritual Gifts

How then can we release those promises that are resident in our spirit-realm into the soul realm, body realm, and material realm? The answer is the same for all. It is a progressive release of the spirit to do the work—a release from the spirit realm to the soul realm and from the soul realm to the body realm. As we BELIEVE, we set our soul realm in agreement with the Word of God and therefore with the spirit realm. When our soul and spirit agree with the Word, we release the promises of the spirit into the soul realm. Then peace floods over our emotions, revelation floods over our intellect, determination floods over our will.

Often we cannot believe without hearing ourselves confess the promise. We believe what we say more than we believe what any other man says. After believing ourselves, we will believe what our spouse says. My point is this, we believe those who are close to our hearts, and those who we are open to.

But believing is not always receiving.

What do you mean? I thought you were a faith teacher.

I am. That is why I say, "Believing is not always receiving." It must be a believing from our heart. Belief in our head alone is not the Bible kind believing. It is believing in our heart that releases the promises of God from our spirit man. Yes. Read the Word carefully. Romans 10:9-10 says, "...For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness." Read Mark 11:23. "...And shall not doubt in his heart...." Read Matthew 12:34. "...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

When we believe in our hearts, the Word will come out of our mouths. It is this confession which comes forth from the heart that releases the promises of God from our spirit man. I was teaching on the subject of confession in a class one day. As I was making this point, about believing in your heart and confessing with our mouth, I used this illustration. "My wife and I have been believing for a better car for three years. We do not have it in the natural tangible realm, but we have it in our hearts." Three days later we were given a better car than we ever had before. I had been believing for three years, but I had not declared that I had it until that day in the classroom. That confession came from my heart and the promise was manifest. (If you need a good scripture for transportation, use Psalms 45:4. "And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.")

Now I will even tell you that belief in the heart and a proper confession will not always release the promises of God. Honestly, I am not trying to destroy your faith, or come against anything you have been taught about faith and confession. I am simply stating the principle in plain words, covering all the bases so you can understand and make it work for yourself. Yes. Heart belief and confession do not always release the promise from your spirit. You also have to act on your faith and confession at times. You see, the enemy will stop you at any one of these steps if you will allow him to do so. Hold fast your confession and follow through.

Act on your belief. Now the degree of action must be commensurate with your level of faith. What do I mean by that? I simply mean this. It is one thing to give up aspirin for your headache. It is another thing to give up your insulin. If you give up aspirin by faith, when in

fact your faith is not up to that level of healing manifestation, then all that will happen is that you continue to have a headache. But on the other hand, if you give up your insulin by faith, when in fact your faith of healing is not sufficient for that manifestation, then you may die. Now just because some people have died not understanding this principle does not mean the principle is invalid. It simply means they did not understand the principle or use it properly.

The simplicity of the matter is this. Works will never produce faith. Faith, however, which has no works or faith that does not motivate and urge us to trust in the Word; even to act on God's Word; is not Biblical faith. James 2:17 tells us, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

The practical application of this principle is simply this. If we are sick, staying away from doctors will not produce faith. But when we feed on the Word and our faith is strong, we will find we do not need to go to doctors. Now there is that great grey area in between. How do I know when I have faith and can act on my faith by not going to doctors? How do I know when I do not have faith, and therefore I need to go to the doctors? The practical answer is found in the consequences of failure. If the failure of your faith will only extend the length of your pain, then go for it; act on your faith. Trust God. If you want to take off your glasses and trust God for the healing of your eyes, but your drivers license says you must wear glasses to drive, then by all means obey the law of the land by wearing the glasses when you drive, and take them off when it is not against the law. If the failure of your faith will produce death, then don't gamble. We should not tempt God. We cannot blackmail God into healing us.

Believe the Word of God in your heart. Speak the Word of God out of your heart. Act on the Word of God when your faith is full, and you will see the promises of God released from your spirit man into your soul realm, and into the material realm manifestation.

Stepping Out In Obedience

AH, Ha!!! I knew you would finally see that obedience is the way to earn God's blessings.

Well, I must say that acting on your belief and confessing the Word of God is obedience. But it is not our obedience that persuaded God to send His blessings to us. God sent His blessings to us because we trusted in the work of the Cross of Jesus Christ, because we trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ. God sent His blessing to us so that we would have the power to obey Him. Obedience does not produce blessing. But blessings will equip us to obey. God does not heal us because we throw away our crutches. We throw away our crutches when we finally realize in our minds and in our hearts that healing has always been in our new-born spirit. We throw away our crutches when we gain enough confidence in the Word of God that we can literally and physically stand on the God's promises.

If it were our obedience that brought healing, then paralyzed people could never get healed, because they could not first move until God had healed them. But, as God promised salvation for whosoever will, He has also promised healing for whosoever will.

And so it is with all of God's promises. They are a gift from God into our spirit realm when we are born again. We release them into the soul realm by believing. The promise become manifest in our bodies when we act on what the Word of God says.

All of the promises of God into our spirit man come with the gift of God's righteousness, right standing with God. As we walk in harmony with this right standing with God, His Spirit leads us in the pathway that includes all of these things that we need in this life. They are a gift ...Gift ...GIFT from God.

If you have made Jesus Christ Lord of your life, you are born again. Therefore you have all of these promises in you now. You have God's righteousness in you now. You have the power to be healed in you now. You have authority over the enemy in you now. You have the power to walk after righteousness in you now. You can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth you now. You are the righteousness of God in Christ. God's word says it. Believe it. Trust in it. Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free and be not entangled again in the yoke of bondage.

Chapter 15

REVERSE THE CURSE

Romans 5:12-18 says, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (for until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."

As you know, I normally do not start the chapters with such long quotations for the Bible. Obviously, I thought it necessary to do so with this chapter, for I want to deal with this question of obedience even more.

Obedience is one of the more controversial doctrines of the Bible. Whenever one mentions that obedience is not the way to find or maintain a favorable relationship with God, thousands of faithful people are offended. Immediately people think you are against obedience and for libertarianism (absolute free will). Let me set the record straight right now. I AM FOR OBEDIENCE. But I understand that any obedience that pleases God must come forth from faith. Faith without works is dead and works without faith is humanism

(Godless self effort). You are not saved because you cleaned up your life. You were saved by trusting that the shed blood of Jesus would clean up your life. You were not saved by your obedience. You were saved to allow Jesus to inspire you to obedience.

What About Adam

Throughout the years, the church has been made aware of Adam's disobedience; the disobedience that brought spiritual death to Adam and all who were born of the flesh after him (that means everybody). For that reason they have naturally thought that if disobedience displeased God so much that Adam would lose his spiritual life, then we had better obey the Word of God if we are to please God. Well, the Bible sheds some light on that in the two following verses. Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Romans 5:15 reports, "But not as the offence, so also is the free gift."

Let us consider Hebrews 11:6; "But without faith it is impossible to please Him...." Any obedience or works that please God must be done in faith. They cannot be done as a matter of the law, or as a matter of religious tradition. Obedience must be done in faith if it is going to please God. That is why when two people do the same act of obedience, one will please God and the other will not. That could well be one of the factors that distinguished between Cain's and Abel's sacrifice. Cain may not have given his sacrifice in faith. Obedience is not the issue with God. The attitude of the heart is the issue.

Jesus taught this very plainly in the Sermon on the Mount as He contrasted the law with what a man thought in his heart. Consistently Jesus would say, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time," then He would quote the law. After that He would continue, "But I say unto you," then He would speak about the heart, soul, or mind of man. Jesus saw that the outward obedience was not so important as the inward attitude. Therefore, any obedience that pleases God must come forth out of an inward attitude of faith toward God and His Word.

Let us consider Romans 5:15, "But not as the offence, so also is the free gift." This verse is a negative comparison. We never make

negative comparisons in the English, for they are so obvious they are even humorous. I suspect the same thing was true in the original language in which Paul wrote this letter. Because of the language used, we do not see the humor of the negative comparison.

Let me give you an example that shows the humor of negative comparisons. Not as a donkey, so is my car. (Did that bring a laugh or even a smile?) Donkeys and cars are both used for transportation and touch the ground in four places. They both have a front end and a tail end. They are alike in many ways. However, they are so different in so many other ways that the comparison is somewhat ridiculous. Who would bother to compare a donkey with a car for any reason. The differences are so apparent, they should not have to be compared.

The same is true for this comparison of the offence of Adam to the free gift from Christ. There is no comparison. Adam lost His relationship with God, his righteousness, even His spiritual life through disobedience. It is ridiculous to think that we can regain our relationship with God through obedience. We are reconciled to God through the free gift. To compare the two is ridiculous. The church has placed such an emphasis on obedience in time past that we have ignored the free gift, whereby we are reconciled to God through Christ.

Obedience will not produce a right relationship with God. But a relationship established with God through faith and the free gift of righteousness will produce obedience, an obedience of faith that will please God.

Get Dressed

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

It is not enough for us to be filled with righteousness by Jesus.

It is not enough for us to receive the gift of righteousness from God the Father.

It is not enough for us to see that all of God's blessing are now ours in the new born-spirit.

It is not enough for us to see that our new-born spirit is right with God.

There is more. But we will never see more unless we get dressed. I am not talking about getting dressed with tangible clothing. I am talking about getting dressed with righteousness and true holiness.

Garments in the Bible are an interesting study. They speak of outward appearance or performance. Before blind Bartimaeus was healed, he stood and took off his garment. (Read it in Mark 10:46.) He took off his outward garment that had identified him and covered him. It was an image of blindness. He wore it every day. People knew Bartimaeus by his cloke, the cloke of a blind man. He took it off of his body, and he took it off of his mental image of himself.

Another garment story, among many, is that of Peter, fishing all night in the boat naked (John Chapter 21). You know the story. He and John finally recognized the resurrected Jesus Christ on the shore. Peter, who in times past had a fear of water (Refer to Matthew 8:23, and Matthew 14:24), recognizing Jesus, did a funny thing. Being naked, he grabbed his fisherman's cloke, put it on, and dove into the water (never thinking of fear). This fisherman's cloke is a cloke of service. Peter covered himself with his work clothes. He was ready to do something for Jesus. He was frustrated at trying to do his own thing. He put on his cloke of service when he saw Jesus on the shore, then without hesitation, he dove into the water to get to Jesus. Hallelujah.

Are you ready to take off your garment; your old image of sickness, poverty, defeat, and lack? Are you ready to put on your cloke of service, ready to change your self image to glorify God?

Yes, you already have your new creation word-robe hanging in the closet of your spirit man, like you already have clothes hanging in your closet. Those clothes do nothing for us hanging in the closet. They only change our appearance as we take them out of the closet and wear them.

When little children get something new to wear everybody knows it. A little girl puts on her lace and ruffles and acts very lady like. She

seems to have the natural ability to even be a bit flirtatious, especially when she has a new dress on. You would never believe that a few hours or even minutes before she had on their old faded blue jeans with dirty bare feet. But with the new dress she even acts differently. She is very aware that she has a new dress. So aware of the new dress that it affects the way she acts. As a result, everyone else knows she has a new dress, even without being told.

So we should put on the new dress of righteousness; or the new coat of righteousness. So we should put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. You say, "How can I do that?" In the same way you put on new shoes, and a new dress, or a new suit when you were a little boy or girl. BE AWARE OF IT. Know that what you have is better than anything this world could offer you. Be aware that you have been reconciled to God the Father, the One Who set the stars in orbit, the One Who made the daisies, the One Who made you. He loves you just the way you are. Don't be afraid to be a little proud of God (not yourself, but God). He has done great things in you and for you.

Can You Imagine That

Quite often when we are talking about something unusual in the news we say, "Can you imagine that?" What we mean is this? Can you form an image of that in your mind? Is it possible to see a mental picture of that thing in your mind?

Well, I have some unusual news for you. You are in close fellowship with the Creator of the universe. Can you imagine that? Well, if you can, you are putting on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Imagine yourself as having close fellowship with God.

Imagine yourself as hearing His voice regularly.

Imagine yourself as being invited into God's presence to advise Him on what He should do for you and your friends.

Imagine yourself as wearing a wonderful white robe of righteousness.

Imagine yourself as having a new hat made of fine spun gold, called the crown of righteousness.

Imagine yourself as doing what God desires in every circumstance.

Can you imagine that?

If you can, you are putting on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Imagine all that you say as being true.

Imagine all that you say as being honest.

Imagine all that you decide as being just.

Imagine all that you desire as being pure.

Imagine all that you report as being good.

Imagine all that you do as being virtuous.

Imagine all of your life as a praise to God.

Can you imagine that?

If you can, you are putting on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Wrong Imaginations

We have not experienced all of God's blessings and promises, because we have had wrong imaginations. We imagine Jesus and ourselves in a way that God says is not the proper image. Second Corinthians 10:5 directs us, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled." The obedience spoken of here is an obedience of thought and mind.

So often we see Jesus as hanging on the cross. Now this is not a bad image. Jesus was crucified on the cross for you and for me. But the story does not stop there, and the image should not stop there. Jesus was raised from the grave. The man Jesus was raised from the grave. He appeared to Mary, to Mary Magdalene, to John, and to Peter in the garden. He appeared to the disciples in the upper room, not once but twice. He appeared to the two on the road to Emmaus. He appeared to Peter and the disciples on the shore of Galilee. Every time He appeared, some, if not all, could not believe it was Jesus. They had an image of Jesus as a dead man. Even after three appearances to Peter, Peter could not believe that Jesus was cooking breakfast for him on the shore of Galilee. They all had problems in those days because they could not see Jesus as resurrected from the grave. "Can you imagine that?"

