

The Church of the Beyond

vol. 1

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Benjamin F Hoogterp

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<http://www.ChurchOfTheBeyond.com>

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ISBN: 1468155792

ISBN-13: 978-1468155792

DEDICATION

Dedicated to my Lord Jesus Christ.
Forever may His be the Glory.

Psalm 37:4

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank-you Michele. Your courage is inspiring. May His blessing pursue and overtake you.

Matthew 24:46-47



Introduction

Echoes of Eternity

There's two thoughts that come to mind: First, that there's more. More what? More of everything, really, but more of LIFE! Being alive and at peace, maybe even joyful and happy. Secondly, that we are being lied to. You, me, all of us, have been told all our lives, are being told, and will continue to be told that there isn't more. It isn't usually phrased that way, and usually isn't even put into words, but it doesn't have to. It comes across in rejection, loneliness, despair, and hopelessness. We are told that this is all that there is, that we can't do this and that, aspire to anything, or do anything worthwhile, lasting, or meaningful, and we better not disagree.

I'd like to just say outright that the more that we're all seeking is found, ultimately, in only one place: in God above [in Jesus and His death and resurrection 2000 years ago] but unfortunately, that has been part of the lies for most of us. Who is God to us? Is this 'God' thing merely a set of thoughts, rules, and imaginings? Is He something so foreign to us that we have no real hope of ever really being a part of Him? For so long, for so many, that is all He ever is, but there's so much more!

This God knows everything and everybody. Even people who don't know Him acknowledge Him, and even those who outright hate Him. I'm convinced that there are no people on the face of the earth that have not heard or felt or been affected in their lives by Him at one point or another. Those times where it seems like something like "magic" does exist, when all seems to stand in balance and harmony. When it seems that maybe for at least an instant you could contemplate and comprehend what Eternity [infinity] really is. What is that but standing a little closer to the divine where everything is a little clearer and it's a little easier to breathe. He speaks in our heartfelt dreams and desires, of truth, love, beauty, fairness, hope,

and believing. He inspires our ideas of strength, security, power, and dominion.

This God, ultimately, calls us to only do two things: To love Him [with all our heart, soul, strength, mind, and spirit], and to love each other [our neighbor as ourselves]. All that's been spoken of in morals and 'goodness' come from this. Again, however, lies come in the way of truly understanding this, and some of those lies sit so deep in the souls of most Americans that they can't see past them. They can't see the truth more completely. Everything He commands of us is towards more life [which is ultimately more of Him, because He is the source of life].

The point of not doing things like getting drunk all the time or sleeping with a lot of people is not that these are the rules, set out to restrict, or to take away pleasure or happiness. These things kill you [inside] after a while; they leave you emptier and emptier, and more and more numb. We're lied to that they don't, or that that's what we really wanted [we don't want the physical things: food, sex, alcohol. We want, in our hearts, the spiritual things: peace, love, security, hope, joy, belief, intimacy. The physical is just the means or the vehicle, good or bad]. The point of not stealing, killing, or hurting others is that we're really no better than anyone else, and that in general, we get back whatever we give. Those who take will be taken from. Those who wound will be wounded. Those who give will be given to. And, those who forgive will be forgiven. It's the way it always works. And when you go stand at the end of eternity and look backwards you'll agree.

All of us have failed at these two things at some point, even if, in our own eyes, it wasn't our fault. We still have failed and have done things that bring death, hurt, and pain to others. We are held accountable [responsible]. Because God loves each of us so passionately, He did two things 2000 years ago. He sent His Son into the world to die and resurrected Him three days later, suffering for us so that we could be forgiven of everything we have done in the past or ever will do. Simply believing this washes one completely free. Second, He sent His Spirit to live within us, so that we might know Him more.

His Spirit walks with us and directs us, conveys God's love to us, and comforts us. Again, there's more than anyone has ever imagined in the relationship one can have with God, getting to know Him through His Spirit, but we've been lied to. Having been told that all there is to Christianity is singing songs and listening to the same old dusty book be cut up, prepared, and fed to us in a billion different flavors and varieties through sermon after sermon, preacher after preacher, all the while, fighting off our own boredom and what to do with "the rest of the day". THERE'S SO MUCH MORE!

Knowing God has nothing to do with rituals, doctrines, or dogmas. And I do mean knowing God. The Bible was written by people just like us who met God at various times in their lives. One of the greatest lies fed to us is that the **only** way for us to know God today is through them.

There is a cry in people's hearts for things that give freedom, security, safety, beauty, and peace. We can find many things about us that can bring this about for a short while, but what can we do about the piece of hearts that still remembers what eternity feels like? Where can we get another taste of truest truth and that brilliant light of life?

I wish it was simple enough for me to say 'go to church', but we're all lied to, and you may or may not find it there. Reading the Bible can help you, especially parts like the book of Luke or John or 1 Corinthians, but mostly seek and keep seeking, any way you can. What you sow to the Spirit, you will reap in life.

He said if we would seek Him, we would find Him. To keep seeking Him *until* you find him. He loves us all just as we are, and accepting Jesus as our Savior, confessing we need His sacrifice and shed blood from 2000 years ago to wipe away our failings makes us right with God. It doesn't matter how long you've done drugs, how many people you've hurt, or even killed. It doesn't matter how filthy you think you are. Ask God, and you will receive His forgiveness if you're willing to receive it. There may be pain or memories, and He can take those away too, either immediately or through time as you continue to pursue Him. He loves us all so much just as we are, but

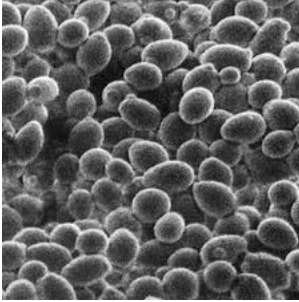
He doesn't want us to stay where we are forever, because He WANTS us to have that MORE that He's already whispered to our hearts that must exist, that we crave, that we need, in order to be made whole. But, no matter who you are, what you've done, He stands as the one God, who never lies and only wants you to come to Him, come to be fully fulfilled in your life with all He has.

He is so far Beyond "religion" as so many of us have grown up with it in its traditions, rituals, and forms. He is a great mystery and yet simple, and full of love. Beyond all we could ask or imagine, He has open arms to accept us at any moment we turn to Him. We're lied to so much, we begin to repeat the lies to ourselves, that we're too filthy, have done or said too much, are too little, are not worthy enough, but they are merely lies. We are being lied to. There's more. He is more. He's bigger than us, and all we can ever do. And, forever, even when you've known Him for a billion years, there's more.



1

Yeast



He spoke another parable to them, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened."

Matthew 13:33

It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened.

Luke 13:21

Yeast is an invisible, yet active agent, acting and working throughout an otherwise inert lump of dough. In various places in the Old Testament, it depicted the nature of evil within a body, either a single person or a group of people. Hence, the phrase, "A little leaven leavens the whole lump" was used to indicate much the same thing that a phrase like "one bad apple spoils the bunch" does.

Sin and false teaching work like this. It "infects" a body and spreads throughout the entire lump of dough until the entire thing is changed from its original condition. It was this metaphor that Jesus chose, yet which many people interpret to mean something else.

The same idea of the Kingdom is actually told in several other ways in other parables throughout the Gospels. Consider this:

He told them another parable: The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when

it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.

Matthew 13:31-32

And He was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.

Mark 4:26-28

These passages convey this same basic truth. The introduction of the true seed of the Kingdom produces the correct fruit automatically. This is actually an awesome thing. Simply introduce the true seed, and the true Kingdom will grow forth in its entirety, with some conditions.

Don't forget how Jesus started out this set of parables. He described four types of soil upon which the soil fell, and only on one of those soil types was there a harvest. If we are not seeing the desired harvest, perhaps we could give more attention to what soil our seed is falling upon. From the teachings of Jesus, this is the only limitation on whether fruit is produced or not, the soil.

Some might argue that leaven, or yeast, is only used as a type of sin in the Old Testament and hence, Jesus couldn't possibly have meant it as a GOOD thing when He said the Kingdom was like it. Well, consider these quick thoughts. Jesus also said that unless you eat His Flesh and drink His Blood, you have no life in you. He didn't seem to mind that it offended them then! Also consider the Kingdom itself. Jesus said in John 3, talking to Nicodemus, that unless one was born again, born of water and the spirit, they could not see nor enter the Kingdom. This means, in the true Kingdom, there are only

born-again people. In the Kingdom, there is no mixture, no compromise, and no other entrance.

Now let us consider the parable of the two types of seeds sown, one by God, the other by the enemy (the second parable in Matthew 13). There is not a hybridization going on here. There is GOOD seed, and there is BAD seed. The bad seed is intermingled amidst the good seed, but the good is still good, and the bad is still bad. The current state of the Kingdom, until the end of the age, is to have the truly true, and the grossly false. A cursory examination may not be able to tell them apart, but they are as different as, well, wheat and tares.

Clearly, even from looking at the other parables, Jesus intended exactly what it sounded like. The Kingdom is like leaven. But how is this so? Isn't leaven only a type of evil in the Old Testament? Isn't that why they have the Feast of Unleavened Bread?

Not completely. There were two instances where leaven was actually required by God. The Fellowship Offering and Pentecost. If we can now understand what Jesus was casting out of people with a single word, we have a better picture of the leaven we needed to remove. In the Gospels, the things cast out were active, unseen agents that were permitted entrance into the body through sin, and which caused a corruption, a change through not only one member, but infected an entire community. However, now with the fulfillment of the Feast of Pentecost, we have something unique happen, that had never happened in the Old Covenant, a New Spirit was poured out. A new "leaven", a new yeast.