Thomas believed that Jesus was resurrected because he saw Jesus. But Jesus said, "Blessed are they that have not seen, yet they believe." We are blessed when we imagine Jesus as resurrected.

It is important for us to see Jesus as resurrected from the dead. For the way in which we imagine Jesus will affect the way in which we imagine ourselves. We can imagine ourselves in no greater image than in the image of Jesus that we hold. Many have seen Jesus as a suffering Saviour, rejected of men, bleeding and dying on the cross. This image has predominated their thinking. So as they identify with Jesus, they identify with suffering, rejection, and death. It is good for us to understand all that Jesus did for us on the cross and the suffering He went through to accomplish it. We must always remember that He arose victorious.

As we imagine Jesus as risen from the dead, sitting at the right hand of the Father, having gotten the victory over death, poverty, sickness, discouragement, rejection, and weakness, we will imagine ourselves as seated at the right hand of the Father with Him. We will see ourselves as created, made, and formed in His image and likeness.

Put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Imagine yourselves as God sees you. Can you imagine that?

Follow Righteousness

Second Timothy 2:22 tells us to, "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the name of the Lord out of a pure heart."

Flee those things which you once lusted after, and follow after your right standing with God. Follow after the spirit and not after the flesh.

Always remember, it is not the following after righteousness that will motivate God to bless you. God has blessed you with all spiritual blessings in Heavenly places (in your new birth). With God's gift of righteousness, He has added all things to you in the spirit realm. Begin to imagine in your mind having these blessings already. Then walk as though you had them in the natural.

Right doing will not produce righteousness.

Righteousness produces right doing.

Confirmation Of Righteousness

In the letters of John, he makes a statement about righteousness and works that we have traditionally used to teach that righteousness is right doing. First John 2:29 says, "If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." However, we have not interpreted this scripture in the light of those wonderful scriptures about the gift of righteousness. Many people casually read this scripture and think that it says, If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that is born again doeth righteousness. That is to say, if you don't do right you are not born again. The scripture does not mean that at all. It simply means that the only ones that are able to do right are born again. Do you see what I mean? It confirms that right doing only comes out of being born again.

Yet because this scripture uses the phrase "doeth righteousness," we interpret it as saying that righteousness is right doing. It simply means, when we follow our right standing with God, it confirms that we are born again.

Yet another scripture, I John 3:7 says, "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous". Here again in this verse the term "doeth righteousness" is used. As a result we teach that righteousness is right doing. This verse literally means that when we follow after that right standing with God in outward actions, it reveals that we are in right standing with God, even as Jesus is in right standing with God.

Right doing does not produce righteousness.

Righteousness produces right doing.

I am for right doing. God is for right doing. If everyone did what was right in the sight of God, we would be living in a wonderful utopia.

However, God knows that man can do no right without His help. Man cannot do right without some internal power to lead him and to guide him in every circumstance. This means that we must be in constant fellowship with God.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ, we have received this reconciliation; we have been restored in our fellowship with the Father. This right standing relationship is a gift from God to us, and God calls it righteousness. Through this fellowship, we are empowered to do right in every circumstance. Through this righteousness we act in love. Through this righteousness we act as givers in every relationship. Through this righteousness we go forth into all the world to lay hands on the sick, cast out demons, cleanse the lepers, and raise the dead (Matthew 10:7-8).

Say this aloud until you believe it in your heart.

1. I am filled with righteousness by Jesus.
2. I have received the gift of righteousness.
3. I am the righteousness of God in Christ.
4. I follow after righteousness to do right.

Chapter 16

COMFORTING EMOTIONS

Review

Before we continue with the introduction of new thoughts, let us review so our minds can grasp the next step we are taking.

In the first chapters we discussed the creation of Adam as spirit, soul, and body. Following that, we defined spirit, soul, and body, and their sub- functions. In the body realm there is bone, flesh, and blood. The soul realm functions are intellect, emotions, and will. The spirit realm has knowledge of God, communion with God, and conscience.

Then we described man in his fallen state. He was cut off from God, spirit from Spirit. He had no knowledge of God, no communion with God, spirit to Spirit, and our conscience was seared and defiled. Man needed to be born again.

We then described the new birth as the spiritual new birth of the spirit man. Through faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, we had our knowledge of God restored; we had our communion with God, restored, spirit to Spirit; and we had our conscience cleansed from dead works to serve the living God.

This new birth reconciles us to God and gives us the gift of righteousness. For several chapters then, we have dealt with the word righteousness, because understanding righteousness is

essential to see all of God's blessings and promises manifest in a consistent and predictable manner.

All of this has dealt with the spirit realm of man. Now we turn our attention to the soul realm. How do we get our soul realm converted? Since we have already given some attention to this in our discussion of righteousness, we will now approach it in an even more detailed and methodical manner.

Soul Realm

The soul realm consists of three functions; emotions, intellect, and will. Do you remember, as bone is to the body (giving it shape strength) so intellect is to the soul (intellect is the back bone of the soul)? If we are double minded, we will be tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine and we will receive no good thing from God. We need the intellect for soul-realm strength and shape.

Do you remember, as flesh is to the body (giving the bone mobility and containing the blood); so emotions are to the soul (giving activity to our thoughts and containing our will)? Without emotions, we would all be like Frankenstein's monster, acting only as a computerized robot, such as R2D2. Emotions bring vitality to our lives, to our thinking, to our decisions. Of course we must remember that we are to rule our emotions; our emotions are not to rule us.

Do you remember, as blood is to the body (giving life through feeding bone and flesh protein, and oxygen, and carrying away waste), so will is to the soul? What your will decides to feed your intellect and emotions will bring life or death to you. You made decisions and then decisions make you.

Comforted Emotions

Now we come to the subject of this chapter, the emotions. In the third chapter "Soul Realm", we briefly outlined both the positive emotions; the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22 lists "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.") We also outlined the negative emotions. The Bible is not so clear about the negative emotions, but certainly the Bible is very clear about the works of the flesh. Now the works of the flesh

are related to the negative emotions as the fruit of the Spirit is related to positive emotions. The works of the flesh are listed in Galatians 19:21, Romans 1:28-32, Philippians 3:18-19, and Ephesians 5:3-7. The negative works of the flesh include:

Fornication, Uncleaness, Lasciviousness, Idolatry, Sorcery, Enmities, Strife, Jealousies, Wraths, Factions, Divisions, Parties, Envy, Drunkenness, Revelings, Unrighteousness, Wickedness, Coveteousness, Maliciousness, Murder, Deceit, Malignity, Whisperers, Backbiters, Hateful, Insolent, Haughty, Boastful, Inventors of Evil, Disobedient To Parents, Without Understanding, Adultery, Covenant Breakers, Without Natural Effectation, Unmerciful

This is partial list, but it is a powerful one. Whisperers and backbiters!! Who would think such a small thing would be counted along with adultery and fornication! They are all works of the flesh and counted the same with God.

Thank God for the grace and mercy of God, Who will cleanse us from all unrighteousness when we confess our faults (I John 1:9). This list, as you can see, contains many works that have strong emotional attachment to them, for instance, envy, hateful, boastful, haughty, and several others. Read the list again and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the emotional problem behind such the works of the flesh.

Jesus Has The Answer: Comfort

Thank God there is provision for emotional healing and comfort in His plan. Jesus taught it so plainly in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:4, "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

We find this Beatitude as the second one. Remember the first Beatitude, Matthew 5:3; "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven" spoke of being born again (spiritually prosperous are the poor in spirit). Jesus made a faith statement as He looked upon those poor in spirit and called them spiritually prosperous (blessed). And remember the illustrations for that first Beatitude of new birth were found in Matthew 5:12- 16; "...Ye are the salt of the earth...Ye are the light of the world...."

Now we apply this same reasoning to the second Beatitude. However, the second Beatitude does not speak of new birth, but the baptism of the Holy Spirit. "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Who is the comforter? The Holy Spirit. Jesus taught in John 14:26; "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." The Holy Ghost is the Comforter.

After being born again, we would be baptized in the Holy Ghost so that we might be comforted in our emotions. How often we have been reminded that when we receive the Holy Ghost we will speak in tongues, interpret tongues, prophesy, operate in a word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discerning of spirits, faith, healing and miracles. These are our precious friends, the gifts of the Spirit. It is so true. We will or should have the gifts or operations of the Holy Spirit toward others. But we have not been taught that the initial work of the Holy Ghost toward us when He comes to dwell in us is to comfort the emotions. (We will later see that He also teaches our intellect, and guides our will.)

For years I have taught on the conversion of the soul realm after we have been born again. I would teach that the mind was first to be renewed, then the will was to be renewed, and finally the emotions would slowly come around. Well there is some truth to that. Certainly the mind is the easiest part of our soul to reprogram. And certainly the emotions come around more slowly, unless the Holy Ghost is involved. Then I read the Beatitudes with the eyes of the Holy Spirit, I saw that it was God's desire to first comfort the emotions of our soul realm. Then the Holy Spirit can more easily reprogram the intellect. After that, the will has no problem making good decisions. (I speak of this as though the Holy Spirit can only do one thing at a time. No. He can certainly minister to our entire soul realm at one time. I am just trying to reflect the priority I believe God reveals to us in the Beatitudes.)

Jesus' Illustration Of Comfort

The illustration that Jesus uses for the emotional comfort is found in Matthew 5:26. Read it. "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in

danger of the judgment:" What greater grief in our emotions is there but when a loved one has been killed. When one loses a life partner after forty or fifty years of marriage, with both of them being born again, it is difficult to handle emotionally. That is the best of possible situations surrounding death, but it is still difficult emotionally. When we are one flesh and one spirit in the Lord Jesus Christ, it is a shock to our emotional make up when part of us dies, even though the person goes to be with Jesus in Heaven.

How much greater shock is it to our emotions when a loved one is killed unexpectedly. If their life is cut short by murder, we who remain (wife or husband, or mother, or father) experience a double shock, surprise and loss. Naturally we grieve in our emotions. It is a major problem, for many will tell you that some people have literally grieved themselves into physical death. Emotions can add or subtract from our physical make up. Doctors will tell you that emotional stress is one of the major medical problems today. The stress of today's society is leading to heart problems, ulcers, strokes, and even cancer can be traced back to stress or emotional grief. It has a direct effect on our life.

It seems as though Jesus is just reinforcing the ten commandments that say "Thou shalt not kill." That He is doing. But He is going far beyond the simple outward performance of not killing. He follows by saying, "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." (Matthew 5:22)

Jesus is saying here, the emotional disturbance that leads one to murder is just as bad in God's eyes as the murder itself. When you let your emotions get on the negative side, you cut yourself off from God. Keep your emotions on the positive side, and stay in contact with God.

If a situation comes to you that evokes a negative emotion, turn to the Holy Ghost and allow yourself to be comforted by Him. God is in charge of your life, not circumstances. God wants to protect you from hurt. Allow His Holy Ghost to comfort you in time of need. If someone steals material things from you, turn to God who meets all of your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. If someone lies about you, remember that God is the One who

justifies (makes righteous), not man, but God. If cancer tries to strike you, don't get bitter or angry at God, turn to Him for comfort, and He will heal you. How often in the ministry have I seen people cut themselves off from God with emotional bitterness and kill themselves thereby, when God wanted to heal them.

Jesus goes on to explain that you cannot buy off God. You cannot keep your selfish emotions of unforgiveness and buy off God with your financial offerings. Jesus explains this in Matthew 5:23-24, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." God will not accept any substitute for forgiveness. God will not accept any substitute for keeping a right emotional attitude in every situation. That is why He has helped us to be comforted by the Holy Ghost. God has done all He came to do to help us make it with Him, but if we reject the comfort of the Holy Ghost, and deliberately hold things against our brother, then we cannot buy off God. God is even more demanding toward us. Note Jesus does not say, If you have something against your brother, He says, "If your brother has anything against you," you go to him and get it straightened out (if you can). If someone has something against you, it is difficult for him to come to you. God asks you to go to him because it is easier for you than it is for him. Let's face it that is what God did for you. You had something against God, and He came to you in Jesus Christ to forgive you and to save you. Go to anyone who has anything against you, so that you may forgive him, therefore, deliver him from negative emotions.

Jesus goes on to say, "Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing...." (Matthew 5:25-26) What is all this teaching about? It also is about the emotions, not getting your emotions involved against someone else. Do not get defensive, or else you will land in prison until you have paid your debt. Humble yourself, not only in thinking, but also in your emotions. Do not get haughty, with strife, and break covenants. But keep sweet baby, for you will cut yourself off from God if you do not. Your emotions are very important in your relationship with God. Let them be comforted.

He Will Do It

Early in the 1970's, I had just recently followed the direction of the Holy Spirit for my life by entering the full-time ministry as pastor of a new church in the Midwest. God was dealing with my heart about many things. I was driving from our home into Chicago for a world convention of the FGBMFI. As we entered the city on I-90, just south of Chicago, I saw an eighteen-wheeler trailer truck driving south as we were driving north. Of course this was on a divided highway as the interstate highways are. The expressway curved at that place, and the truck was diving around the curve on the inside lane of his side of the expressway.

I could not believe my eyes as the truck rolled into the median area. The trailer laid over (90 degrees) as the cab rolled over and came to rest on it's top. Being in the left-hand lane, I pulled into the median, was out of my car and at the scene of the accident before the dust could settle. I got down on my knees to look in to the driver, that I might help him. But it was too late. He was still holding on to the steering wheel. Killed instantly. I reached into the cab, laid my hand upon him and began to pray in the spirit. It was too late. There was no response.

By then the crowd was gathering and others had called the police. I could be of no further help so I returned to my car and drove off into Chicago. As I drove away the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart "So you wanted to be a truck driver!"

I quickly responded out of my heart silently to Him, "No, Lord. I want to serve you!" I am not saying that you cannot be spiritual and drive a truck. I know of many spirit-filled truck drivers who witness of the Lord wherever they go. Before I had the opportunity to go to college as a young man, I thought it would be exciting to drive such a big rig across the country seeing America and being productive. I did not realize I still had that unsatisfied desire. When the Holy Spirit revealed that hidden desire, I quickly gave it to Him. The Lord wants nothing to be first place in our lives but Himself.

That Saturday night in the hotel, I could not sleep. I got dressed and went down to the lobby, watching the people and crying out in my heart, "Will you ever really use me, God?" As I sat there the Holy Spirit once again spoke to me. (Now you understand that when I say

the Holy Spirit spoke to me, it was not with an audible voice, but with that still, small voice of God.)

"Bill, what is your earliest recollection?"

"Well, Lord," I replied in my heart, "I remember getting my first bicycle when I was in the fourth grade. My, was I proud of it! It was a Western Flyer, straight out of the local Western Auto store. In those days bicycles were hard to come buy. Shortly after the second world war, both automobiles and bicycles were hard to get. But John Miller, (the local Western Auto store proprietor) had this lone bicycle in his shop. When I saw it, I quickly ran to my Dad's farm supply store and ask him if I could have that bicycle.

"Dad, every other kid in my neighborhood has a bicycle."

"OK, Bill", came the reply from my Dad, with that firm tone that tried to hide his joy of buying me a new bicycle. "I'll call John Miller and have him save it for you". My Dad picked up the phone and clicked for the operator, (we didn't have automatic dialing phones in our little home town yet then) "Give me John Miller, Hazel," my Dad firmly requested. "Hello, John, this is Rup." My Dad's name was Rupert, and the whole town, all 1500 of them, called him Rup. "Bill tells me you have a bicycle down there for sale." Silence while John obviously was replying. "Good. Give it to Bill when he comes by; I'll settle up with you later. Thanks. 'Bye."

Off I ran like I was shot out of a cannon. One block south to Main Street, and two blocks East to the Western Auto store, and into the Western Auto, I wheeled out MY NEW BICYCLE. I had to wheel it home because I didn't know how to ride yet.

In that Chicago hotel lobby, the Holy Spirit spoke again, "No, Bill, That is not your earliest recollection. Think again." So my mind began to walk back further in my blessed life. Thinking over several special times.

I thought of one time when I was only about four or five years old. It was carnival time. The local volunteer fire department always sponsored the annual carnival to raise funds for new equipment. My sister, Mother, and I went to the carnival. It was about time to go home so we stopped at the "fish pond" (they called it) and fished. Now for you younger people, I am not talking about a fish pond with

real fish. This was an oval trough about twelve inches wide and six inches deep with running water and wooden fish floating. The players (mostly little kids; but an occasional adult who wanted to dip into some nostalgia) would dip an old fashioned tea strainer into the trough. (They are still the same today. Tea strainers are one of the few inventions that had not been replaced by computers or frozen foods). Those wooden fish, as hard as they might try, could not avoid being caught. Everybody would win at the "fish bond".

My sister won a red glass goblet. I won a red glass plate. Mom said "It's time to go home kids. Bill, Let me carry your plate."

In the pride of my accomplishment of catching that fish I said, "No Mom. I won it. I want to carry it."

"OK, let's go." Off we went out of the carnival grounds, hand in hand with Mom with my red glass plate under my arm. As we walked out of the field, we came to the curb of the sidewalk and (you guessed it) I stubbed my toe, lost my balance, dropped the red glass plate and broken it. I cried all the way home. I cried myself to sleep that night.

The next day, I got on my tricycle (that was years before I had my first bicycle) and peddled up the street as far as the law (my mother) would allow. Looking both ways carefully, I peddled across the quiet tree lined residential street all the way up to the next corner=stop, that is as far as the law would allow. I looked around the corner, and there was the man sweeping up my red glass plate. I turned my tricycle around and cried all the way home. What a pity party I had! (You know that you are the only one who shows up for a pity party, regardless of how old you are).

It was time for lunch. My sister sat at the table with her red glass goblet filled with cool fresh milk and I had no red glass plate. Needless to say, I did not eat much for lunch that day. Come to think of it, I never ate much for lunch.

"What do all these memories have to do with me now, Lord?" I did not get a direct reply. You know we do not often get direct replies to our questions to God, but we do always get a reply. Generally the quiet replies are much more meaningful than a direct reply.

The Holy Spirit asked, "Were you a good student, Bill?"

"Why yes, you know I was the smartest of us three kids," was my quiet reply.

"Bill, you weren't the smartest, you just were driven to get better grades because you thought they would earn you your mother's love again. You thought you had lost her love through your disobedience when you dropped your red glass plate." I was humbled, because I was always proud about my intelligence.

"Did you go on to college, Bill?" the Holy Spirit asked.

"Sure, you know I went on the college." I replied as if the Holy Spirit and I had been on the most intimate of terms through those college years, when in fact I didn't even know Him, or Jesus, or the Father.

"What was your major in college, Bill?" came the next question.

"You know. I majored in engineering," I replied with some irritation.

"Yes, but what field of engineering?"

With even more irritation I replied, "Ceramic engineering, of course."

"But what specialty within Ceramic engineering?"

With even more irritation about these repeated questions I replied, "Glass making." With that answer, I saw my entire life's motivation revealed to me. I had majored in glass making to subconsciously make up for that broken red glass plate.

After graduating from college, I worked for a major glass making firm, compounding different colored glasses. I thought I was doing it because I was interested in the special characteristics of glass chemistry. No. I was trying to reverse the curse that came upon me through self disappointment. You cannot reverse the curse by yourself. Only God can cleanse your conscience and comfort your emotions.

Several weeks after these experiences with the Lord, I was praying in our little church during the church service. We were singing "Great Is Thy Faithfulness". "Great is thy faithfulness, O God our Father, There is no shadow of turning with thee; Thou changest not,

Thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!"

I only got half way through the chorus, when the Spirit of the Lord fell upon me. I fell to my knees and began to weep and pray (I was supposed to be leading the singing). As I prayed, in an instant the Spirit of the Lord gave me a vision of myself as a small boy.

This time it was in the summer when I was about seven years old. There was no school, and I was bored with the summer inactivity. My dad was the ice man for our little mid-west town. He worked for my granddad making ice in that small town, but the second world war had interrupted the business. All of the manpower was drafted to defend our country. My Dad would drive several miles into Cincinnati in a 1940 model GMC, one and a half ton truck. He would load up the truck with ice and bring it back to our town to sell it.

One day Dad came home for lunch, and as he was leaving to go back to work he shouted, "Bill, I'm goin' to Cincinnati for a load of ice this afternoon. Do you want to ride along?" Sure I wanted to ride alone. To be with my dad in that big truck, windows down, hot air in my face, waving my hand like an airplane out the window was really exciting.

One thirty came, and Dad was a little late. Two o'clock came and Dad was really late. Three o'clock, and I knew Dad had forgotten me. How disappointed I was! As this vision continued in that brief instant, I saw myself get up from crying on the couch (that same couch my sister and I jumped up and down on with excitement over the coming gifts from Santa Claus).

I saw myself bound across the living room and through the front door as that rusty, red ice truck came rattling up Broadway Street. Jumping across the sidewalk, I opened the passenger door of that old truck, and there behind the wheel sat Jesus. At that moment the Holy Spirit spoke in a sweet voice of assurance, "I will never leave you nor forsake you!"

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." My tender young heart was open and vulnerable as are the hearts of all little children. That may be why Jesus said in Mark 10:14, "Suffer

the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." God wants us to come to Him with an open heart. That is why, after being born again, the Holy Spirit comes to comfort our grieving emotions. It does not need to be a grieving that comes from death, even though Jesus uses death as the primary example as the source of grieving. (Matthew 5:21) God wants to comfort our grieving emotions, to set us free from emotional bondage, regardless of what circumstances may have caused.

Healing Of Memories

I must emphasize this is the work of the Holy Spirit. After having these experiences with the Holy Ghost comforting me, I was tempted to think that I had all the answers. I would hang out a sign that said, "Emotional Healing".

But the Lord quickly checked me. "Bill, if I can send to Holy Spirit to meet your need for comfort, do you not think that I can do the same for others with your help."

"Yes, Lord", was my obvious reply. So I have left this ministry up to The Father as He directs the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

This area of ministry is called by some, the "healing of the memories" ministry. There is no doubt that the body of Christ needs this ministry, for it is in the emotions that the scars of memory linger on. Surely the Father and Jesus counted this to be of some importance, since it is the first ministry to us after new birth. But we must be careful that we do not try to play God or play Holy Spirit in this ministry. Some have tried to do so by a carnal, psychological approach and have caused more harm than good. Nevertheless, we do not stop using money and close all the banks because someone passes a counterfeit bill. Just because some have not used wisdom in the area of healing of memories does not mean that God does not have a valid ministry in this area.

Deliverance

Another related area to this promise in the second Beatitude is deliverance from Satanic influences in the lives of Christians. Now note carefully the words I used before you categorize me into one

camp or another about deliverance. I said, "from Satanic influences." I did not say that Christians are or can be possessed by demons. Frankly, I do not think any man will have the answer to that question until we get to Heaven. But I do know this, we have authority "to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10:19)

Cast Out Flesh?

There certainly is a valid deliverance ministry given us by Jesus Christ Himself. But I also know we cannot cast out the flesh. We think sometimes that the answer to all our temptations is to cast out the flesh. No. We count the flesh dead and buried with Christ in water baptism. We do not cast it out. Also, we cannot cast out grief. The Holy Spirit heals our emotions by comfort. Certainly satanic forces will play on (use the weakness) our emotional weakness. But you cannot cast out grief; only the Holy Spirit can heal it.

Sure Cure To A Reversed Curese

There is one sure way to maintain emotional stability in our Christian lives. The simple answer is to act as God would act in every situation. How is that? In John 3:16 Jesus says "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." That may sound like a "pat answer" to you, but let me explain it. God so loved that He gave. Love is more than emotions; it is a decision and an understanding. But love does have strong emotional content. The God kind of love, agape, is synonymous with giving. God so loved that He gave. God gets great satisfaction out of giving. God gets emotional satisfaction out of giving. (This is an opinion but I believe it is a good one.) God so designed your emotions in the soul realm that they can only be completely satisfied in giving. Yes, there is emotional satisfaction in receiving. But the Bible says in Acts 20:35 "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Some years ago, the Lord directed a friend of ours to give us his car. It was much better than the one we had, and the Lord spoke to both my friend and his wife independently to do it. As we received that better car, we rejoiced in our hearts and we were very thankful

to them. The Lord had already instructed us to give away our old car, but I told God I would not do it until he provided money to fix it up. He provided the money. We fixed it up with a new paint job, new tires, new floor mats and other things. We both knew that we were to give the old fixed-up car to some friends who were faithful to give their spare time to the work of the Lord, but had no car. As we handed them the title and the keys, the glory of the Lord fell on us and we wept and rejoiced before the Lord for several minutes before Him. We really experienced that it was far more blessed to give than to receive. In our giving we were acting much more like God than in our receiving.

God has called us to a selfless, giving love so that we can bless others. But even more exciting is the fact that we derive such emotional satisfaction out of giving. Determine to be emotionally stable. Be a giver in every situation. Determine that you are going to help others to the top, and you will find yourself at the top also. Give to people financially. Give to people understanding. Give to people comfort. Give to people apple pies. Give to people encouragement, and in doing so you will be like God. The side benefit is that you will be satisfied emotionally with peace that passes understanding; with joy that is full as we love one another.

In The World Or In Christ?

As you determine to be a giver in every situation, you will be in Christ. Your emotions will remain in Christ. You will abide in His love, joy, and peace.

As you remain selfish, seeking your own satisfaction, you will be in the world. As you seek the success of your own ministry, you will be in the world. Even as you seek after peace, you may not find it, for you are involved in a selfish occupation. Seeking peace, you will find yourself still in the world.

Caution!!!

Let's not get emotional about this chapter on emotions. If you need comforting in your emotions, God the Father and the Holy Spirit know it better than you or I do. Just because you remembered, even some unpleasant memories as you read of my experience, does not

mean that you have allowed your emotions to grieve over them as mine apparently were. But then, the Holy Spirit may have spoken to you as you read of my experience. If He did, then count it done. Rejoice in the Lord. Put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, lift up your voice to God. Pray in the spirit and in your understanding; "Oh, magnify the Lord." From now on, think on good things. Let not your heart be troubled, believe in God, believe also in Jesus Christ, who has sent the Comforter, the Holy Ghost.

Say this until you believe it in your heart.

1. Jesus is Lord of my life
2. I am born again; I'm a new creature in Christ.
3. I have received the gift of righteousness, and I am the righteousness of God in Christ.
4. The Holy Spirit is my Comforter, and my heart is no longer troubled.