For the first time now, a new, living, active agent was working within men. Clearly, yeast in the Old Covenant could NEVER indicate sin or evil of any kind, as it was the perfect Law. Everything about it had to be perfect, because it was before the introduction of the Grace of God through the blood of Jesus Christ. But, rather, it indicates the permission of the inhabiting of individuals with a new living, fermenting, and spreading agent. While it might not go out and leaven the entire world just by putting it into one lump, it can

certainly be introduced within some place in your members, and will affect those on your right and on your left.

It really is the same image as all the others, when referring to the Kingdom. If you let in the truth, and give up all your hardness and other interests, He will take you over and make you what He wants. It truly is the leaven of the Kingdom, that seed of truth, that if you let it grow and have its full course, it will possess your soul completely with its goodness, purpose, and holiness, for the sake of Christ's Kingdom.

If your life clear of the other leavens, the other agents and their teaching, and keep yourself from being one of the non-productive soil types, it is He that works in you both to will and to do according to all His good purpose (Philippians 2:13).

New Testament verses concerning leaven:

- Matthew 16:6-12
- Mark 8:15
- Luke 12:1
- 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
- Galatians 5:9

Single Eyes



The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Matthew 6:22-23

The eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is clear, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness. Then watch out that the light in you is not darkness. If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it will be wholly illumined, as when the lamp illumines you with its rays.

Luke 11:34-36

The teaching of the Kingdom is a simple thing. It is, actually, the smallest of all seeds, even though it produces the biggest plant.

You could put a whole lot of effort into studying the teachings of Jesus, and cataloging them, and indeed, many have, and many of these works have been profitable. However, whether they are understood and lived is an entirely different matter.

Paul explained it this way. 1 Corinthians 8:2 says, "The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know." It's really quite simple. The carnal mind cannot understand the things of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:14). You can never receive them. You must receive, and rely upon some other faculty than you were

naturally born with, which you cannot even see nor comprehend until you have been born again, of water and of the Spirit (John 3).

The prescription, according to Matthew 13, is fairly simple. Allow the word to come into you, hold onto nothing, mix it with nothing, and it will produce a harvest. Truly, unless you, Luke 14:26, hate your own life, you cannot be His disciple. Unless you forsake everything, you cannot be His disciple.

Do you want to glow like Moses? The prescription is simply to have eyes solely fixated upon the one you love, Jesus Christ. This is absolutely the easiest yoke and the lightest load, for, as Isaiah 26:3 says, He keeps in perfect peace him whose mind is stayed upon Him.

The verse above are often translated poorly. The Greek word for "good" or "single" or "clear", as above, means, literally, "without folds". That is, simple, single, non-duplicitous. It is not a good eye contrasted with a bad eye, it is a single eye. We do not strive to be "good", we simply let the light of the Gospel so fill us completely, that it is all we know, think, see, taste, touch, hear, or feel.

Luke's gospel explains it a bit deeper than Matthew. In some versions it reads "with no dark corners". This is truly the difference between the life of faith and that of continual defeat. You don't need a better spiritual warfare manual, you need faith in God and His Word--alone!

The word of truth is the smallest little word. The word of Faith, the word of the Kingdom. Yet, we can live lives with deep fears, shames, regret and anger, and even unacknowledged unforgiveness, simply because we do not see it. The call to single eyes, the call to the Gospel of Christ Jesus, is the call to Truth. To be honest about what even the deep things that are within us. The calling is to allow the deepest, darkest secrets, the most painful parts, the most shameful parts, the most neglected parts, all of it, into the fullness of the light of Christ.

This is the verdict, that men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. Those who do evil do

not come into the light, lest his deeds be exposed. Those who do truth come into the light that it can be plainly seen that what they have done has been done by God.

John 3:19-21 (my paraphrase)

What do we hide? What do we keep back? What "folding back" on ourselves do we have to do in order to keep even the darkest corners hidden as we enter His presence?

His blood covers us completely. It sets us free limitlessly. Absolutely. It is only when we have faith enough to lay down our shame, lay down our fears, and come into His marvelous light completely, realizing what we already know to be true about His redemption, that we enter more fully into that realm of His life which He has for each and every one us.

And, when the power of the Gospel begins to flow around us, we will be fit vessels for His Glory, prepared and equipped for every good work.



Branham's One Thing



At the end of 1965, He who now stands in the forefront of the healing ministry as a prophet will be taken out of the way. He'll make a false step and Satan shall destroy his life, but his spirit will be saved, and his works will follow him. Ere 1966 shall come, he shall be gone. --Kenneth Hagin

The prophecy stated that the leader of the deliverance movement was soon to be taken in death, because he was getting into error and the Lord was having to remove him from the scene for that reason. Gordon took the prophecy and placed it in his desk. After Brother Hagin left I asked, 'What do you think about this? Is this Branham?' Gordon answered gravely, 'Yes, it is Branham. He is getting into error. He thinks he is Elijah. He thinks he is the messenger of the covenant. The sad thing is that unscrupulous men around him are putting words into his mouth, and due to his limited background he is taking them up.'"

William Branham was a man sent from God. No one else in the modern century has come close to his accuracy, humility, and giftedness. He also got off. Way off, if you talk to some. If you read some his published works, not to mention his nearly 2,000 recorded sermons and broadcasts, you will come across it. He was a man, and just as we do not rush out to stone every woman caught in adultery,

we do not, in New Testament Christianity, rush out to stone every man when his doctrine gets off. Surely, every one of us had our doctrine a little "off" before we got saved, and it took at least a little while to get it straightened out after that. He was a man with less than an eighth grade education!

Whether Branham as a prophet was false stands on something else, although his end does matters as well. But, if we judge by the same standard for us, I would err on the side of mercy and grace, believing for the same for myself one day.

One of Branham's major works, published at the end of his life, was his Exposition of the Seven Church Ages. In it, he presented his teaching that the seven churches of the first three chapters of the book of Revelation were to be interpreted as church ages, or periods of time, each one to follow the other in sequence, through the two thousand years of church history we have had. Following this, would come the fulfillment of the ages, the tribulation and sequence of events following in Revelation 4-22.

From the end of the book, the very last paragraph in fact, I quote the following:

Not for one moment do I bring a message to the people that they may follow me, or join my church, or start some fellowship and organization. I have never done that and will not do that now. I have no interest in those things, but I do have an interest in the things of God and people, and if I can accomplish just one thing I will be satisfied. That one thing is to see established a true spiritual relationship between God and men, wherein men become new creations in Christ, filled with His Spirit and live according to His Word. I would invite, plead and warn all to hear His voice at this time, and yield your lives completely to Him, even as I trust in my heart that I have given my all to Him. God bless you, and may His coming rejoice your heart.

While baptizing on the Ohio River, a light was seen, and a voice spoke from heaven, saying, "As John the Baptist was sent to fore-run the first Coming of the Lord, so are you sent to fore-run His second Coming. . .". Numerous times, the light, or angel, was witnessed, often photographed and even scientifically verified. I remark on the life of a unique man, born under a sign, and who sparked the greatest wave of healing and gospel power of this century. Though he fell into error, and hence into obscurity, I ask, "Can these bones live?" (Ezekiel 37).

William Branham wrote, "[I]f I can accomplish just ONE THING I will be satisfied." What was that one thing? Read the above. "To see *established a true spiritual relationship between **God** and **men**, wherein men become new creations in Christ, *filled with His Spirit and live according to His Word.**

This is the heart of the book, the heart of the man, and I believe, the heart of his message. Religious trinkets and "devotional literature" clutter our book stores, as well as "training manuals", creeds, rituals, and our own take on modern Christian wardrobes. Churches are built up often either around doctrinal tenets, bylaws, and handbooks more than by the word, or, in rebellion, build themselves so against them, they often reject the authority of the true Word itself.

Yet, as Branham points out, it is the Word that gives life. What made the dark ages dark? The word of God being locked up in the church. What made every man of God sharp, powerful, living, and active? The Word within him. What brings faith to a man? Hearing the Word. Nothing else ever can.

And, as Branham pointed out, as the churches throughout history organized into bylaws, creeds, and human wisdom (training manuals, handbooks on prayer, etc), they traded the power of God for human philosophies.

Consider the following illustration:

If a man discovered a well, and how to draw water from it, he could draw water forth from it, cultivate a garden.

He could cause trees to grow, produce fruit, and give away the fruit to those around him. He could even share the garden with others, let them enjoy the trees, the climate it produced, and the bounty of it. But, so long as people only ever saw the trees, and not the source of life, the well and its water, and learned how to draw it on their own, the garden would live only a generation, and all the plants would die shortly after the man did, simply because no one would know how to sustain them. If you taught the people instead where the well was, they could cultivate their own garden.

This illustration demonstrates some of the short-coming of our gatherings today. A minister discovers the power of God, the anointing and presence of God, and, as he should, he labors to share it. But, so long as it stays there, it is only the minister's relationship that others are enjoying. They are blessed by the spiritual overflow coming from the life in one man, and they eat its fruit, and can even enjoy the atmosphere about him. But, if they never learn of the well, the source, and how to get the Presence themselves, they are not disciples.

William Branham was taken home early. His death was prophesied two years before his death on Christmas Eve, 1965, and history demonstrates the accuracy of the prophecy regarding it, as well as what fell to the ground because of it.

This is not the place to discuss what all William Branham did or did not do, nor fulfill, or how right or wrong he was. But, as he wrote his final paragraph of his book, I believe it is being fulfilled even to this day, despite his home-going.

What is a true spiritual relationship? It is living with a person, albeit one you cannot see. Emmanuel, the name for Jesus given by the angel, means "God with us". It is that place of living by the Spirit (Gal 5:16). It is that place of the Light and Easy Yoke (Matthew 11:30). It is the place of abiding (John 15:4). This is the life that can only be lived by God, through God, to God. It is relationship.

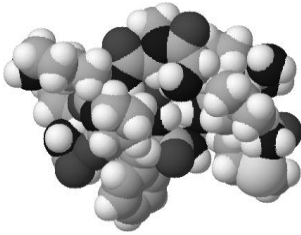
The best way to kill a revival is to organize it. The best way to nullify the power and Word of God is to exalt, or create, traditions that go against Him (Matthew 15:6). As it was in Jesus' day, so it is today.