Chapter 17

RENEWING THE MIND

Brief Review

Before we move ahead to new material let us remind ourselves of what we have learned in previous chapters.

Adam was formed, created, and made in the image of God. He was spirit, soul, and body.

Adam fell through disobedience and therefore lost his communion with God, Spirit to spirit. He lost his intuitive knowledge of God, but he gained knowledge of good and evil in his spirit-realm conscience.

We were born into the same spirit-realm condition that Adam fell into through disobedience. But through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we have been born again. We are made a new creation in Christ. We are reconciled to God as we have received the gift of righteousness with all of the blessings and promises of righteousness.

After being born again, the Holy Spirit would come and comfort our emotions. As flesh is to the body, giving it activity, so emotions are to the soul realm. God wants love, joy, peace and the fruit of the Spirit to bring activity to our soul realm.

Finally, we are to put on the mind of Christ. We are to put on meekness. As the bone is to the body, so intellect is to the soul realm. The intellect is the "back bone" of the soul.

The Intellect

We read in Matthew 5:5, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

This is the third Beatitude in the Sermon on the Mount. Before we go on to consider it, let's do a brief review of the first two beatitudes.

The first Beatitude, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," refers to being born again in the spirit man, becoming spiritually prosperous. The illustration for this is found in Matthew 5:13-16, "Ye are the salt of the earth...." "Ye are the light of the world." When you prosper spiritually through the new birth, you will be salt and light to the world.

The second Beatitude, "Blessed are they that mourn....," speaks of the soul-realm emotions. The promise is that the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, will heal your grieving emotions that have been scared in life. Obviously, this speaks of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Yes, the initial gift to the church and to your edification is the gift of tongues. But the initial ministry of the Holy Spirit to you should be comforting your emotions. The illustration for this is Matthew 5:21-26, "Thou shalt not kill"...leave your gift and go be reconciled to your brother..."agree with thine adversary quickly."

Jesus was saying, so to speak, do not kill or even get angry with thy brother; for it not only hurts him, but anger gets your emotions all bent out of shape. It causes more damage to you than to others. If you are angry in your emotions (or have unforgiveness), you cut yourself off from God. Do not try to buy off God with your offerings if you are not willing to forgive your brother. The last illustration says, do not resist your adversary, do not get defensive, for in doing so you take a selfish stand and you cannot get emotional satisfaction out of life.

The Meek

Now we come to the third Beatitude, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Now remember that the word "blessed" (*makarios* in the Greek) is not easy to define. Wuest translates it

"spiritually prosperous." The word meek (*praus* in the Greek) means mild and humble. To me this speaks of having a right mental attitude about yourself and God. The word inherit (*kleronomeo* in the Greek) means to receive an unearned possession. The word earth (*ge* in the Greek) literally means literally, the soil. Now allow me to give you the Kaiser paraphrased translation. "Spiritually prosperous are those who have a humble, mild, yet proper mental understanding, for they shall receive their unearned portion of this turf." You can take the word turf as present slang or in the classical definition.

The idea is simply this; when we have the mind of Christ, God takes care of our needs. This re-minds (there is a pun there someplace) us of Matthew 6:33; "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." With the right understanding of God and Christ, we will not have to elbow our way to the top. God will provide our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Phillipians 4:19)

The illustrations that Jesus uses for this third Beatitude are found in Matthew 5:27-32. "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her in his heart. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery."

This is one of those familiar passages of scripture that deals with a controversial subject, divorce. But allow me to challenge your thinking for one moment. Jesus is not really intending to lay down a New Testament law for divorce so much as He is giving an illustration of PRIDE. Yes, what He says about divorce is true; but let's take off our religious glasses, let's take off our legalistic glasses, and ask ourselves why Jesus is teaching this. He is giving the ultimate illustration of PRIDE.

The ultimate illustration of pride is when a man or woman says to their mate, the one they are in covenant with until death, "You are not good enough for me any more." God calls covenant breaking an act of the flesh in Romans 1:32. This act of the flesh is a selfish prideful act. It is the ultimate in anti-meekness.

After this initial illustration of divorce, Jesus (believe it or not) injects a little humor. Of course, we may miss the humor looking through our religious glasses. He said, "If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out." Well now I ask you, who in their right mind would reach up to their right eye, and with three fingers, pull their eye out of the socket, sever the optic nerve, and throw their eyeball away? (Oh, how gross Bro. Kaiser! I did not use the illustration, Jesus did.) It is ridiculous to think of pulling out your eye and throwing it away. As if that did not make the point, Jesus goes on to say, "And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off." Have you ever met anyone who has cut off their own right hand? I understand that in some cultures they cut off hands for stealing, but no one would cut off their own right hand. It is ridiculous to think of such a thing. The illustration is so plain. You would not think of plucking out your eye. You would not think of cutting off your hand. It is just as absurd to think about cutting off your wife.

This is an illustration of pride, Jesus is giving us. And of course the whole thing gets started when one, while happily married, look on another woman or man and let the flesh say in pride, I would like her. My present wife or husband is not as nice as they are. Having allowed this seed of lust to find its way to the heart, full of pride, divorces and marries another. That is covenant breaking. That is walking in the world, after the flesh. That is anti-meekness. That is pride.

The problem is not so much breaking the Old Testament law, but that selfishness and pride rule your life. This mental attitude will cut you off from God.

Renew Your Mind

Paul records in Romans 12:1-2, <t52"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed

by the renewing of your mind, that ye might prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."<t51

This is a familiar passage of scripture from Paul's letter to the Romans, the greatest law givers the world has ever seen. Change your thinking if you are going to have your life changed. As you put the right backbone into your intellect, your entire life will be metamorphosed, that is, transformed. The word used here in the Greek is <t52metamorphoo.<t51 It is what happens when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. Apparently the Romans needed to have their sharp legal minds "butterflied" to come into agreement with the mind of Christ.

Paul goes on to write in Romans 12:3 (the very next verse), <t52"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." <t51Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Does this not sound like <t52"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth"?<t51

You will have your life "butterflied" as you put on meekness into your thinking. How do we do this? Paul tells us in the following verses thirty-one ways to put on meekness into our thinking:

- Vs.6 Prophecy according to your faith.
- Vs.7 Wait on your ministry.
- Vs.7 Wait on your teaching.
- Vs.8 Wait on your exhortation.
- Vs.8 Give in simplicity.
- Vs.8 Rule with diligence.
- Vs.8 Show mercy cheerfully.
- Vs.9 Love without dissimulation (hypocrisy).
- Vs.9 Abhor evil.
- Vs.9 Cleave to good.
- Vs.10 Be affectioned to one another.
- Vs.10 Prefer one another.
- Vs.11 Diligent in business, not slothful.
- Vs.11 Be fervent in Spirit.
- Vs.11 Serve the Lord.
- Vs.12 Rejoice in hope.
- Vs.12 Be patient in tribulation.
- Vs.12 Be instant in prayer.

Vs.13 Distribute to the needs of the saints.
Vs.13 Give hospitality.
Vs.14 Bless them that persecute you.
Vs.14 Bless and curse not.
Vs.15 Rejoice with them that rejoice.
Vs.15 Weep with them that weep.
Vs.16 Be of the same mind one toward another.
Vs.16 Mind not high things.
Vs.16 Be not wise in conceits.
Vs.17 Recompense to no man evil.
Vs.17 Provide things honest.
Vs.18 Live peaceably with all men, if possible.
Vs.18 Avenge not yourselves.

We could go on in the rest of the Book of Romans, talking about how to renew your mind. Just the twelfth chapter gives us an extensive list of things to do in order to renew the mind and therefore be "butterflied." This list of thirty- one items would require a book in and of themselves to give complete understanding.

Of course, if you will examine the list closely, you will find the common element is humility. Meekness is the key.

The Mind Of Christ

The mind that we are seeking is the mind of Christ. But what is the mind of Christ? It is the mind of God the Father. We just need to learn to think like God. Note that in Romans 12:2 the implied one who is to do the renewing of the mind is you. It does not say that the Holy Spirit will renew your mind. You are to renew your mind. This re-minds me...(I know that remind is normally spelled without a hyphen. But I have spelled it with a hyphen on purpose, so that you may be re-minded that re-mind means to once again put on your mind. We used to re-tread tires when material shortages prevented us from getting new tires. Re-tread your mind. Re-mind yourself what you used to know.) This re- minds me of II Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." This is not a suggestion. This is a command. You study. It really means: BE DILIGENT.

To put on the mind of Christ is to re-remember yourself in the Word of God so that you will show yourself approved unto God. But as you do it, do it rightly, so that your re-remembering will not prove to be a shame to you. If you re-tread yourself with the wrong tread, you may backslide. (Oh, that is a bad pun.) Re-remember yourself with the right Word of God. How can we do that? Paul once again gives us a list in II Timothy 2:

Vs. 22, Flee youthful lusts.

Vs. 22, Follow righteousness, love, peace.

Vs. 23, Avoid foolish questions.

Vs. 24, Do not strive.

Vs. 24, Be a gentle, patient teacher.

Vs. 25, In meekness instruct.

Here again we find the word meekness. It is not a coincidence. We must put on meekness.

But continuing on with putting on the mind of Christ, let us consider Philippians, Chapter Two. There Paul writes, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." (Verse 5) But this exhortation is preceded with, "if there be any." Now Paul is not in doubt about any of these following things existing, he was simply putting forth a rhetorical (a style of speech that emphasizes or stimulates thought) question. Paul is drawing your attention to the following list of things.

If there be any:

1. consolation in Christ...
2. comfort of love...
3. fellowship of the Spirit...
4. bowels and mercies...

Then:

1. fulfill ye my joy.
2. be like-minded.
3. have the same love.
4. be of one accord, one mind.
5. do nothing in strife or vainglory.
6. in lowliness of mind esteem one another.
7. look on the things of others (to see if they have what they need).

Now we come to Verse Five "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus," (Phillipians 2) What kind of mind is that?

The thinking of Christ is:

1. to be in the form of God, but looked to Him as Father.
2. to made Himself of no reputation.
3. to take upon Himself the form of a servant.
4. to humbled Himself as a man.

The results are:

1. God exalted Him, and
2. gave Him a Name above every Name.

This is the mind of Christ. Put on meekness. Do not think more highly of yourself than you ought. Think of yourself as God thinks of you, always remembering that it is God that has made you what you are. That alone will keep you humble.

Never forget that you are no longer a worthless, unworthy worm. You are a new creature in Christ Jesus. You are the apple of God's eye. You are more than a conqueror. You are the head and not the tail. You lend and don't borrow. You are blessed with all spiritual blessing in heavenly places. All of your needs have been met according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. You can do all things through Christ Jesus. God is able to do exceeding abundantly, above all you ask or think, according to the power that worketh in you. Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord and the power of His might.

Chapter 18

GOD'S THOUGHTS

Renewed Mind

The first principles of the faith are given to us in Hebrews 6:1- 2. "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrines of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."

This is a familiar passage of Scripture which we all refer to as we define the basics of faith. However, as I have studied the Word of God, I find there are even more basic thinking processes which need to be renewed before we are ready to apply Hebrews 6:1-2 to our lives. Some of these basics thought processes are mentioned in Hebrews 6:1-2, others are mentioned in Hebrews, Chapter Five, and more are in this list of basic thinking processes that are not mentioned at all in Hebrews.

As I have studied the Word of God and talked with people, I have found the following thinking processes need to be *re* programed in our mind in order to put on the mind of Christ and begin to think the thoughts of God.

These thinking processes are an understanding of:

1. spirit, soul, and body;
2. righteousness;
3. the gift concept;

4. faith;
5. God is a God of multiplication; and
6. resurrection of the dead.

Spirit, Soul, And Body

In this book, I have already dealt with the first three items on the above list. As a matter of fact this entire book deals in depth with the spirit, soul, and body understanding. If we do not understand spirit, soul, and body, we will not understand what it is to be born again. Read John, Chapter Three to see that this is the very thing that Jesus talked to Nicodemus about. Jesus said, "Art thou a master (ASV a teacher) of Israel, and knowest not these things?" (John 3:10) What things did Nicodemus obviously not know? He did not know what it was to be born of the Spirit. He could not understand spiritual new birth, because he did not understand spirit, soul, and body.

If you do not understand spirit, soul, and body, you cannot understand spirit-realm new birth. Without understanding the new birth, you will not be able to appropriate all that God has given you through Jesus Christ. Many churches today treat the new birth as though it was membership in their organization, but it is really a membership in God's spiritual family. Others treat the new birth as though it was just an emotional decision to try to live a better life. It is far more than that, as many of you know. New birth is a transformation of the old spirit of sin into a spirit of righteousness. Out of this new creation reality will come a total transformation of our thinking and our life style as we walk after the spirit putting on the mind of Christ.

This entire book deals with what it really means to be born again. We must begin to think as God thinks about being born again and about spirit, soul, and body.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

We have also given much attention to righteousness in this book. I have done that because it is the one word that describes our spirit-realm character after we are born again. As sin describes our spirit-realm character before being born again, so righteousness

describes our spirit-realm character after the new birth. Read Chapters Nine through Fifteen of this book for a review, if necessary.

As we have said in our treatment of righteousness, men describe righteousness as a product of right doing. But the Word of God says that God gives us the gift of righteousness (spirit-realm right standing with God) when we are born again. This is contrary to man's thinking. If we are going to think God's thoughts, we must study to show ourselves approved unto God, a workman not ashamed. Knowing that we are the righteousness of God in Christ, we are not ashamed to go into God's presence to fellowship in prayer, praise and worship.

However, if we have not renewed our minds concerning righteousness, we will carry the shame of our sin, as though we had never been born of the spirit, as though the blood of Christ was shed in vain for us. In Hebrews 5:13 we read, "For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe." Therefore, if we become skillful in the Word of righteousness, we will be non-babes. We will be mature. To be skillful in the Word of righteousness is to understand righteousness and all that it means to us in Christ. Put on the mind of Christ. Think God's thoughts about righteousness. Read Chapters Nine through Fifteen of this book. I believe it will help your understanding.

I can hear you saying, "I have already read those chapters several times."

Yes, I know. I also know that when we receive the seed of the Word, Satan comes immediately to steal it. Water the seed. Read those chapters again. Become skillful in the Word of righteousness.

THE GIFT CONCEPT

The gift concept is the third item in the list of basic thought processes that needs to be renewed and come into agreement with God. Chapter Ten deals with this idea. We say we know what a gift is. I am sure that our minds can give a good definition of a gift. But if our minds have not held fast to that definition, our emotions are still acting as though we are unworthy. When surprised at Christmas time or anniversary time, out of our heart and mouth comes, "Oh,

you didn't need to do that." You are right. They did not need to do it. They wanted to do it. It was a gift, not a wage. Renew your mind and your heart about the simple gift idea, for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16).

God is a gift giver. Think like God. Act like God. Learn to receive gifts without apology. Learn to give with joy, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Faith

The next item on the list of thought processes that needs to be renewed is faith.

Hebrews 11:1-2 *re* minds us, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report."

This is our old friend, Hebrews 11:1; "Now faith is...." I cannot understand why so many people in this day and hour are divided in the body of Christ over faith. There is not a single of us who has been born again by any other means than faith. In Ephesians 2:8 Paul teaches, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.") Well, I guess I do know why Christians have allowed this to be a stumbling block. Many people have over emphasized faith teaching. Others have ignored the study of faith, so they remain carnal in their thinking about it. We must put on the mind of Christ, the thinking of God, in every teaching if we are to be approved of God. (II Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God....")

For many years faith was a great mystery to me. Let's face it (or should I say, Let's faith it?). It is hard to measure and define the things of the spirit, except by the Word of God. Since I was a babe in Christ, I did not know what the Word of God said about faith.

Faith is spiritual substance. Faith is as tangible in the spirit realm as this book is in the material realm. It is the essence of spirit realm "stuff". That may not help you much, so let's do what Jesus did so often. Let's tell a material-realm story to gain understanding of spirit-realm truth; this is a parable.

Harmonious Actions

Starting with the body realm, the elements are bone, flesh and blood. (Oh, are we back to that again!) When our physical bodies move, bone, flesh, and blood move together. I call this harmonious actions.

Now imagine, if you will, your body riding down the expressway on a motor cycle, at ninety miles an hour. Your body is moving in harmonious action, with the motor cycle. Suddenly the road turns and you do not. The motor cycle, and your body hit a cyclone fence. Part of you is caught in the fence, and part of you goes through the fence. This is called in-harmonious action.

Harmonious Believing

Now, let's consider the soul realm with the elements of intellect, emotions, and will. When these are all in agreement, I call it harmonious believing.

Consider for one moment the decision of eating a Hot Fudge Sundae. I know you have heard this illustration before, but I am using it a little differently here. Your intellect looks at the hot fudge sundae and says, "That sundae is full of calories and you are already over weight. Do not eat it." Your emotions look at that hot fudge sundae and say, "You love hot fudge sundaes. You had one last week, and it really tasted good. Go ahead and eat just this one." Your will receives this information from your intellect and from your emotions and says, "Pass the Spoon."

This is called inharmonious believing. The soul realm is not in agreement with itself. The more familiar term for this is frustration. Mental hospitals are full of people who have this kind of frustration. So we have harmonious or in-harmonious believing.

Harmonious Faithing

In a like manner, faith, the spirit- realm substance, can be either harmonious or in-harmonious.

In the spirit realm the elements are, knowledge of God, communion with God, and conscience. When these three spirit realm functions are strong and in agreement, faith is strong. When they are not in agreement, faith becomes weak.

The way to have strong faith is to have a good knowledge of God, to have good fellowship with God, and to keep the conscience clean through the forgiveness of the blood of Jesus. Romans 10:17 tells us "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." We have been taught therefore, that faith does not come by praying for it. That is true. It comes by hearing from God through the Word. That does not mean however, that we cannot hear God in prayer. We have denied any relationship between faith and prayer, because faith does not come by asking for it in prayer. But when should we hear God more clearly than when we are in prayer? Faith comes by hearing, not the hearing of the King James Version only, but by hearing from God, as we pray, as we read the King James Version, as we live and move and have our being in Him.

As we hear from God, our spirits are fed. They are strengthened. As we hear from God, our intuitive knowledge of God gets strengthened. As we hear from God, our communion with God, spirit to Spirit, is strengthened. As we hear from God, we receive forgiveness and our conscience is cleansed from dead works to serve the living God. To strengthen your faith, pray. To strengthen your faith, study the Word, and get to know God. To strengthen your faith, confess your sins, (to God) and be cleansed from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9), cleansing your conscience.

Starve your doubts. Feed your faith. Study the Word of God. Pray. Praise and worship God. Confess your sins (to God), and you will be strong in your spirit. Your spirit will be in harmonious agreement, and your faith will be strong.

Faith is this spirit-realm substance. Faith is the evidence of the things that come to you from God by the Spirit, those things not seen.

We must never forget, we do not need to understand faith to live by it. It may be easier to live by faith if we understand it, but God says the righteous shall live by faith. What God has commanded us to do, we can do even if we do not understand it. Faith, in the final analysis, is simply trusting God.

I am amused many times as I observe those who do not teach faith, or do not understand faith. They sure do a great job living by faith. Many who oppose faith teaching lift their hands to a God they cannot see as though He was, to praise Him, and worship the One they cannot see. When they are finished acting in faith toward God, they may speak against faith as it is taught by others. Still others who teach faith, will not spend much time at all lifting their hands to a God they cannot see to act in faith by praise and worship to Him.

How peculiar we are. God is so merciful. If we will put on the mind of God about faith, there will be far less division in the body of Christ and much more love for the world to see.

Chapter 19

TWO TIMES TWO

EQUALS FOUR

God's Multiplication

The next item on the list of thought processes that needs to be renewed is multiplication. Yes, multiplication.

Why would I include this in the list? The things that we learn early in life are often the things that stick with us most and guide our lives more. Two plus two equals four is one of those early teachings. Oh, it could be three plus three, or one plus one. But it sticks in my mind that the big test at age three, or four, or five years was two plus two. If you knew that two plus two equals four before your neighbor friend knew, then you obviously were far more intelligent than they were. (Ha, ha) If you knew that two plus two equals four before you went to school, surely you were just one step from your Phd. At least that is what it seems like as I look back on it. The point is simply this; addition is one of the first teachings we receive in life.

If God were in charge of the classroom, would He teach addition first? "Well," you say, "surely He would not teach subtraction first." I think you may be right. However, I think God would not teach two plus two equals four, but TWO TIMES TWO equals four.

Why do I believe that? Because God is a God of multiplication. So what? Why is that one of those basic thinking processes that needs to be changed? If we do not see God as a God of multiplication, He

will probably not ever be able to multiply on your behalf. He may add to you, but He may not be able to multiply for you, if you do not see God as a God of multiplication.

The Bible Says

In Deuteronomy 32:30 we read "How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up?" This is taken from a passage where the Lord is talking about understanding. Understand that one praying can chase a thousand of the enemy. Also understand that two praying can chase not two thousand, but ten thousand. If you have studied mathematics at all, you know this defines a logarithmic relationship or in simple terms, multiplication. God does not think in terms of adding our strength or power one to another, but God thinks in terms of multiplying our power or strength as we pray in agreement. If two can put ten thousand to flight, three can put one hundred thousand to flight. Four can put one million to flight. Five can put ten million to flight. Six can put one hundred million to flight. Seven can put one billion to flight. Do you realize that seven people in agreement in prayer can put to flight enemies as many as one quarter of the present world population! Can you imagine that?

What Jesus Taught

John 12:24 records, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." This scripture is one that has many interpretations. I cannot possibly deal with them all in this book. I simply present as evidence from the teachings of Jesus that He wanted us to know about "much fruit," or multiplication.

In Mark, Chapter Four, Jesus taught His disciples another story of seed, the Parable of the Sower. In this parable there are four kinds of soil: wayside soil, stony ground, thorny ground, and good ground.

Wayside Soil

The seed that falls by the wayside is immediately stolen by Satan according to Mark 4:15.

Stoney Ground

The seed that is sown on stoney ground is immediately received with gladness, but afflictions and persecutions come to steal it. (Mark 4:16-17)

Thorny Ground

The Word that falls on thorny ground is made unfruitful by cares of this world, lusts of other things, and deceitfulness of riches. (Mark 4:18-19)

Good Ground

The seed that falls on good ground brings forth some thirty, some sixty, and some one hundred fold return. (Mark 4:20)

The point is this, different types of soil will bring forth different degrees of multiplication from God. You can determine what kind of soil you are by the kind of thinking you have. Put on the mind of Christ, think the thoughts of God, and be that good ground that produces some thirty, some sixty, and some one hundred fold.

The teaching about the Parable of the Sower does not stop as Jesus finishes His explanation. The Holy Spirit continues the teaching through the stories that follow through the Gospel of Mark.

Satan Immediately Comes

As the disciples crossed the sea of Galilee after Jesus taught them the Parable of the Sower, they came to Gadara, where they were met by the Gadarene demoniac. Satan met them to challenge the authority of Jesus and therefore challenge the teaching of Jesus about the Parable of the Sower. Obviously, Jesus met the challenge and delivered the Gadarene demoniac. Likewise, to keep the Word sown in your heart, stand your ground against Satan as is demonstrated in Mark 5:1-20.

Afflictions And Persecutions

The next illustration given us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is in Mark 5:21-43. This is the story of Jairus who had a sick daughter. Jesus was going with Jairus to heal her, when they were interrupted by the woman with the issue of blood. She had an affliction. She believed that if she could but touch the hem of His garment, she would be healed. She believed and she received. The Word is greater than affliction. Do not let afflictions steal the Word.

But what about Jairus? Did he allow this temporary delay to steal the Word and his faith. Read the whole story. They got to Jairus' house only to find that during the delay his daughter had died. That alone would cause many to loose the seed of the Word and faith. But Jairus did not loose it. All the people were weeping. Jesus said, "Why make ye this ado and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth." With that statement, they stopped weeping and laughed Jesus to scorn. That is called persecution. Jesus did not allow that to stop Him. He went in and raised Jairus' daughter from the dead. By this we see that Jesus overcame affliction and persecutions.

Cares Of The World

Following that story, the Holy Spirit illustrates the cares of this world, that which comes against the seed ord sown in stony ground. In Mark 6:7-13, Jesus sends His disciples forth two by two. He sent them with only a staff, no scrip, no bread, no money, one pair of sandals, and only one coat. He sent them without any worldly goods, knowing that God would take care of them. They were not to care for the things of this world as they cast out devils, and healed the sick.

Deceitfulness Of Riches

Then follows a story that looks as though it does not belong in this place Mark 6:14-29. It seems to be an abrupt change of thought, but the Holy Spirit knew what He was doing as He inspired Mark to write it here.

It is a story about Herod, King of the Jews. Herod was one of the worst scoundrels in the history of Israel. Although king of Israel, he was far from the character of Moses, Joshua, David, and Solomon who went before him. Herod had married Herodias, his brother Phillip's wife. To reward Herodias' daughter for her dancing, Herod gave her the head of John the Baptist on a silver platter.

What does all this have to do with the Parable of the Sower. Simply this, Herod is the epitome of what riches can do to a man. Note that I do not say, what riches <t52will<t51 do to a man. Do the riches have you, or do you have the riches? Herod was possessed by his riches and it deceived him. Therefore, he had no faith in God and he lived a life of fleshly carnality to the utmost.

What Hinders Multiplication

Now, we come to the point of this writing about the parable of the sower. The good ground received the seed that brought forth the harvest. The harvest that came from multiplication was made into bread. The bread was multiplied to feed the multitude. The Holy Spirit uses this story of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes as an illustration for good ground bringing forth some thirty, some sixty, and some one hundred fold.

The Loaves And The Fishes

This story of the loaves and the fishes is found in Mark 6:30-46. There is an even a more detailed account in Matthew 14:15-21. Of course we cannot forget that John Chapter Six tells us about the little boy who brought the loaves and fishes to the scene. Some say there is no miracle in the story. They believe that the loaves were giant loaves, enough to feed 5000 normal servings. If that is true, it must have been a miracle for one small boy to carry those five giant loaves and two slippery fishes. Will, either way you believe, there was a miracle involved. I believe the loaves were normal loaves and God multiplied them to feed the five thousand.

In this story there were 5000 men fed plus women and children. They were fed with five loaves and two fishes, and they had twelve baskets full left over. Remember that. We will come back to it later.

Shortly after that, we find the second story of multiplication of loaves and fishes. This is in Matthew 15:32-39.