What made Smith Wigglesworth a great preacher? He knew the Word. In fact, it was the only book he ever read. Perhaps he missed the advertisement and book promotion from the local Christian Bookstore about seven easy steps to the Christian whatever. Perhaps we should too. If you want something from God, maybe you should just follow Jesus' advice and to ask and keep on asking, believing to receive. The best way to teach unbelief is to give people everything BUT what brings faith. You can give them anything else, from the latest multi-media presentations to drama to dance to cookies and doughnuts, but if you give them the Word, someone will begin to hear it, and it will begin to grow.

The Christian life, the true, spiritual relationship between God and man isn't in the other books I've read or written, it is in the faith in who He is, as He speaks and makes Himself real and alive to me, through His Book and His Spirit. Everything else is meaningless.

The church today needs to hear this heart of William Branham's message. As Paul wrote, the only thing that counts is faith working through love. I believe William Branham's one thing was accomplished through him, and continues to be. It is only through that place of abiding in the vine of Christ, the person of Jesus, through His Spirit, in His presence, clinging to nothing else, that we come into a deeper and deeper true relationship with the one God. We must turn our eyes to the unseen, to the Spirit, and learn to recognize love, and faith, and hope, not as words, but as realities, as Him, and surrender our entire lives to His flame.

Substance



Now, Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

Substance is "hypo-stasis" in the Greek. Hypo meaning "beneath", and stasis meaning "the state, status, or structure of a thing". That is, the underlying, inherent nature of an object, its foundation, its unseen, non-physical yet spiritual essence. Whether it is an apple, a thought, or a person, to have faith in or for something is to have it for real, whether or not you see it manifested in the natural. For example, if you say, "I believe such and such will happen", that is hope. If you have the substance of the thing hoped for, the very reality of that thing, though yet unseen, that is what Faith is.

The faith of the Kingdom is not an abstract notion, nor is it something that can be reckoned with our natural mind. We cannot conjure it up, nor manufacture it, but as each one has a measure of faith given to them from above, so they believe. It is a spiritual believing, not as the natural man does, but after the Spirit. Abraham believed, and it was credited to Him as righteousness.

There are three words in English that we use to translate one Greek word meaning "Faith". Believe, Trust, and Faith all come from different forms of the Greek word "pistis". When reading an English translation, whenever any one of these three words is encountered, the other two words are always directly interchangeable, as the language permits. They all are the same word in the Greek. In fact, when it talks about "unbelief", it is merely a prefix "a-" making "apistis".

To have spiritual faith in something is to apprehend it on a plane different than the natural man. In the same way the Jesus told Nicodemus that no one could see nor enter the Kingdom of Heaven unless they were born again (John 3). The things of the Spirit must be spiritually discerned, and are to be talked about using Spiritual words (1 Corinthians 2:13-14).

To live in the substance of the Kingdom is to live with the spiritual awareness (that is, awareness by His Spirit) of the domain of heaven, and to possess it. Lest we get too far in our exposition of this, may we suffice to say that since the carnal man cannot see nor enter it, all attempts to explain it will always fall short. Simply to express to someone who has never tasted the goodness of God's Word nor the powers of the age to come (Hebrews 6:5) without the Spirit making the reality of it plain to them is always bound to fail.

Yet, Jesus demonstrated a greater Wisdom (Matthew 13:54, Mark 6:2). He demonstrated both a substance (faith), anointing, and way in the Spirit that was both perfect and unstoppable. It is in fully understanding this walk, this yoke, that we find the light load and easy burden. It is in this place that we find rest for our souls.

How do I know when I've found the substance of His Kingdom? When it's there. When I feel the presence and that realm of heaven moving around me. When I feel the activity in the atmosphere. When I otherwise perceive it. When I just know it. How do I know when it is really faith? Just try it out a few times. If it turns out that what you hope is faith really is, the object of your faith will manifest, after a while. If it turns out not to manifest, either keep waiting, or what you really had either wasn't faith or you got off of it. It's not the amount of faith that matters, it is its integrity (Mark 11).

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed that a man sowed. Though it is the smallest of seeds, when it is grown, it becomes the largest of all garden plants. (Mark 4:31-32, paraphrased). This thing about substance is more than a mental agreement or assent. If it's big enough to be counted as righteousness before God (Romans 4:3), and if it is big enough to determine the for Eternity heaven or hell

(Mark 16:16), whatever it is in the invisible, spiritual realm (2 Corinthians 4:18), it is of utmost importance.

What is this substance? It is the belief, the assurance, or the trusting. Yet it is much more than that. It is like the extension cord, running from the outlet of God's immeasurable power by which He raised Christ from the dead (Romans 8:11) to the desk lamp called us. The power does not lie in the lamp, it lies in God. All our faith does is reaches out and connects to it, and it is His power that turns the lights on.

The children in the wilderness perished because they did not mix their prophetic word with Faith (Hebrews 4:2). If we understand what faith is, we can take a word as simple as "He bore my shame", take some faith. Though we do not understand what this word even looks like yet, we can simply attach our faith to the word itself, connecting it to God's Eternal promise, and step into it. It does not take effort to stay in faith, simply do not get off.

As we engage God through that substance within our belly, our spirit, we enter into greater and greater realms of God (2 Corinthians 3:18), revelation (Proverbs 4:18), and holiness (2 Corinthians 7:1). A great deal of what Jesus did was to teach on Faith, yet the his two millennium old question remains to us today...

I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?

John 3:12



5

What ever happened to the Kingdom?

What ever happened to the Kingdom? Jesus said,



But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 11:20

We have lost sight of the Kingdom. Jesus came to set the captives free. We can prophesy, we can cast out demons in His name, we can do mighty works and miracles, but we have lost the Kingdom.

I am not waiting for another dispensation for some grandiose allotment of power and authority from heaven. Jesus declared sufficiently, after His passion and resurrection, that ALL authority in Heaven and Earth was His (Matthew 28:18). We are not waiting for God to flip a switch in heaven; He already did that. All we are waiting for is for the switch to be thrown in us.

What are we doing in church? What are we doing with our Christian walks?

We're just idling by, hoping the Kingdom will come by our careful observations. It has never come that way (Luke 17:20).

We must be diligent. We must be faithful. We must forsake all.

It is the Father's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom (Luke 12:32). He is not the hold up, we are, with our compromise and our lazy approach to the Gospel. He wants us to have it.

The Kingdom of God has come with power (Mark 9:1). Yet, where are the meetings where young people can come and get delivered? There are some these days, but not enough.

The Kingdom may not be of this world (John 18:36), but it is more substantive, and more real than anything we can see or touch (Hebrews 11:3). There are more possibilities in the Spirit than anything we could possibly make up ourselves, if we can simply listen, hear, and obey.

The realms of marketing and ministry as a business must be passed aside, and we must come to the place of simple trust. If we open up that place of Kingdom within our midst, we are told by Jesus himself that it will be more than we could ever accomplish on our own (Matthew 11:11).

What ever happened to setting people free in our meetings? What ever happened to sick people being made well? We cannot get where we're going without it.

What ever happened to seeking God, and praying until He comes, and empowers us to change things?

The Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power. If anyone tells you they have the doctrine of the Kingdom, can explain it to you in four easy steps, and cannot demonstrate it, they are a liar, and you should shake your dust off from your feet. My God's name is the LORD of Hosts, that is Lord of the angelic armies of heaven. **IF THERE IS NO DEMONSTRATION, THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE TO THEIR MESSAGE** (2 Corinthians 12:12).

What ever happened to the Kingdom? Today, the churches are merely mimicking the Sadducees and Pharisees of Jesus' day. One group believes there are evil spirits, one does not. They bicker and argue (despite the fact that if you say there aren't, you make Jesus

into a liar, because He cast them out). They sit and with their careful observations, have their weekly meetings, and go to and fro to their market-place banquets.

We have come a long way in the age of the church. I wonder if the time of the Gentiles being fulfilled isn't the gentile church coming right up to the very spot the Jewish "church" did when Jesus walked among them. If you strip the supernatural out of the church, you don't have a church. Not a Jesus church anyway. Perhaps, as John wrote, a church (Synagogue) of satan (Revelation 2:9, Revelation 3:9).

There will be false prophets and false teachers teaching false things and doing false signs and wonders, yes. And, the only way you will know the difference is if you have SUPERNATURAL DISCERNMENT (1 Corinthians 12:10), a supernatural endowment (one that you didn't have before you received the Holy Ghost or Jesus), not MERELY an observation of outward manifestations and behavior. As many point out, if there were to be no TRUE miraculous works, no TRUE God-given prophets, then the writer would have simply written, "beware of prophets and miracles", but he instructed us to be watchful, and to watch out for the false.

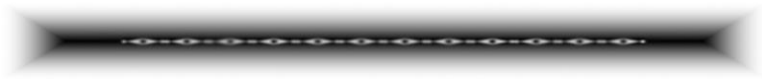
If you do not have the power, you do not have the Kingdom. If you do not have Him working in your life, speaking into your ear, turn right or turn left, "This is the way; walk ye in it" (Isaiah 30:21), you do not have all that Immanuel, God with us, means. Revelation 19:10 says, "[T]he testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy!". If you do not have the spirit of prophecy, you do not have the testimony of Jesus in your midst. That is a sad state for much of the church today, to have none of the testimony of Jesus. Let me say that again, if you do not have the spirit of prophecy, you do not have the testimony of Jesus.

Isaiah the prophet declared:

"As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or

from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever," says the LORD.