In this story there were 4000 men plus women and children. They had been with Him for three days. I can imagine the disciples now, trying to figure everything out, where to get bread and how much to get. Surely they remembered the feeding of the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes. They quickly decided to look for four loaves. If five loaves can feed five thousand, then four loaves should feed four thousand. But that is not how God did it. Jesus used seven loaves to feed the 4000 and a few fishes (In my understanding a few is three or more.)

Now let's compare the two events:

PEOPLE	LOAVES	FISHES	BASKETS LEFT
5000	5	2	12
4000	7	3+	7

We now need to test to see if our thinking has come into agreement with God's thinking. Have we put on the mind of Christ in this matter of multiplication? To check this, imagine that you are confronted with the need to feed three thousand. How many loaves would you need, and how many fishes would you need?

PEOPLE	LOAVES	FISHES	BASKETS LEFT
5000	5	2	12
4000	7	3+	7
3000	9+	5	2

As you see, I have chosen 9+ loaves to feed 3000, along with five fishes, with two baskets full remaining. Study it briefly and I believe you will see why I chose these. For every 1000 fewer people to feed, you need at least two more loaves, and about one and one-half more fishes. It seems that the fewer people we serve the fewer baskets full we have remaining.

Do you see what I see in this? The greater the problem, the less God took to solve it. "Oh, that cannot be. That is ridiculous. That does not even make good sense." I know all of that. It is against good logic, at least against man's logic. Remember, dead seeds bring forth the multiplication. This does not make sense to man

either. It doesn't even make sense that God would feed five thousand with five loaves. If we are going to believe that God can multiply the loaves and the fishes, why not go all the way and believe that God solves big problems with simple solutions. You see, brethren, "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty". (I Corinthians 1:27)

Can We Think God's Thoughts

If we can think the way God thinks, we will see God solve our big problems with simple solutions. He will perform miracles for us.

The man with the epileptic son in Mark 9 was told by Jesus, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Then the Father of the child cried out with tears, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." He got help, and the Lord healed his son. The point is simply this. Sometimes, we cannot believe, but if we will call on the Lord out of a pure heart, the Lord will help us.

Jesus said a similar thing to Mary and Martha as Lazarus lay dead in the tomb. That story brings us to a new subject, resurrection of the dead.

Chapter 20

RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

The resurrection the dead is the last item on the list of basic thought processes that we will consider. It is also listed in Hebrews, 6:2 along with faith.

In our relationship with God, resurrection of the dead is of central importance. It is the one condition God has given us to receive the new birth, even salvation. (Romans 10:9-10, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.") Why did not God ask us to believe in the virgin birth; that is, "believe in thine heart that Jesus was born of a virgin?" God asked us to believe that He raised Jesus from the dead. I find the answer very simple. God wants us to believe that He can do the impossible. If we cannot believe that God can multiply loaves and fishes or if we cannot believe that God solves big problems with simple solutions, how can we say we believe that God can raise the dead? How can we believe the God raised His own Son from the dead, when we know that Satan did all in his power to keep Jesus in the grave?

In ourselves, we cannot believe. If we can say, "Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief," the Holy Spirit will help us to believe.

God wants us to put our faith in the One who can do the impossible, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

This is against our natural logic. Natural man believes that death is final. We have great hospitals erected to prevent sickness from making death final. Millions of dollars are spent annually to try to find cures for diseases that bring death. Death is our enemy; at least it is to the natural man.

When God asks us to believe that He raised Jesus from the dead, He is asking us to believe that He is greater than limited scientific understanding. He is asking us to believe that He is greater than our natural reasoning. Can you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead?

Death Is Final

We are so trained in the idea that death is final that it takes the help of God for us to believe that God can raise the dead.

Mary and Martha had a great problem in believing that Jesus could raise Lazarus from the dead. Remember Mary and Martha in Bethany near Jerusalem. They were especially close to Jesus. Many historical reports tell us that Jesus used their house in Bethany as His home when He was in the Jerusalem area.

Mary was the head of the theology department, that is, she was always sitting at the feet of Jesus as He taught. She wanted to know about Heaven, healing, and forgiveness. She wanted to know about love, joy, peace, and faith. She was a thinker. She wanted to understand.

On the other hand, Martha was the head of the works programs. She was always doing the dishes and other tasks while Mary listened to Jesus teach. Martha was possibly a bit proud that she was busy working as good women should.

Now these two women do not represent right and wrong, good and bad, or even best and lesser. We will see as we look to the story of their dead brother Lazarus that they both had their problems.

In John Chapter, Eleven, we read the story of the death of Lazarus. Take a moment to read it now before you read on in this book. Lazarus was sick. Mary and Martha, witnessing the healing ministry of Jesus many times, had faith that if Jesus would just come to

Bethany He could heal Lazarus. They sent a message to Jesus. "Lazarus is sick. Come quickly."

Jesus got the message and said to His disciples, <t52"This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby."<t51 Jesus remained two days in that place.

Finally, Jesus bid His disciples to go with Him to Judaea again. His disciples were reluctant to go because the Jews had been trying to stone Jesus recently. Jesus told one of His disciples, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go that I may awake him out of sleep."

The disciples reply revealed the total misunderstanding of Jesus. They said, "Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well" (verse 12) They really meant, if Lazarus is asleep he will wake up.

By then Jesus was a little weary with His disciples not understanding that He was making a faith confession about Lazarus when He said, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep." Jesus then plainly said, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him."

In other words, Jesus is saying , It is a good thing that you were not there. For if you were there you would see the physical evidence of his corpse and not believe that I can raise him from the dead as though he were just asleep.

Thomas completely misunderstood Jesus and humorously replied, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." If death was going to help their belief, Thomas (the doubting one) wanted to die, in order to believe. It was a noble thought, but a very humorous misunderstanding.

They arrived in Bethany four days after the burial of Lazarus. All the professional mourners were there yet. Martha met Jesus on the road as Mary remained in the house. The head of the works program was out to do something about this problem. Mary the head of the theology department was still in the house thinking about it.

Martha blurted out, "Lord if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God (...to do, I am sure she meant), God will give it thee." You see

Martha knew that Jesus could DO healings. She said that she knew God would do whatever Jesus asked. She said it, but we will see she did not believe it.

Jesus replied, "Thy brother shall rise again." (John 11:23)

Martha replied from her immature theology (her sister being the expert on theology), "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Note that she could believe in the future event but not the present event. Future-event belief is called hope. Present-event belief is called faith.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" Jesus said something here that Martha and everyone else finds difficult to understand. Jesus did not say, "I do resurrections." Jesus said, "I am the resurrection."

There is a difference between doing and being. We are well acquainted with doing, but we have a hard time relating to being. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection." He did not say, I do weddings, barmitzvahs, funerals, and resurrections. We can understand that. But Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." Jesus was talking about the essential character of His being. His very essence is to raise people from the dead and put life into them. It is not something God just sent Him to do, it is something that He is. Wherever He is, whatever else He does, He is resurrection and life.

Let me see if I can help you get a grip on this a little better. When I was seven years old I became sick with scarlet fever. In those days it was a dreaded disease. Many died from it. Weeks of battling infection and weeks of recovery lay ahead. (Today, one penicillin shot cures the problem quickly.) Sulfa was the wonder drug of the day, and it was not easily found because of the second world war effort. The doctor instructed my mother to feed me the sulfa drug until my fingernails turned blue, and then pray for my life. That is what my nursing mother did, and I am alive to tell about it today. (Thank you mother for your love.)

It took weeks learning to walk again and weeks trying to regain my strength. In order to get some milk and protein into my body, my family tried everything to get me to eat. One of my favorites was

chocolate ice cream. Howard's local grocery was just one block up the street, but I was not allowed out of the house. (For a while I could not even walk.) Since I could not go to Howard's grocery, each night my dad would walk to the store to get me a nickel bucket of chocolate ice cream. (Today, it costs me a dollar to buy the same amount, and I still love chocolate ice cream.) My dad went to the grocery store for me. More than that, if he could not go, he would send someone. Because my dad did the trips to the grocery for me, he became a trip to the grocery store for me. My dad was my trip to the grocery store.

This illustration is as close as I can come to helping you understand that Jesus IS the resurrection and the life. He can do resurrections, but He does them out of His being. He IS the resurrection and the life.

Martha could not understand this. Jesus asked her, "Believest thou this?"

Martha replied, "Yea, Lord, I believe that thou art the Christ." Jesus did not ask her if she believed that He was the Christ. He asked her if she believed that He was the resurrection.

With that reply, the head of the works department ran off to get the head of the theology department. She called Mary and said, (lying to her sister, for the Master had not called Mary), "The Master is come and calleth for thee." Martha was in over her head. She needed help from Mary.

Mary left the house and the professional mourners, thinking she was going to the grave, and followed her. Mary fell at the feet of Jesus, saying, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." Jesus groaned in His spirit and asked, "Where have ye laid him?"

"Jesus wept." (The shortest verse in the Bible).

They thought Jesus was weeping for the loss of His friend Lazarus, but in fact Jesus was weeping over the unbelief of Mary and Martha.

Jesus commanded them to roll away the stone. Martha, the head of the works department, was afraid that by now Lazarus was stinking from decay. That does not sound like faith to me.

Jesus said, "Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?"

Mary and Martha did not believe, yet they saw the glory of God in the raising of Lazarus from the dead. They nearly missed it by their unbelief.

Will you nearly miss it by your unbelief. Jesus and the Father have called us to believe the Jesus is the resurrection and the life. If you will believe, all things are possible. If you will believe you will see the glory of God.

The resurrection of the dead is contrary to the natural mind. We must put on the mind of Christ concerning the resurrection of the dead. How often have you heard a sermon about the graves that were opened in Jerusalem right after Jesus came out of the tomb. Very seldom do we hear such a sermon. We hear many sermons about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but I think much of that falls on religious ground in our hearts and never produces fruit because it is choked out by tradition.

We all must renew our mind about this resurrection of the dead. Mary and Martha had their problems, and they knew Jesus in His fleshly body. There were even others who could not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead.

There were two on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). Cleopas and his friend did not recognize Jesus on the road with them because they could not believe the reports of the foolish women that His tomb was empty. But when Jesus broke bread, their eyes were opened. They ran back to the upper room. There with the disciples, Jesus appeared to them. Their thinking was changed about the resurrection of the dead, because they saw the resurrected Jesus.

Eight days later, doubting Thomas was with them in the upper room when Jesus came to them again. He could not believe unless he put his finger into the nail prints, and his hand into the wound in His side. But when Thomas experienced that, he fell to his knees saying, My Lord, and my God.

There were many other times that Jesus appeared to the disciples and others. They finally believed. We have not had the privilege to see Jesus in his glorified body (at least not all of us). We are

blessed because we believe when we have not seen. Even so, I exhort you to study the Word of God about the resurrection of the dead, for it is contrary to the natural mind.

Yet, if you will believe, if you will put on the mind of Christ about resurrection of the dead, if you will think like God thinks, you will be saved.

Take One Giant Step

The natural and religious mind wants to appropriate faith in small bites. Let's learn to believe for a pair of socks, then we can believe for a pair of shoes. After that, we can believe to buy the shoe store, and from there the shoe factory. That is not bad. If our faith keeps on growing, God is pleased. I believe that our faith would grow much faster if we would study the Word of God about the resurrection of the dead. If God can raise the dead, all things are possible. God can raise the dead. He has done it many times. Therefore, all things are possible to them that believe. God is the God of all flesh, and nothing is too hard for Him (Jeremiah 32:17, 27).

Chapter 21

HOW

THE MIND WORKS

Several chapters have been given to the renewing of the mind and putting on the mind of Christ, so that we might think like God thinks. We have considered Matthew 5:5, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." In that Sermon on the Mount message, we have seen that Jesus used the illustration of divorce as the ultimate in pride or anti-meekness. We have considered the thinking processes that need to be renewed to come into agreement with the thinking of God: spirit, soul, and body; righteousness; the gift concept; faith; multiplication; and resurrection of the dead.

How The Mind Works

In this chapter, I want to consider some practical Biblical helps about how the mind works.

The most apparent help is found in Philippians, Chapter Four. Verse Eight says to "think on these things." What things are we to think on? They are things that are true, honest, pure, lovely, of good report, with any virtue, of any praise. These are all positive things. God designed the mind to work on positive things only. Because of the way God built to mind to work, it will self-destruct in negative thoughts.

Many people in the body of Christ have not been taught positive principle, or they do not believe it or act on it. They think there is value in thinking about our unworthiness. They think there is value in searching for demons and thinking about ourselves in order to better ourselves. If you try this, you will fail.

Since the world has borrowed and made some progress with the principle of positive thinking, the church has rejected it. Let us remember that positive motivation came from the Bible first. It was not the sales psychologists who dreamed up this positive mental attitude. It came from God first. The church should not throw it out just because the world has made better use of it than the church has. (The world does not yet know that PMA [positive mental attitude] does not work to its optimum unless the person is born again.)

I know you may be thinking about God's commandment to Adam to not eat of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. That is a negative commandment. He did give a negative commandment. But He first gave a positive commandment, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat." (Genesis 2:16) God knew that the positive way is the only effective way to think.

No Strawberries

You cannot go into a corner and stop thinking about strawberries.

"What did you say?"

You heard me. I said, "You cannot go into a corner and stop thinking about strawberries."

You think to yourself, "Oh, I think I can stop thinking about strawberries." So you go into the corner and think about peaches, plums, apples, oranges, grapefruit, grapes, lemons, kiwi fruit, bananas, persimmons, and other fruit. If you are creative and free, you will allow yourself to reach out and think about other foods such as potatoes, tomatoes, peas, beans, oats, wheat, rice, and barley, etc., etc. (As the king of Siam would say).

After a while as you think in the corner, you will check to see how well you are doing. You will check to see how long it has been since

you thought about STRAWBERRIES. There they are, back in your thinking. The mind can not handle negative commandments. It was not designed to work that way. It will self destruct through self condemnation.

Strawberries...STRAWBERRIES...STRAWBERRIES...until your mind explodes.

The Bible says "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1) If you walk or think after the flesh, condemnation will come, for that is the way the mind is designed by God to work. But if you will think on those things that are positive, your mind will not lead you into self destruction and Christ will not condemn you.

We cannot live with sin consciousness. We cannot decide to stop smoking in our own strength. (It might be surprising, however, if you ask God to help you quit. You will find He will take the appetite away.) If you try to stop smoking in your own strength, your mind will defeat you. You start telling others, "I have stopped smoking." They respond positively. You tell others. Your mind becomes aware you have stopped smoking. You have told so many people you have stopped, it seems as though that is all you have talked about today. Stopped smoking...Stopped Smoking...STOPPED SMOKING...your mind becomes consumed with smoking, smoking, smoking, until the only way to satisfy your mind is to have one more cigarette.

Your mind is not designed to handle negative commands. You may think you can stop thinking about strawberries, you may think you can stop lusting after your neighbor's wife, but in and of yourself you cannot stop. The only answer is to think on the positive, Philippians 4:8.

Pull Down Imaginations

The battleground is in your mind. Your spirit has been born again. Your mind must be renewed. Until you know how to pull down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against God, you will have continual warfare. (II Corinthians 10:4-5, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations, and every high

thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ,")

I was teaching on faith, believing, and right thinking as the way to God in an European Bible school some years ago, when one of the disciplined students challenged my approach. He felt I was denying the value of obedience. Then I pointed out to him that the obedience the God had first called us to was the obedience of the thought life, "bring into captivity every thought to the OBEDIENCE of Christ." Right thinking is obedience. Do it and be obedient.

Be positive. Control your mind by thinking positive thoughts. Think the way God thinks. Put on the mind of Christ. Think positive thoughts.

You Can Do it

"That may be easy for you, Bro. Kaiser, but I was brought up in a family where we were taught to think negatively. My mother was the world champion worrier."

That may be so. But let me tell you this. As you faith is, so be it unto you. If you think you cannot be positive, you will be right; you cannot be positive. That is just the way the mind is built to work. You will get what you think.

Jesus taught "...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." (Matthew 12:34-35) You have been born again. You have a new heart. Therefore, you can open up your mouth and have positive good things come forth.

Proverbs tells us that as a man thinketh in his heart so is he (Proverbs 23:7). As we think the thoughts of God in our heart, we become that thought. As we speak out of our heart, we hear it. That positive word returns to our heart and it reinforces our heart condition. The same principle operates on the negative side. As we speak negative words, we hear them. They get into our hearts, and our hearts are reinforced with negative. If we have been born again it acts against the new heart that is our in Christ Jesus. If we are not born again, this principle reinforces that negative and life gets worse

all the time. The heart and the mind are self-perpetuating mechanisms.

Get on the positive side, where Jesus is, where Jesus put you when you were born again, and stay there. Set your mind on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and good report.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and the power of his might."

How can you do that?

Pray in the gift of tongues. It will charge your battery, bypassing your mind, with the positive things of the Spirit, although we do not understand it.

Chapter 22

DECISIONS

MAKE US

The last of the three functions of the soul realm that we now consider is the will, or the decider.

Jesus' Teachings

In Matthews 5:6 Jesus teaches, "Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Quickly refresh your memory about what we have covered in this book in previous chapters. The first Beatitude talks about new birth (Blessed are the poor in spirit). then we followed with several chapters about righteousness, knowing that if you allow the Holy Spirit to teach you about righteousness, you will find peace, and quiet confidence forever. This new birth makes us the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

The second Beatitude speaks of the emotions (Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted). This speaks of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the work of the Holy Spirit to comfort our emotions. This is the first work that the Lord is interested in doing to convert our soul realm. As we allow our emotions to be healed, we will keep our hearts opened to God. We cannot have our heart closed to others and buy off God with a monetary offering. We cannot even become defensive toward someone, lest our hearts become closed and we miss out with God.

The third Beatitude speaks of the mind (Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth). This speaks of putting on the mind of Christ (Meekness) and putting off carnal self centeredness (anti-meekness). Pride says, wife (or husband) you are not good enough for me any more. Jesus says, you wouldn't pluck out your eye, and you wouldn't cut off your hand. It is just as absurd to divorce your wife (or husband).

The Will

Now we come to the fourth Beatitude, "Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Filled with what? Righteousness of course. This Beatitude speaks of the will, the decider, that part of the soul realm that receives information from the emotions and the intellect and determines if they are in agreement, and if not, which one will determine what is to be done.

The illustration that Jesus gives for us to understand what He would teach us about the will is found in Matthew 5:33-37. "Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shall perform unto the Lord thine oaths:" Here again, Jesus starts with reference to the law and its demand for outward performance. Then Jesus proceeds to take you beyond the law into the heart motivation. (You know you can obey the law and still have a bad attitude toward God and men.)

Jesus continues this illustration by saying, "Swear not at all: neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: nor by earth; for it is God's footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make on hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."

What is Jesus trying to tell us about our will? Simply this, do not get God to co-sign your contract. Do not get God to back up what you have pledged to do. Do not agree to do something, and say, "Well, if I do not do it God will send someone else by to do it." It is your word you are putting forth. God has given His word and He will keep His own word. Now you give your word and you keep your own word. God has not promised someone else that if He does not keep His word, then Bill Kaiser or someone else will back up God and keep it for Him. No. God has not asked you to co-sign His promises. Now

you learn to think, speak and act like God. When you give your word, keep it. Do not say, "If I do not keep my word, then God will keep it." Do not get God to co-sign your promises for you. God has not asked you to co-sign His word given. He will fulfill His own word of promise. Likewise, do not ask God to co-sign your word and promises for you. You fulfill your own word and promises given.

Jesus told a parable about the two workers. (Matthew 21:28-32) The one son said he would not work, but he changed his mind and went to work anyway. The other son said he would work, but did not do what he said he would do. Jesus said the publicans and harlots will go into the kingdom before the one who gave his word but did not keep his it.

The problem is not so much as to whether or not the kingdom of God will be built or not. No. Here again, The Father was teaching us through Jesus, something that would benefit us as much as it would others. Jesus taught us to be comforted, because a grieving heart will destroy our relationship with God. Jesus taught us to be meek, because pride would cause us to fall into the trap of never finding anything in life good enough for us (spouses included). Now Jesus teaches us not to get God as a co-signer for our promises. For what reason? Simply this, Jesus wants us to appreciate the value of our own words, and thereby appreciate the value of God's word and promises to us.

In time past, even in this country, I have been told that two men would come to a verbal agreement, shake hands on it, and do everything in their power to keep that agreement. The agreement may not have been so important as what would have happened to the value of their word if they did not keep that agreement. These days we write fancy contracts with words that the two parties in the contract cannot understand themselves. The contracts are recorded in the courts, so that if necessary one party can sue the other party for breach of contract. In all these fancy writings, the lawyers, it seems, try to write in loopholes that will permit their party to find an easy way out of the contract if he wants to change his mind. It has gotten to the place that even the legal written contracts are not worth the paper they are written on because men write them for the purpose of breaking them rather than for the purpose of keeping them.

This is a sad state of affairs. We have deminished the value of words so much, that it is nearly impossible for us to believe that anyone, especially God, whom we cannot see, would honor their word. This grieves the heart of God, for it strips us of faith in God and His word. If our faith is undermined, then our relationship with God is undermined.

If you are one who hungers and thirsts after keeping your own word, regardless of what it might seem to cost you, then God will fill you with the capacity to keep that word. Do not say, "Yes, I will do it," and then not do it. I do not care how small the promise. Practice keeping your word. At the same time, think twice before you give your word to do anything. It is better if you do not pledge to do something, and then at the last minute you do it.

Through this exercise of your will, you will begin to appreciate the value of words, not only your word, and the word of other men, but the Word of God.

The Problem

The problem which I have already hinted at is that men have forgotten the value of words. When this happens, decisions lose their value. We begin to lose respect for our own wisdom and ability to make decisions. The result is that we become double minded. We cannot make up our mind. The Bible says a double minded man is unstable in all his ways, and will receive not good thing from God. (James 1:7-8)

Decisions Make Us

A noted Bible teacher once told me, "We make decisions and then decisions make us." How true it is. We make decisions to eat too much, then that decision makes us fat. We decide to marry someone, and through the years of living together, eating at the same table, living in the same climate, living the same life style, we begin to look like one another. We wear the same style of clothes, because they are bought at the same department store or mail order catalogue. We have the same waistline because we ate at the same table. We think the same thoughts because we watch the same

television programs. We made a decision and then, that decision made us.

Learn to be decisive. You will not always make the best decision, but you will make decisions. Adam made a bad decisions, and mankind has had to live (or should I say die) with it. God made a decision to give His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on Him should have everlasting life. Now we live with that decision. You made a decision to invite Jesus into your heart. Now your life is getting happier and more prosperous every day, if you are learning to make decisions, to honor your own word, and to honor the word of God.

Why Double Minded?

Why are we Christians double minded? There are many people in the body of Christ who knew how to make good decisions in the world, but now that they are Christians, they have become double minded. Why is this? One obvious reason is that they are no longer spectators in life. We are no longer neutral in the eyes of Satan as we were when we were in the world. Now that we are born again, in Christ, we become active players in life. We come out of the stands as spectators, put on the armor of God, and become active participants in the battle of life. Therefore, the enemy challenges us at every turn until we learn our authority over him. He attacks our emotions to see if he can get us to grieve. He attacks our minds (intellect) to see if we can be confused. He attacks our will so we will be bound in inactivity.

The other reason we become double minded (when we may not have been double minded in worldly decisions) is that we are not confident of the basics of good spiritual decision making. What does that mean? It simply means, we do not know what God wants in a particular situation.

Chapter 23

GOD'S WILL FOR YOU

The Will Of God

Every Christian quickly agrees that if they just knew the will of God in any situation, they would quickly do it. Many hours of counseling are spent in trying to determine what the will of God is for someone. I tell you right now, "When you finish reading this section of WHO IN THE WORLD IN CHRIST ARE YOU, you will know what the perfect will of God is for you and your household." If you find that hard to believe, then read on and find the perfect will of God for yourself and your household anyway. I speak boldly and confidently about this, because I am mad at the Devil deceiving God's people about this matter. You will read many books about the will of God for your life, but this book will now give you your answer. (Boy! does that sound strong. But with all my heart I believe it.)

Come To Macedonis

When the subject of "How to find the perfect will of God for your life" comes up, it seems as though we always run to that passage of the Bible about Paul having a vision to go over to Macedonia. Acts 16:9<t52"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us."<t51 Therefore, the implication is that if you are going to find the perfect will of God in your life, you pray until you have a vision of a man from Macedonia, or from this place or that place where God wants you to go.

I think it is great that Paul had this vision about going to Macedonia. Thank God that He can guide us through dreams and visions. Thank God that the Holy Spirit is given us to guide us. Certainly the Holy Spirit is involved with these dreams and visions. But let me remind you of this. Paul had been a Christian for about fifteen years before he had that vision. Had Paul been out of the will of God all of that time before he had that vision? No, You say. He had just not found the perfect will of God for his life before then.

If that is true, then I must conclude that it was not the perfect will of God to be born again. Because Paul was born again before he had this vision of the man from Macedonia. If that is true, then I must conclude that when Paul was baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues he was not in the perfect will of God. For you see, he was baptized in the Holy Ghost long before he had this vision of the man from Macedonia visiting him. Was Paul out of the perfect will of God while serving the church at Antioch so faithfully for seven years or so before his first missionary journey? Was his first missionary journey out of the perfect will of God (since this vision of the man from Macedonia came not until the middle of His second missionary journey)?

I think you get my point. Paul was not out of the perfect will of God before he had that vision of the man from Macedonia.

Perfect Or Permissive Will

Do you mean to say that there is not a perfect will of God? There certainly is a perfect will of God. If that is true, then there must also be a permissive will of God. That may or may not be a logical conclusion from the perfect will of God.

What do I mean by that? If the will of God can be perfect, is there also then an imperfect will of God. I think the answer is obvious. God does not intend that His will be anything but perfect for you. But you see, men do not always yield to what God would have for them. We often stick our foot into the door of God's perfect will. Because of that, we say we are in the permissive will of God. If we would put our whole body, so to speak, through the door, we would enjoy a total experience in the perfect will of God, for God's will surely is not imperfect for any of us.

However, God will permit you to stick on foot in the door and keep the rest of yourself out of His perfect will. For that matter, God will permit us to keep our whole selves out of His perfect will. He will even permit many to God to Hell unsaved. God has made provision for us to find His perfect will, but He will not force us into it. He did not force you to get born again. God did not force you to get healed. God did not force you to get baptized in the Holy Ghost. It has been up to you. It has been up to your will.

Yes, there certainly is a perfect will of God. And there is also a permissive will of God. But God does not force us into the perfect or permissive will of God. He beckons us into the perfect will by His loving call.