Isaiah 59:21



6

The Eternal Kingdom



The Kingdom of Heaven is the eternal reign and realm of God. It is not God, yet is inseparable from Him and His attributes. It is the perfect picture of government, as we understand such, in that it is perfectly just and righteous, perfectly merciful, humble, and powerful. Indeed all true human government derives itself from it.

We must not confuse the Kingdom with the church. The church is related to the Kingdom, and the Kingdom is related to the church, but we must not look at the outward expression of what we know as "church" and equate it with the Kingdom.

To further the issue of explaining what the Kingdom is, it can be likened to explaining to a rock what breathing is like. You can talk all day long, but a rock has no capacity to even understand, let alone grasp what you are saying.

Jesus declared this, when talking to Nicodemus (John 3:3, 5):

I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again . . . I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

If you cannot see the Kingdom unless you are born again, it follows that if an unbeliever can see it, it is NOT the Kingdom.

Jesus also said:

My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.

John 18:36

The Kingdom is not so much a thing to be explained but to be discovered and experienced. Jesus employed many metaphors (parables) to explain this thing which no human language was adequate nor capable to explain. Yet, to the person experiencing the reality of it, His language was as clear and direct, perhaps more so, than talking directly about it. He did not need to employ special codes or ciphers in His parables, nor was He working out of some sort of hidden or secret knowledge. Rather, He was revealing secrets hidden from the foundation of the world, hidden in plain sight, so that only those simple vision and a pure, believing heart could see or understand. Sometimes, it is the things that are the most elementary that are the hardest for us to recognize. Like pride. Or jealousy. Or bitterness.

The Kingdom of Heaven exists, consists of, and is manifested through the realm of the Holy Spirit. This is not some spooky, far-out there place, it is merely invisible, and to those indoctrinated into the western mindset, that is, the spirit of the world and unbelief, it seems like a vapor. This is actually the problem we face in the western church. We are trained by Babylon to look at the shiny golden image set before us on the plain of Shinar and bow down to it, instead of seeing the invisible. We are trained into the dualism of Persia, focusing on good versus evil instead of life, and intimidation by force. We are trained by the Greek mindset to abstract away from spirit and truth. All told, until Jesus breaks us free, we are enslaved and have no notion of anything different.

But Jesus changed all that. He broke the statue of Daniel 2, and scattered it to the four winds of heaven. For a span of 1500 years, there was a world power ruling on the Earth. Babylon, Medes and

Persians, Greece, and finally Rome. These all dominated the entire "civilized world", and ruled alone. Somewhere, unless you count the Roman Catholic Church as a continuation of the world-dominating power of Rome, Rome broke into pieces, along with the other four empires, and was scattered to the wind. Why did Rome disperse in history? Historians cannot tell you. But I can. The spirit of Rome was broken, and it was scattered by the wind to the four corners of the Earth. For 1500 years, from the days of Nebuchadnezzar until the dispersion of Rome around 300 to 400 AD, there was a world power. Since that time, there has been no one-world government on the face of the Earth (again, unless you directly implicate the Roman Catholic Church). The statue is broken.

And what was left? The church, sure. But, the Kingdom that God has set up in His Son. The same Kingdom that Jesus came declaring for the three and a half years of His ministry. The same one that led Him to make statements such as, "If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you" (Luke 11:20). Not a part of the Kingdom, because Jesus had the Spirit without measure, without limit or in part (John 3:34). Not one of God's Kingdoms, but THE Kingdom. The same Kingdom of which Jesus said, "And this **Gospel** of the **Kingdom** will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14).

You see, Jesus is the door to the sheep-fold. There are not two sheep-folds, there are one. There is not two doors, but one.

Think about these parables Jesus relates...

The Kingdom has the same force as sin in a person's life... Like yeast, if you get some in you, it will take you completely over (and your neighbor on either side).

If you plant it, and it finds a clear, prepared soul (read this as REPENT! and live as a prude, and forsake the spirit of the world and of Babylon, you'll never miss it!), though it is the smallest of all seeds (words), it will be larger than any other garden plant. (again, saying the same thing as above).

If you FIND it, whether looking or not, if you ascertain its value and appraise it correctly, you **WILL** sell all, forsake everything you have and know, father, mother, house, field, brother, sister, children, your own life, and acquire that pearl. Finding it, seeing it, is not enough. It must be procured. If you really want it, if it were this easy, it would be worth losing your arm, leg, or eye to possess and retain it. Yet, it is not a burden, nor a religious yoke, when correctly seen, for it is of more worth than what is lost. Even Matthew 13:44 is NOT a primarily concerned with the *COST* of the Kingdom, it's about its **WORTH!**

Though there are the false things around at all times, and they are not removed so as not to disturb the real which is still growing, the true is still the true, and the false is still the false. There is no gray, there is no question. One is capable of producing fruit, and the other never will, even if you weeded out all the true grain, and left only the tares. The Kingdom is never cross-bred with the tares, with a the possibility of questions of recessive and dominant genes. But instead, He is now gathering out of His Kingdom all that which offends.

What is the Kingdom? It is that realm of Heaven... If you haven't ever found something that is worth losing your life for, I would suggest continuing your search in desperation until you do. If you ever do, it will take you over. Be earnest, repent. Save yourself from this corrupt and perverse generation. You know when you have it, because peace is worth any price, righteousness is a wonderful covering, and joy becomes the upright in His Presence, as we sing praises to the Most High.

Satan said in Isaiah 14 the following words over and over: I Will.

Isaiah 14:12-15

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

You said in your heart,

"**I will** ascend to heaven;

I will raise my throne above the stars of God;

I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.

I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; **I will** make myself like the Most High."

But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

David had a different heart, but used the same words:

Psalm 146:1-2

Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul.

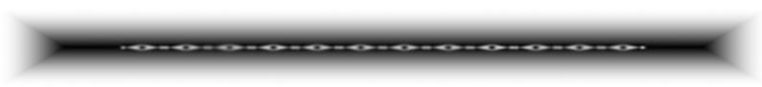
I will praise the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

His end was different.

1 Kings 2:45

But king Solomon shall be blessed, and the **throne of David** shall be established before Yahweh **forever**.



To see the Kingdom



If you would see the Kingdom, you must be born again. If you would enter into His life, His Word of life must come into you as a seed and begin to grow.

Everything starts small. It starts obscure. We do not despise the smallness, but we understand that everything which is planted, in its full time, grows to maturity.

From the yeast beginning with just a small bit for the entire dough, to the mustard seed which would grow, the life of the Spirit must begin very small, yet grow to its size.

It's quite possible to get discouraged, or to get side-tracked. The heart of Peter inquired of the Lord, saying, "[W]e have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?" (Matthew 19:27). The Lord responded, "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life." (v29).

You **MUST** forsake everything to follow the LORD. (Luke 14:33). This may or may not include the loss of all personal belongings, but in your heart, and in your spirit, what you hold onto, holds you.

It costs a life. Your life. All of it, every day. If you don't want to pay it, don't start down the road. But, if you see what you're gaining, if your heart catches a glimpse by faith, and diligently separates itself from every entanglement, it is "for joy" (Matthew 13:44) that everything is sold.

God loves us, and justifies us, demonstrating his love for us in this, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. He saved us, washed us, made us new creations, gave us a new heart and a new spirit, and transferred us out of the dominion, domination and excessive crushing and ruling force of darkness, and transferred us, crossed us over, transplanted or relocated us, into the kingdom of His dearly loved Son. He changes us to hate sin, and to love righteousness by His Spirit. By living in that Spirit, we live free.

Yet, we are told, it is the pure in heart that will see God.

Unless we become as little children, we will never enter the Kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3). Much of the church world has gotten it wrong.

They teach us that seeing things like angels and hearing from God are fringe, and potentially shaky ground. Yet Jesus told Nathaniel that he would see angels going up and down upon Himself (John 1:50-51). We're told that words like "trance" are false, yet Peter, in Acts 11:5, saw his vision while in a trance. We are often rightly warned to avoid the worship of angels (Colossians 2:18), yet awareness, knowledge, talk, and recognition is no more worship of them than acknowledgement of the enemy is in saying that he prowls around like a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8). Jesus told Nathaniel that he would see angels after commending him for having no guile. Whereas, with Nicodemus, when he had trouble believing even about the new birth, Jesus responded, "I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?" (John 3:12). That is, if talking about things which are experienced here in the demonstrable, physical, and touchable world are hard for someone to grasp, it will be even harder to grasp the invisible, the Eternal, that of the Kingdom.

You see, it is simplicity, not complexity, that makes for something to Jesus. He said, if your eye be single, without folds, your whole body would be full of light. If you have no dark corners, it is like the light of a lamp is shining on you.

Do you want to see the Kingdom? Lose your life to looking at only One Thing. David said,

One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek:

That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

To behold the beauty of the LORD

And to meditate in His temple.

Psalm 27:4

What is it to see the Kingdom? What is it to see what no normal person can see (John 3:3)? What is it that prophets desired to understand, and angels desired to peer into?

The least in the Kingdom is greater than anyone without.



One little seed...



An entire oak tree is contained well within a tight, easy to carry package. It has its own leathery cover, and even a handy carrying cup attached to the top. You could, in fact, carry a hundred complete oak trees just in your pants pockets alone (assuming you've got big pockets). The only thing you need to add, in order to convert your easy to transport oak tree into an immovable pillar is some sunshine, a plot of dirt, some water, and a hundred years or so!

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed, that when planted, it is the smallest of seeds, but when it grows, it becomes the largest of all garden plants, and the birds of the air make their nest in it.

Matthew 13:31-32

The entire Kingdom is contained in what it begins with. Like yeast, you only need its presence in any measure in order to produce the entirety. In fact, the only thing that Jesus indicated that could hamper its growth are the soil conditions (Matthew 13:1-9).

When we perceive anything of the Kingdom of heaven, we must receive it. Jesus said, in Matthew 13:44-45, that when we catch a glimpse of the Kingdom, any part, we must sell all.

It is essential to lose in order to gain. Very few people have all of their assets liquidized in the natural. People have many assets, and are invested into many different things. The same that is true in finances and possessions is true in the emotional realm of the soul.

Our hearts are invested into many things. However, turning to the Lord requires a change of heart. This involves the liquidation of our emotional heart assets for the purpose of purchasing something greater. In the case of the treasure in the field, it was simply a good business decision, buying a treasure was obviously worth much more than all of the original assets the man owned. The same could be said of the pearls, for someone who knew them.

Jesus said the eye was the lamp of the body (Matthew 6:22, Luke 11:34). When the eye is single, without folds, the whole body is full of light. Consider again the selling of everything. If you knew that when you possessed the treasure in the field that you would be even one hundred times richer than before you sold everything, would you hesitate? Would you let yourself be pulled off track? Jesus said in Luke 14:26, that in order to be his disciple, you must hate your family, kids, wife, and even your own life. Why? Because flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. So long as we are in love with our soulish, earthly life, we will never let it go. It is **ONLY** when we truly *hate* our carnal life, and love to live by the Spirit, that the emotions of our heart actually work WITH the wooing of the Spirit, to create a burden that is light and a yoke that is easy (Matthew 11:30).

Jesus said plainly, you will love one and hate the other, or you will despise the one and be devoted to the other (Luke 16:13). This is not negotiable. Too often, people cling to the limp corner of their fleshly life too long, and find the demands of the life of the Spirit to be a burden. Why not rather entreat the Lord to show you how to live by His Spirit solely, loving His demands, finding out what is pleasing to the Lord (Ephesians 5:10), and hate the requirements of living by the flesh?! But seek first the Kingdom of Heaven and His Righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you. Matthew 6:33.

So, if you discover a part of the Kingdom, and are selling whatever you must to make it yours (even, possibly, yesterday's anointing), what must you do? Continue to seek Him, being diligent with what you already know, being careful to live up to what you have already attained (Philippians 3:16).

Do you want to move in healing? What do you already have? You have the Word, you have obedience. What do you already have to get you moving? Or, do you just have a hunger? Well, happy are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Believe that for a start, until the Lord brings more. Until another word forms in your heart from heaven, until more faith comes into your Spirit. Until you see something else worth selling all for.

Jesus' ministry on earth changed dramatically one day. He asked His disciples who others said He was, and who they thought He was. Peter's response to the second got an exceptional commendation from Jesus.

And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 16:17

As John the Baptist testified, a man can receive nothing unless it is given to them from heaven (John 3:27). You can sit in all of the most anointed services, under THE most anointed Teacher Himself, and still have the truth hidden from you, by heaven (Luke 18:34). Until God releases some things, you will never understand them. It wasn't until after this confession of Peter that Jesus began to talk about His ecclesia, His "called out, ruling body", His Church. But Jesus, by His discernment, Jesus recognized that what Peter had said had come from the Father. He could tell the difference between what man had repeated and taught, and what God Himself had imparted.

The truth was the same as the day before. Jesus was still Messiah, the true and living God they day before the Father had revealed it to Peter, but only now, by the revelation of God Himself, Peter could testify of it.

So a little yeast hidden within the lump, given a life of utter abandonment, of utterly giving up everything to follow the one with the word of Eternal life, eyes without folds and without any more

dark corners, yielded, through time and obedience, the fruit of righteousness.

Peter and the others received in one hour power and authority over all demons and to cure sickness (Luke 9:1). And that was before the Holy Ghost was given at Pentecost. He was flowing in Jesus' gifting then. But, the work continued, whether he slept or got up, the plant grew, until, when it was fully ripe, God could harvest it.

What does the fullness look like? I'm not sure we're given that as of yet, as what we will be has not been made known. But we know is this, that when we see Him, we will be like Him. If Peter could walk down the street, and just even his shadow falling on the sick could heal them (Acts 5:15), and this is only a taste of the powers of the age to come (Hebrews 6:5), let us not set the bar of what this is like too low.

Many today want the greater gifts, and for sure, we are instructed to earnestly desire the greater gifts, especially that we may prophesy (1 Corinthians 12:31). Yet, it may be that God has to work out a few rocks first before the seed can have its fullest root. A good test of where you are at is the "Happy"s of Matthew 5. Happy are Are you happy? Why not? You would be if you trusted God more. Start there. Start with why its hard to trust, to follow. Why it's hard to abide in love. With what makes you angry, or maybe even revile and curse a brother. Stay there a while. What you will be doing is digging down deep until you get to something solid. It's foolish to build a tall building without an equally deep foundation. Let Him have His full work. Let the seed take full root. Only He will satisfy, only He will quench that thirst.

If you seek Him, you will find Him, when you seek for Him
with all of your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

Authority



And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

The question that comes around today in churches a lot is, How much authority does the believer have? As much as Jesus can trust you with.

All authority comes from God. God created government, stewardship, and the one authority structure that pertains to us everyone on the Earth today, the family. God delegates His authority, that is, He gives individuals the responsibility to manage certain things, and so much as they faithfully execute their duties, they are permitted to continue.

Problems come in when a person does not maintain their authority, or otherwise undermines their position. In the book of 1 Kings, the story of Ahab and Elijah is well known. Ahab married a controlling, manipulating, and murdering woman named Jezebel. Ahab was filled with fear, and because he refused to fully fill his role of authority as king of Israel, his wife usurped his authority. While Ahab only sat and cried when someone refused to give up his family

tract of land, Jezebel schemed and had the man killed under false pretenses. Ahab allowed it, abdicating his responsibility.

In the Garden in Genesis, a man also lost his authority. Here, the woman was overcome by deception, and the man, who was with her, went along with her. Man had been given authority by God with the command to fill the earth and subdue it. Man lost his position because of the fall, and destruction was let into the Earth.

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, satan offered him all the kingdoms of the world if He would bow down in worship to him. Jesus didn't deny that he could, but rather rebuked the adversary with scripture, "It is written...". In all likelihood, the kingdoms were in the enemies' right to give, but Jesus' eyes were not primarily on the people and the stuff. His eyes were on the heavenly Kingdom, on the higher thing, and He knew that if He gave a foothold to the enemy for an easy advancement, it would be no advancement at all, but an easy defeat whenever the enemy wanted to pull the trigger.

At the end of his ministry, when the prince of this world, satan, was condemned, Jesus stood with all authority. He sent the disciples out with authority over all demons, and the power to cure diseases.

There are no shortcuts to authority, just as there are no other ways to it. It is only by Jesus. Just as Jesus would have not had the same end result if He had bypassed God's avenue for approval, if we get promoted by anyone but God, we will not have satisfactory results either.

There is only one genuine source of authority, and that is God Himself. Jesus defeated the adversary and redeemed us through the cross. What the first Adam failed at, the last Adam succeeded in.

When Jesus encountered a certain Roman centurion, that man recognized the authority on Jesus. When he saw Jesus, he said, "I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, "Go!" and he goes, and to another, "Come!" and he comes, and to my slave, "Do this!" and he does *it*." (Matthew 8:9). This man, although he was not a Jew, recognized the realm of authority

on Jesus. Although authority is invisible, it is Eternal, because it is of God, and He never changes. Although it was invisible, this man recognized it, and responded to Jesus to describe exactly who Jesus was. From His own mouth, Jesus had said that He never did anything without seeing the Father do it. Had it been the Father's will, He needed only to speak, and twelve legions of angels would have been dispensed at the cross. This centurion, although he could see none of that with his natural eyes, perceived with his heart the authority on this Man and related to Jesus as a man of Authority.

Some people ask how much authority we have. Some people ask whether we have authority over principalities, thrones, and powers. According to Luke 10, we are told that we will trample over ALL the power of the enemy, and that NOTHING will by any means will harm us. Jesus said in Matthew 28 that ALL authority was given unto Him. The only limit I see on that is how much we are under His authority. If we are rightly aligned under Him, in every part, then all of His authority is our Authority. This means the farthest thing from getting everything we want. On the contrary, we get ONLY what HE wants. It turns out that this is the best for us, if we could have the faith for it. Jesus said of the Father, that all of His commands lead to life. He said He was never alone, because He always did what pleased the Father.

The key to Authority is Obedience. Jesus obeyed the Father, and received the Father's authorization. In the same way, to pray "in Jesus' Name", while it does involve His name and the authority involved in His name, it is also not a specialized formula. To pray "in the name of Jesus" is to pray in His Authority, His Office, and His Kingship. Similarly, if a Roman centurion demanded you to walk a mile, he could strengthen his statement by adding "in the name of Caesar", but simply dressing up in uniform, standing and giving orders, makes what he is doing "in the name of Caesar" already. If he were disobedient in his handling of his authority, and word got back to the one he was subject to, he would be reprimanded, and his position could be removed. Authority necessitates responsibility.

In the book of Jude, the writer talks about how Michael the archangel used the admonishment, "The Lord rebuke you!" against the adversary (Jude 1:9). Many people pray with this, and I still do, for it is not wrong to thus pray. Yet, in right relationship with Jesus, fully submitted to His authority, we stand in a position that angels do not. Michael the archangel could not stand and say that day, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus". He could not rebuke as a son of the Kingdom, because he has never been born of water. The sons of men, through the blood of Jesus and through the finished work of His cross, receive the unmerited favor of His authority to stand and, in the strength of our faith and His Spirit within us, to rebuke and command. As Paul himself says, we will judge the angels.

The purpose of Authority is to function in it, and is the right object of our ruling is His Kingdom and His Righteousness. We must not be afraid to stand, fight, and execute the judgments of the Lord.

Psalm 149

Praise the LORD. Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise
in the assembly of the saints.

Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be
glad in their King.

Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to
him with tambourine and harp.

For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the
humble with salvation.

Let the saints rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their
beds.