Where Are You

Where are you in respect to the will of God in your life? You may not know where you are now, as you read, but you will know when you finish reading this section. There are many Job's Comforters who will come to help you find out where you are in regard to the perfect will of God.

They will observe your life and the circumstances to determine where you are. First they look at your provision. They quote the old maxim with a religious voice as though they were quoting the word of God. "Wherever God guides, God provides." Then they quickly add, "because God is not able to provide for you, you must be OUT OF GOD'S WILL." (About then you expect to hear this great clap of thunder to confirm this word of wisdom.) I know that God wants to provide all of our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. But my understanding of the New Testament Word of God is that this provision comes as a gift from God, through faith, not as a reward for finding the perfect will of God.

(Quickly comes the reply to this logic.) You do not understand. When you are out of God's perfect will, God cannot protect you from the devil, who comes to steal, to kill, and to destroy. (John 10:10) You are right on that count. It is not God withholding from us to punish us. It is the devil stealing from us that which has been provided by the work of the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. But who has the authority to stop him. You do. Jesus gave it to you. Luke 10:19 tells us, "I give unto you power to tread on serpents and

scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." When we really commit ourselves to the work of building the kingdom of God, it make the Devil mad. That is when we must stand our ground, claim our rights, and resist the Devil.

No. Provision is not the test of being in or out of God's perfect will. Sometimes we remove ourselves from the presence of God so that He cannot fulfill His Word of provision to us. At other times, we enter into the presence of God, doing the job He has commissioned for us to do, then the enemy comes to discourage us by stealing or provision. Provision is not the test of the perfect will of God.

Other Biblical Evidence

In Romans 12:2 Paul exhorts us, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

We are talking about the conversion of the soul realm; the emotions, the mind (intellect), and the will. This verse, Romans 12:2, relates the renewing of the mind to the will of God. When our mind is renewed, we will prove what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. What are we to renew our minds about? Will renewing our minds in Mathematics prove what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God? Obviously not. We always say that the renewing of the mind comes through study of the Word of God. That is also a very good truth. But the context of this verse about renewing the mind is proving the will of God. The word translated 'prove' here is '*dokimazo*' in the Greek. It means to test for acceptability. When we renew our mind about the will of God we will find out that it is good, and acceptable, and perfect. Please note that it does not say good, OR acceptable, OR perfect. It says good, AND acceptable, AND perfect. We have been taught that there are three wills of God in this verse, the good will of God, the acceptable will of God, and then the perfect will of God.

If that is true, the good will is not acceptable, and the acceptable will of God is not perfect. This verse does not mean to teach us about three levels of the will of God that we earn like "Boy Scout" merit badges. No. They are three adjectives that describe one will of God.

The will of God is good for you. When we renew our mind about the good character of God, we know that His will for us is good. Some still think that it is God's will for us to be sick, discouraged, and poor for some divine purpose. No. That is not God's will for us. That is the will of the enemy for us. God's will is good, for God is a good God. God's will is that we prosper and be in health, even as our soul prospers. God's will is that we be strong in the Lord and the Power of His might. God's will is that we be blessed with all spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. God's will is good.

God's will is acceptable. Acceptable to whom? God's will is acceptable to those who find it. God's will is acceptable to you. The will of God for each individual is taylor made for them. God will not force you into something that is strange to you and unacceptable to you. God is a living God, and a good God. He will not call you to something that will be a curse for you. He calls you into blessings.

God's will is so good and so acceptable that we count it perfect.

God's Will For You

This is what you have been waiting for. What is God's will for you? Are you ready? Can you handle the blessing of knowing what God's perfect will is for you? If you think the joy of knowing his perfect will for your life will be too much for you, then stop reading. If you can't wait to know God's perfect will for you, then read on and rejoice.

Born Again

Jesus teaches in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

It is God's will for whosoever will to be born again. If you are born again by grace through faith, you are in the perfect will of God. To be born again is good. It is acceptable. It is perfect for every sinner on the face of the earth.

Holy Ghost

The day of Pentecost recorded in the book of Acts 2:39 records, "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." They receive the word and were baptized, baptized in the Holy Ghost. Jesus said that it was expedient for Him to go, so that the Father would send the comforter in His name. God wants us to be filled with the Holy Ghost. It is the will of God for us today. It is good to be filled with the Holy Ghost. It is acceptable to be filled with the Holy Ghost. It is perfect to be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Healed

Peter writes in I Peter 2:24, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." What Jesus took upon Himself upon the cross, He did so we would not have to take it upon ourselves. He bore the stripes so that we could be healed. Some believe that "God sends this sickness (or permits this sickness) to teach us something." If that is true, then God is denying His Son, the work of His Son on the cross, and His own Word of promise. God keeps His promises. He does not send sickness to teach us. His Holy Spirit is the teacher, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to heal (I Corinthians Chapter 12). He does not allow sickness, if we do not allow sickness. We have available to us the promises of the benefits of the cross which includes healing. They have been given by God. He will not withhold them. If anyone allows sickness in our lives, it is us who have not renewed our minds about the will of God.

Praise God

What does praise have to do with the will of God? It is the will of God. We read in Ephesians 5:17-18, "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the spirit." If you are not drunk with wine as you read this book, you are in the will of God. If you are filled with the Spirit while you read this book, you are in the will of God.

Ephesians 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart unto the

Lord." Start talking to each other with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Yes. Talk to each other the Word of God. Say to your wife, or husband, or neighbor, or fellow Christian, "The Lord is your shepherd. You shall not want. He makes you to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth you besides still waters. He restoreth your soul. He leadeth you in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you will fear no evil; for the Lord is with you, His rod and His staff, they comfort you. He prepares a table before you in the presence of your enemies. He anoints your head with oil. Your cup runneth over. Goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your life. You shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever." As you speak this Word of God to your friends and relatives, you are in the will of God. It is good to speak the Word of God. It is acceptable to speak the Word of God. It is perfect to speak the Word of God.

Sing Unto God

Ephesians 5:19 continues on saying, "Singing and making melody in your heart unto the Lord". It is the will of God for you to worship God. Sing unto Him, for it is His will for you. Make melody in your heart unto the Lord, for it is His will. Stop reading right now, lift your hands and just start singing unto the Lord. Oh, it is good. Oh it is acceptable. Oh, it is perfect in the ears of God.

Give Thanks

Ephesians 5:20 then exhorts us to "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Oh, yes. Give thanks to God for this sickness. Give thanks to God for this poverty. No, that is not what the Word of God says. Give thanks to God for the good things. Resist the devil for the bad things. Let's not get so religious and so literal that we do stupid things. It is "ignorance gone to seed" to give thanks to God for things that come from the devil. The point here is simply to think on the good things, and thank God for them. Keep thankful. Count your blessings. It is God's will for you. It is good. It is acceptable. It is perfect to give thanks to God.

Be Submissive

In Ephesians 5:21 Paul tells us, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." Now here is one that people love to take to extremities. The Word is simply saying, as you are submissive toward God, keep that same attitude of heart toward others. That is God's will. Let's not try to be like Jesus when we go into God's presence and then revert to our old self when we are in the presence of others. Why not be like Jesus in the presence of God and also in the presence of other men. How simply that is. It is God's will for us to be like Jesus. It is good to be like Jesus. It is acceptable to be like Jesus. It is perfect to be like Jesus.

God's Will And His Word

I could go on writing, but I must simply say that God's will is His Word. If you want to know what the will of God is, simply read the Word of God and rightly divide it. Allow me to reference one last scripture passage to confirm this.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-22 specifically tells us, "This is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you".

1. warn them that are unruly,
2. comfort the feeble minded,
3. support the weak,
4. be patient toward all men,
5. do not render evil for evil,
6. follow that which is good,
7. rejoice evermore,
8. pray without ceasing,
9. in everything give thanks,
10. quench not the spirit,
11. despise not prophesying,
12. prove all things,
13. hold fast that which is good,
14. abstain from all appearance of evil.

This is the will of God. It is good. It is acceptable. It is perfect. Are you in the perfect will of God? You are if you simply practice those things in the Word of God that are specifically stated as the will of God.

My Promise

I promised you earlier in this book that you would know what the will of God is for your life when you had finished reading this section. This is what the Bible says is the will of God for your life. "But Mr. Kaiser, I want to know if I am supposed to be in the ministry. Am I to pastor or be a missionary? Am I to teach? You really did not show me God's perfect will for my life." If you will do these things, you will surely hear from God. As you pray, and praise, and speak the Word of God, He will give you positive answers to your questions about what you are to do and where you are to do it.

Remember! God's will for you is good. You will find it acceptable. It is so good and acceptable that you will call it perfect.

Chapter 24

GO YE

There is one last and most important item to know the will of God for our lives, the great commission.

Jesus commands His disciples in Matthew 28:19-20 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Mark 16:15-18 records the great commission as, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name they shall cast out devils; and they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."

These two passages are records of what Jesus said as He ascended to be at the right hand of the Father. They were His last direct words to His disciples. Therefore, they must have been the most important words, well chosen words, words that Jesus and the Father wanted to leave with the disciples to remember, to ponder, and to act upon.

Get Your Passport

Are you ready to go? Oh, I am not called to the ministry. No, I did not ask you if you were called to be a apostle, prophet, evangelists, pastor or teach. I asked you if you were ready to go forth into all the

world and make disciples. You can go no where if you do not have your passport.

As I have ministered throughout the world, I have asked people, born again people, if they have their passport. About 98% of the people I minister to with teaching have been born again. Only 10% of those in the meetings have their passports. We are not going anywhere out of our native country without our passports (Yes, we can go to Canada, and Mexico without a passport).

Now I do not need to go into a teaching about passports in this chapter. I have already done that in a previous chapter. Now I tell you, if you want God to tell you where you are to minister, go get your passport. You can get an application for a passport at your county court house. If they don't have them, they will tell you where to get one.

Once you get your passport, go home and pack your bag. Do all that you can in faith believing. Learn a foreign language. What language should I learn. Any language will do. French or German or Spanish are major western languages. One of those along with English will take care of you many places in the world. Chinese and Russian would be great also, but they seem to be somewhat strange to our western ears. Learn what you can as quick as you can. Then God will send you forth. You will not blast off until you have fulfilled all of the check points in the count down. Get your passport. Learn a language. Pack your bag.

Take The World

We can take the world for Jesus in just two years with one simple plan. First, every born again Christian should take their two week vacation the first two weeks of next August, and go to a foreign country, any country, it doesn't matter. You pick the one you want to go to. The important thing is that you go. You are to win seven people to Jesus in fourteen days. It should not be difficult. You will have all day to talk to people. You are there as a tourist (not as an evangelist). The natives will like you because they want your strong American dollar. All you need to do is shop and talk. Take a personal interest in them. They will let you get close to them because they want to sell you something. Find out what their problems are and give them the answer, His name is Jesus.

If you will just lead seven people to Christ in fourteen days, we will multiply (as God multiplies) the size of the church seven fold. Now there are about 200,000,000 Christians in the world today. If they all win seven people to Jesus in fourteen days, the church will have 1,400,000,000 new members, plus 200,000,000 existing members for a total of 1,600,000,000 members. That is about 1/3 of the worlds current population. The second year we do that, each Christian would only have to win three people to the Lord in seven days, and the entire world population would be Christians.

"Oh, that is impossible. We could not go behind the iron curtain."

Yes you could, especially if you had no plan to return. If we did our job right, we would win so many people to Jesus, they would have to allow us to return, for they would be the minority and we would be the majority.

"But we couldn't get in."

You may not get in through the legal customs, but you could get in if you really wanted to.

"Bro. Kaiser. You are crazy."

I may sound like it. But it does sound like a challenging plan doesn't it. You see, we do not have to just keep our position, getting just enough Christians born again to replace the one who have gone home to be with the Lord. All we need to do is to agree. Agree not on doctrine, but on the last words of Jesus. "Go ye therefore into all the world and make disciples of them...."

Can you imagine what would happen in the airline industry (that seems to need boost at this time)? The ticket purchases alone would boost the world economy out of recession. Can you imagine the bankers who would witness all of the savings withdrawn for the purpose of traveling to another country to witness of Jesus? Can you imagine all the customs agents looking at passports and smiles of God's people praying for them as they went through the customs check points? What about all the hotel clerks, and travel agents, pilots, and restaurant owners, money exchangers, and bus drivers.

In my travels I have found that the world is already aware of students from many countries traveling during the summer. I do not think there are 200,000,000 students traveling during the twelve weeks of summer. But can you imagine 200,000,000 Christians traveling world wide in a two week period, talking about Jesus, in the churches, in the shops, in the hotels, in the bars.

"In the bars!!! I'm a Christian. I don't go into bars."

I know. I don't go into bars either. But the unsaved go into bars. If we want to win them, maybe we should believe God to anoint us like He did Charles Finney, that as we go into factories, the work stops to hear the gospel. As we go into a town, all the bars shut down and people come into the streets to here us tell about Jesus. If He did it for Charles Finney, He will do it for us.

The will of God is not hard to know. The will of God is His Word. In His word He tells us what His will is. If He wants you in Macedonia, He is well able to tell you. If He wants you in Macedonia, it is His responsibility to make it clear to you. Be prepared. Read the Word. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. Speak psalms and Hymns one to another. Get your passport. Pack your bags. Witness for Jesus wherever you go. This is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.