May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-
edged sword in their hands,

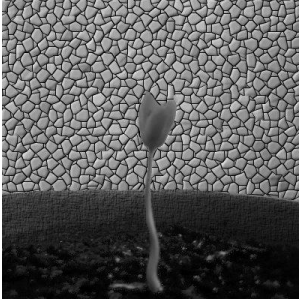
to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on
the peoples,

to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles
of iron,

to carry out the sentence written against them. This is the
glory of all his saints. Praise the LORD



Faith Is Now



Faith is a substance. Faith is a communicable dis-ease with the status quo. Faith makes a way where there seems to be no way, and calls those things that are not as though they are. Faith looks beyond the facts, and sees God's Truth, what He has said. Faith hopes beyond all hope, and is righteousness to God.

When one hears a Word of the Kingdom and doesn't understand it, the evil one comes and snatches it away. This is the word of the Kingdom. This is the Word of Faith, which we speak.

1 Corinthians 13:13 says that these three remain: faith, hope, and love. Hope is what we wait with expectancy to happen. Faith is the substance of that, now. We might hope for a piece of bread to eat, but Faith is to have the substance of that, despite my natural hand still being empty.

Faith for deliverance is the same. Hope is to believe that some day, I will be set free. Faith is to know that the word of God says, "He bore my shame", and to have the substance of it, its proof. It is as good as evidence in a court case. To have the faith is to have the real thing, whether or not the natural manifestation of the object delays or not. Faith is never wrong, for to have the substance of it is to have it.

Faith is the connection to the Kingdom, and the apprehending of the promise. You cannot please God without faith, and you cannot consistently walk in the Kingdom without it. The children of Israel perished, not mixing their promises with Faith. The man walking in

Faith in the Kingdom is most happy, because he knows that God on his side.

Faith raised Jairus' daughter and Lazarus from the dead. Faith withered the fig tree from the root immediately. Faith saw the joy set before, and endured the cross, despising the shame. Faith crossed over, mixed with the promise, and became the world.

Faith crossed the Red Sea, and it continues to today.

If I have the faith of a mustard seed, and do not doubt in my heart, I can say unto anything, even a mountain, to be plucked up, and cast into the sea, and it will be done for me. This is the word of Jesus. You either accept Him as the truth, or you call Him a liar and false prophet. Or will you, like seed on rocky ground, back off when the going gets tough? Let God be true, and every man a liar.

Faith sees with the eyes of the heart. Faith sees and hears in the Spirit, and ascertains what belongs to God. Faith requires us to rely upon that which we cannot grasp with our natural eyes or mind, and yet is as substantive as the thing we seek.

The true test of faith is whether it happens. Faith is beyond a mental assurance, beyond simply hope, but is the possession of the underlying reality of the thing hoped for. It is that absolute knowing, no matter how small, that makes the difference.

The plight of carnal man is this: By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:19). But in the New Covenant, we are told "[T]hat no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, **The just shall live by faith.**" (Galatians 3:11). Where natural, fallen man had to live by the sweat of his brow, the JUST live by Faith.

Jesus said, Seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and [your natural needs] will be given to you (Matthew 6:33). He said the Kingdom was worth losing all for (Matthew 13:44). Faith, true faith, can see that which is losing one's life for, for it can see

with the eyes set on Eternity, into the realm of the Beyond, and into the abode of God (1 Corinthians 2:10)--every deep thing. Why settle for a lesser thing? Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated! This world has nothing for you. There is no fellowship between the Spirit of Christ and the spirit of Belial. Set your minds on things above, not on Earthly things. Don't use Spiritual principles to obtain earthly goods, that is perverse! They will come, but where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. He who loves the world and its things does not have His love. It is the spirit of unbelief to settle for believing for the Earth, when Heaven is available, and it makes you unfruitful, UNprepared for every good work.

Faith is that which sees and apprehends the invisible, intangible, yet very real, and agrees with it greater than that which the eye of dust can see. In the Holy Spirit, one Word of the Kingdom is worth more than any other, for it was but the spoken word of God that caused the entirety of the universe to spring forth into being. "Light Be!", and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good. And God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light day, and the darkness he called night. And there was evening and morning, the first day. (Genesis 1:3-5).

When Elisha needed water in the desert to water an army, God provided a way by digging ditches. When Moses needed water to feed a people, he hit a rock. When Namaan the Syrian needed cleansing, God provided a muddy Jordan. Just when there seems to be no hope, God told Moses to lift up His staff, and the Red Sea split. God is there, and He works on behalf of His servants. The word finds good soil, and sprouts down deep, unhindered by the movements of this world.

Faith is not "risk", when studied out, although it may feel that way to the mind of flesh. Faith is definite, assured, and certain in Heaven, even if every walk of faith you ever take is different. Faith is the very present, albeit invisible, reality of a thing, because it really is here, in the Spirit.

The angel Gabriel told Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy

one to be born will be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35). And, "[N]othing is impossible with God." Better to have been translated, "No freshly spoken word from God is without the self-inherent power to fulfill itself." Faith connects you to that power. It sprouts upward, and grows, spreading leaves, until the full head of grain.

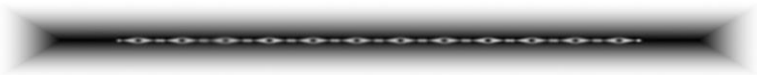
Mary denotes herself here with this admonition in Luke 1:45:

Most happy is she who has believed that what the Lord
has said to her will be accomplished!

It produces a yield of fruit, maybe thirty, maybe forty, maybe sixty,
maybe even a hundred fold times as much as itself.

He who has ears, let him hear."

Matthew 13:9



But Seek Ye First



But seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven and His Righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33

There are many things we see in church today.

We have programs. We have buildings. We have ministries. We have ministers. But seek first the Kingdom.

James 3:16 says that where there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is confusion and every evil thing. Competition between brothers rises, looking to a particular gifting or position in order to get attention abound. Attempts to fill unmet needs in the soul by some level of attainment in the spirit are present in our ministers.

Many people have eyes towards books, towards crowds, or towards other things, either for the sake of fame, for a sense of accomplishment or stability, or, some, simply, because it is where their paycheck comes from. But seek first the Kingdom.

What man cannot satisfy, what no position could ever equate to in lasting significance, what no amount of finances can every cover in terms of lack, the Kingdom does.

What wounds and lacks a person has, that which no amount of human counsel could ever correct, the Kingdom can.

What no amount of programming could ever coerce, the Kingdom has the Ability.

What do we look for, and to what is our heart set upon? Can we see with the eyes of the Father, to what really counts on Earth?

They said of Daniel Nash, "No books tell his life story, no pictures or diaries can be found, his descendants (if any) cannot be located, and his messages are forgotten. He wrote no books, started no schools, led no movements, and generally, kept out of sight." Yet, Heaven knew his name. And, Heaven moved at the sound of his groans. Yet, in every prayer meeting today in the West, you will have never met anyone like him. In fact, he would be thrown out of nearly every prayer meeting I know of. Because He prayed like it wouldn't happen if he didn't, because he knew it wouldn't.

They make "travail rooms" for people like that these days. They take you down the hall, if you have a bright enough light bulb, say, a hundred watt-er in a room led by 20 or 30 somethings, they take you down the hall, set you down real nice, and smash your light bulb. But seek first the Kingdom.

There really is something there. It really is find-able. There really is something for you. You really will find what you seek, for the instructions clearly say, seek and you WILL find.

Jesus in the desert, alone with the devil, really could have had all the nations of the world, and made every single one of its inhabitants bow to Him, without the cross! All he would have had to do was bow to satan. He could have had the people, if He wanted it that way, but His eye was on the throne. He looked Beyond, to the greater thing. He looked higher, to the Eternal realm. He looked deeper, to the Truth of all Truth. Had He gone another way, for a brief, passing moment, he would have had honor. And for all Eternity, He would have burned in God's judgment fire, ashamed. But He sought first the Kingdom, and He was His righteousness, and he never begged bread.

In times when many ministers cannot seem to make out the difference between feeding and covering and fleecing the flock, seek first the Kingdom.

One thing I ask of the Lord, this one things I seek, that I may love Him. What more are you looking for? His love *IS* enough! Being His child is identity. Being with Him makes me happy. Anything else is in addition to that, but without that, none of it matters. Until that worship is your core, you're off center.

Lose your life, lose your mind, lose your heart, lose your soul to love. Lose everything you know, and surrender to the master, to the flame. For love is a mighty flame, the very flame of Yah. Many waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away. Though a man were to give all he had for love, it would be utterly scorned.

What is the Kingdom? It is the power of and demonstration of God. It is the humility and meekness of the Creator. It is the perfection and beauty of the only begotten son. It is His Heart.

One thing I ask, oh Lord, this thing do I seek... Your beauty.

It is Him.

When the eye is single, the whole body is full of light. The heart, the spirit, the soul, are powerful. Yet, the treasure goes both ways. If you SEEK, you WILL FIND, good or bad. And what you sow, you will reap. If you look for any other things, it too will you find, if you have eyes split. Yet, the mind stayed on Him He keeps in perfect peace.

What is it that pulls your glance away, even for a moment, from off of that throne? What distracts your gaze even a hairs breadth from that focus of His gaze. That is where the rubber hits the road, that is where blind eyes and cancers are healed, that is where lives are changed in an instant.

Live for the one, and trust Him to take care of the rest. Eyes looking away simply belie heart that is not trusting, but is relying on something else in fear. It is a trusting of the enemy and circumstances. But, seek FIRST the Kingdom of Heaven, and His Righteousness, and He will take care of the rest. You might not get your sailboat, but you'll get heaven, and you'll get the King.

So Seek First....

All the other accomplishments, all the other deeds will pale and fade, until at the end, all you end up with is that which remains. If you haven't filled your life with these three (1 Corinthians 13:13), your estate will be small in that day. If, however, you lose your life to find Him, you will be happily surprised to find Him waiting, with the biggest mansion you'd ever set your eyes on... Filled with love, and joy, and peace, and the only things that ever mattered in the first place. Father.

And if He doesn't deliver you from death, so what. Just go home from work early. What have you got to lose?



Dig deep...



Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24

[H]e is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.

Luke 6:48

Growing up, spending a lot of time in Matthew, I sort of got the impression from Matthew 7:24, that listening to and following Jesus was kind of like considering real estate on the beach. You have sandy portions and you have rocky portions. In some places, there are only dunes, and in other places, namely, upon Jesus, there is a rock sticking out, and it is at this place that one should build their house, rather than upon the sand. The "choice", if you will, was simply to follow the instructions or to live a different way, which, of course, would be wrong, and result in failure.

Eventually, I correlated my background mental impression with the similar verse in Luke 6. Except here, reading a little closer, noticed that the same metaphor is used, but with one slight alteration. Here, the writer includes an additional clause that the Matthew account

didn't. Luke's Gospel includes the phrase "who **dug deep**". Surely, Jesus probably gave this form of address in nearly every city he went to. It may well be that it was given one way to one group, and another way to another. The point, however, is that the imagination of mine, with rock and sand in different places, is ***NOT*** actually what Jesus intended.

These words "**dug deep**" indicate that, instead of simply picking where to build, we are each given a piece of real estate, a little bit of Earth, and we decide how to manage it. We do not pick and chose the lump of clay so much as allow a foundation to be prepared.

The words of the Sermon on the Mount are direct, bold, and to the point. Some phrases seem hard to miss, while other seem to lay out there as if there is more to understand.

What I have found is that the Word searches, pierces, and divides me. Some people would say that the Sermon on the Mount is not intended to be lived, that it merely demonstrates our inability to live the righteousness of the law even more than the original did, or some other such conjecture. The danger of such a phrase, of course, comes at Jesus' own warning, why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say? Blessed rather are those that hear my words and do them.

Romans 8 explains our dilemma. What the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God **DID** by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.

Yet, the "*Million Dollar Question*" still remains, why do blood-bought, washed sinners behave contrary to their 2 Corinthians 5:17, new creation nature?

Consider Peter, when Jesus told Him to come out onto the waves and walk on the sea with Himself. Peter did for a while, and then doubted. The doubt was obvious. So, Jesus asked the most pertinent question. Peter, Why did you doubt? Matthew 14:31.

You see, Jesus wanted Peter to see what was going on inside of his own heart. He wanted Peter to see the duplicity, the doubt, and the shades of double-mindedness going on with himself. Do not forget, that Jesus said, when the eye is single, the whole body is full of light (Matthew 6:22), and that word single is 'without-folds'. Whenever we let other thoughts come in other than the truth, they cause us to begin to sink in our faith. Whenever we let fear intimidate us, on any level, the enemy begins to have dominion and mastery over us. For Peter, the difference was as simple as being either dry or wet!

In order to get to the Rock, Christ, His Spirit, and His anointing, we must allow His words to work through us. When we find ourselves unjustly angry, we must allow the Spirit to divide, separate, and to go deep within us, and let Him reveal ourselves to us. It is precisely that we cannot walk the words of the Sermon on the Mount without living by the Spirit, that we must use them as a universal guide to know when we are relying on our own strength. It is their purpose, for in attempting to live them, and continuing to seek Him in the full gravity of them, He will show us how to live by Himself.

Beyond our own strength, there is another. Beyond our own ability to persevere, He is able. It is precisely when we reach the end of ourselves that He is most able to move. His strength is made perfect in our weakness. When we are no longer able, He can. When we do not see it, He always has. When we rely on our own strength, He waits. What better way to make us reliant upon Him alone as our all sufficient Father?

You see, if we build on any other foundation, our strength will fail. But, as His Spirit rises us within us, and His Spirit overflows us, and our decisions are fully based upon that, we are unstoppable. When we flow with the power that raised Christ from the dead with us (Romans 8:11), we have overcome the world. Even by our Faith!

Dig Deep!

Don't Settle for a Shadow



In a stable, outside an inn, Jesus came in the flesh, God became man, and dwelt among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the only begotten, full of grace and truth.

God gave Moses the tabernacle, the law, and the seat of government over the children of Israel. He specified every detail, the number of poles, the size of the curtains, and even the number and material of each clasp. Nothing was overlooked.

The law was perfection. It outlined all the behavior of men before God, and gave the perfect sentences in judgment. It provided for both interpersonal, as well as dietary and dress requirements. So perfect, that only one man in history has ever lived it.

His name was Jesus. By His death, He changed the nature of the heavens, removing the barrier between man and God, unveiling the glory.

Today, we come up with all sorts of rules and regulations. We have manuals on how to pray, lead small groups, and even services. We have man-made doctrine after man-made doctrine for worship services, and written and unwritten regulations on how to dress, conduct interpersonal relationships, and business exchanges. And that doesn't even begin to touch Christmas!

All our creations are still not as good as the original, mind you, the perfect one. It still falls short of what God requires in terms of propriety and order in worship. And, for the most part, it is absolutely worthless and not worth the time nor the paper it is written on. At least the trees would have clapped their hands in worship to their maker if they had not been printed perhaps... Or, perhaps, it could have at least been used as toilet paper or something more useful than a dust-collector, the church manuals that is.

Jesus said it was easier for Heaven and Earth to pass away than for one of His Words to pass away. He said that He did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. He said that to be the least in the Kingdom of Heaven, all one would need to do would be to break one the least of the commands and teach others to do the same.

So how do we interpret this? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. Do you believe? Do you follow? Is your love and obedience growing? Do you hate sin and love righteousness? Great! Keep on going. As 2 Corinthians 10:6 says, "punishing every disobedience once your obedience is made perfect."

The problem with man's laws is they are never as good as God's original one. The "problem" with God's original righteous one is that fallen man cannot live it. Yet, we cling to it, because on some level, the natural mind of man can seem like he might grasp the heavens if he sits in enough formal, ritualistic meetings. But, it didn't work for the Jews, even the priests of His day, for the most part. Because, in God's wisdom, He regards Faith as righteousness.

When you cling to how wide to make your linens, where to place your altar, how often to bake your shew-bread, and whatnot, you are merely imitating, in a crude and, by definition, imperfect way, what God gave Moses. When we look to a liturgy as meaningful, when we rest our emotions in ritual and pattern, when we situate our minds on things like governmental seating on the platform, on the arrangement of curtains and banners hanging from the walls, cultivating an aesthetic appeal above spiritual dynamic, we only have a shadow of the thing we hope for. Worse than that, because we're not going the full bore into rebuilding the Tabernacle of Moses, with all the blood

and continual fire on the altar, we are either looking at a mangled shadow, or WORSE, THE WRONG SHADOW! But, remember, it's still just a shadow.

Even the feasts of the Lord, given to Israel, merely pointing to what was then yet to come. They were a prophetic picture, they were a live pre-enactment, if you will, of an event to look forward to. Their meaning was obscured on purpose, by the foreknowledge of God, to be revealed at their proper time, in the person of Jesus Christ.

Format and programming will always be a part of any gathering, simply to accommodate the people. Even Jesus had the people sit in groups of 50's and 100's when He fed them. Perhaps there was some unrecorded wisdom in this instruction. It probably certainly made them easier to count! But the focus was not the meeting arrangements, as they didn't even have the fore-thought to prepare food! Instead, it was on the Bread Himself, the Living Bread which came down from heaven.

Before we do anything in our meeting, let us look for the real Bread, the real Light. Before we even think about any level of structure, let us focus on our foundation, precisely, our corner-stone. Before we write one more prayer manual, let us know our Chief Intercessor.

The shadow will always be a shadow. It cannot touch you, nor feed you, nor give you anything! But, the reality is found in Christ.

When we do not seek out, in Spirit and in Truth, the maker, creator, sustainer, we settle for a shadow... when we rely upon formality and tradition, we nullify the Word of God.

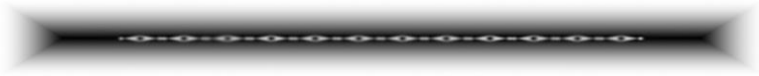
Truth is not in a meeting, if that meeting does not contain Jesus. You can talk all day about the Queen of England, but it is not the same thing as if she walks in the room.

We can look even to the Tabernacle of Moses, and if Jesus isn't there, all you have is nothing.

Truth is a person, and if you do not have HIM, you do not have anything. If you have neither His Presence, nor His Anointing, you have "nothing".

If your eyes are so blind that you can only see what is visible, and ears so deaf that you can only hear what is audible, how great a darkness and deafness it is.

Why should we settle for a shadow, the mere form, when by faith, we have Christ within our midst?



Evil vs. Truth



This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

John 3:19-21

This is the verdict. Light has come. Men didn't want it. They wanted something different.

The difference here is important. Jesus contrasts the two walks. One is those who do evil. The other is those who do Truth.

Truth is different than good. Remember the Garden from Genesis 3. There were two trees. One was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and the other was the tree of life.

There are many people who think that they are doing "good", when in fact what they are doing is really evil. There are many people who don't care, so long as their works aren't analyzed by others.

Yet, Jesus draws the distinction in the two lives as the difference between doing good and doing truth. If we are living according to a standard, before a just judge, we have nothing to fear. We have nothing to hide. We have nothing to be afraid of.

Since Jesus has all authority, we are proved right when we speak, because He vindicates us.

David wrote, in Psalm 119:126, "It is time for you to act, O LORD, your law is being broken." When God's laws are being broken, it is time for Him to act, not us. When we rest in that, when we rest in the fact that God is our all seeing, perfect Father, when we do what is right out of the Spirit of Truth, we are not ashamed of what we have done. If, in the greater light, we see what we have done is wrong, we humble ourselves, repent quickly, and change. Why? Because we made an honest mistake. Even David, conceived in sin as the fourth generation after a harlot, confessed this. He didn't have the blood of Jesus to break generation curses in the Old Covenant, and when one of those demonic hooks came after him, he made a mistake. A big one at that. But, because he operated out of the Spirit of Truth, when it was revealed to him through the help of a prophet named Nathan, he humiliated himself, and cried out to God. Psalm 51 is a part of that cry.

Psalm 51:1-3

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Because David had the Spirit of Truth, He could not hide his sin once it was exposed. As painful and tormenting as it was, he knew he could not hide his sin, hide his guilt, or deny his shame. His only recourse was to go to the one who mattered, to fall upon the one he had trusted in his whole life, and to appeal to his never ending mercy.

Guilt is to sin what pain is to a cut. It cannot be counseled away. If you give pain medication, you only cover up what the body is trying to communicate. If you medicate guilt with psychotropic drugs and pharmaceuticals, you do not solve the problem, you merely stuff cotton into the emotions of the soul.

The only remedy for guilt, shame, and sin is the cross, and if it is not powerful enough to do its work, it is not worth following. Only let us not be found guilty of following after unbelief.

Jesus Himself said, no one is good except God Himself. We cannot be good except by the movement of the Spirit through us. He is the one that is good.

We must live with honesty. Integrity.

It has been said that the biggest need for moving in the Kingdom is transparency. This is the same message as the message of simplicity.

Growing up, I was taught that hypocrisy was to say one thing and do another. As I have learned since then, while that is a part of it, it is more a picture of an actor. One who wears a mask is the more precise definition. While this applies to the first definition, it also applies to one who is one way before men, and another way in private. It is a picture of the person who is one way outwardly, yet inwardly is something else.

When what is on the outside does not match the inside, you have neither integrity nor transparency. When you cannot live out what is on the inside, you either are dishonest, or simply do not have the faith and hence the courage to live out what God has put inside.

If the inner life is whole and sanctified by the Lord, then to live your life out of any other thing will cost you who you are. You will never be satisfied with life.

Perfect self expression of a corrupt heart is absolute perversion. Perfect expression of the saved spirit within a man is the image of Jesus Christ. It is Faith that makes the difference. You are that

person. That is right inside there. Can you separate it from the earthly life? Can you live by the Spirit and so not gratify the desires of the flesh?

But, if we try to be honest. If we try to live out of His heart and mind within us. If we endeavor to live by the Truth revealed in Jesus Christ, we live as free men, and nothing can harm us. We will trample upon snakes, and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Even if the Lord must discipline us as dear children along the way, so that we find His perfect heart in all circumstances, we only follow the Master in learning obedience in the things we suffer.

Yet, this we too take from Him, knowing that it His kindness that leads us to repentance, and will bring us to a greater light and ability to walk in the Truth, the person of Jesus Christ.



Light Has Come



This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

John 3:19-21

This is the verdict of Christianity, of God, and of the cross. This is the judgment. Jesus didn't come into the world to condemn the world, but that through Him, it might be saved. Yet, why didn't people come to Him? By and large, they thought they were righteous, they thought they were the ones who needed to be exalted, they were afraid of losing what they had.

We all come to the world empty. The problem with the religious leaders of Jesus' day was that they couldn't see that it was God right in front of them, in human form.

I have nothing righteous to give. I have nothing worthwhile to offer. In me, that is my flesh, dwells no good thing (Romans 7:18).

The only thing of value is faith expressing itself through love, and the one, the very one thing that an unsaved person CANNOT do is love (1 John 4:7-8). He who abides in love, abides in God.

The world may have a form of something that looks like love, but when push comes to shove, it always fails and show its true color. When you begin to talk about sin, it gets angry and begins to revile. Instead of letting the light come within, penetrate, and reveal, it hides itself. As Isaiah prophesied and Jesus quoted, " Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and return and be healed." (Isaiah 6:10 portion).

Why the verdict? Because light had come. Light came, and revealed, and men loved darkness rather than the light.

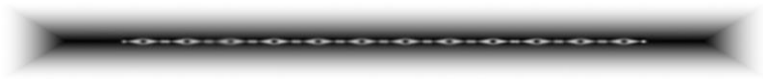
Light is that which reveals. Light makes a thing visible. What in a person's life is not desirable to be seen? What would we rather keep hidden? Would you be comfortable with every motive of every thought being revealed? Why not? Every fear, every selfish motive, every false thing. This is the level of God's perfection. This is the level of God's righteous standard. This is the depth of His gaze. Until we realize that we are responsible for every idle word, we don't even realize what all the blood covers.

When Jesus came, He said He was The Way. Not a way, not part of the way, not showing the way, He was the way. Any other religion that claims to have a "way" is simply a counterfeit, and while it may have a form to attempt to become holy, it will always fall short because on some level, all have sinned, and fallen short of the glory (Romans 3:23). Only the power of the eternal blood of Christ **MAKES** one holy in their innermost being now, instead of always trying to become it on ones own.

When every motive is laid before Him, and all our efforts are made vain, only He can mend the broken, and only He makes crooked ways straight.

When we, by His strength, expose ourselves, and come into the light, we find true fellowship. When we feel isolated, we must consider whether it isn't because on some level, we have chosen to keep something hidden. When we bring our deepest, darkest, shameful events, and fully repent, we are fully free. It is what is the dark that binds us.

Only when we release every wall, only when we let every dark corner go, He comes, and lights us as though the light of a lamp is upon us.



Simplicity



He who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought.

1 Corinthians 8:2 (paraphrase)

The most interesting thing about the gospel is that, you could have all the words right, you could say all the right things, have all the right demeanor and mannerism, you could know when to shout and how to dance, but you could be just as much of a devil as Judas was. That's right. It's what's on the inside that counts.

You don't have what it takes. You never have, and you never will. If you can do it, it isn't God, and it needs to die.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, that when a man found it, he sold all he had, and for joy, went and sold all he had, and bought that field (Matthew 13:44). What have you found in Him lately? What facet are you in possession of?

You can speak as an echo. You can speak what you know, or you can be a voice. You can stand in His counsel, and lift your voice to Heaven, and hear Him speak. When you open your mouth with those words, they will not be empty.

Your words are worthless, and you have nothing to say. You have nothing you can contribute. All you can do is bow to the great Holy Ghost, and say, 'Yes Lord.' Your success in ministry is the degree to which you submit. Your significance in Eternity is determined by your yieldedness.

You can spend your time trying to get anointing, trying to get power, trying to get the things that make men's heads turn, but when you get

what makes Heaven move, all of Earth moves as you will, for He is. There is nothing new under the sun, but there is one greater than the ball of fire in the sky, and it is the man who passed through all fires, and was victorious.

Your life is His. What more do you have to offer? One thing was required, and only one thing, to sit as His feet.

If Jesus didn't utter one word that was His own (John 14:10), why do we think we can do better than His example? If the tongue can set the whole course of a life on fire, why not submit it fully to the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy? (Revelation 19:10).

The Way is not complicated, and there are only three types of soil that stop it. The impenetrable heart, which the devil simply steals the word. The shallow heart, which backs off when things are hard and don't look good. And the unconsecrated heart, which will not give the King His full sway.

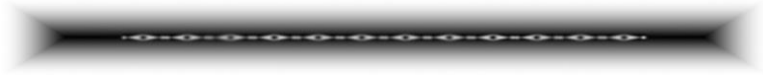
Jesus said, I am from above, you are from beneath. He said you are of this world; I am not of this world (John 8:23). We who believe are born from above, we are born of imperishable seed, His word. It is only the Spirit that gives life.

There is nothing I can give you to bring you to the Kingdom, except to bring you to the Word that gives life. There is no teaching I can give that will produce it, if it is not given from above. Yet, the word spoken, the word received, the word heard, brings faith from on High. Faith, working through a heart in love brings forth His world, and it takes over all it touches.

What began as a flicker, becomes a blazing flame, and what started as a trickle, has become a flood.

The only thing that remains is to see His reign, the only thing that operates there is His glory. It is not in the production of a man, but in a man who has become a vessel in which the Divine may flow.

His blessing, His divinity, partaken of, and out flown, to a world in need. My part is the love, and my portion is His heart. May I know Him forever, and may I cleave to Him always.



How to Teach Faith



What is one of the simplest ways to teach faith? The Beatitudes.

Right here, the Teacher demonstrates one of the simplest ways. As small as it is, it can grow to be the largest of all "garden plants".

Take any dire situation you have as a Christian. Take any lack, or any shortage, any place where your feel worn thin, and pressed hard. Everyone encounters these, and even Jesus said that we would experience storms, even when we were built upon the rock.

Most Happy are those who are poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 5:3

Whatever the situation, whatever the pressure, whatever the lack, take into account the second half of this verse. Yours is the Kingdom of Heaven. This is the real crux of Jesus' statement. The Kingdom is what Jesus came demonstrating. It cannot be seen by a non-believer, nor can it be entered by one. However, when you are at the end of your ability, it is in your possession right then.

We can miss out as believers. We are taught by the world (and unfortunately the church) to see only what is right before our eyes. We miss out on the more subtle leadings of the Spirit. Even as Elijah was met by the Lord by the still small voice, and not the fire, nor the wind, nor the earthquake (1 Kings 19), we often miss the quiet moving of the Spirit. The actual deliverance of

Heaven intervening in our life could be unseen, simply because we are trained to see only the dramatic.

History is replete with instances of dramatic interventions from heaven, such as the Red Sea crossing, the walls of Jericho falling, and fire falling on the altar for Elijah. But, it is also filled with the quiet, and easy to miss miracles, such as a baby kicking in Elizabeth's womb, dreams from God, and even rain when it is needed. Moses also was provided for by God for forty years on the back side of the desert by Jethro, his father-in-law. Joshua received his authority and power through simple laying on of hands. And, Elijah sat by a natural brook as it slowly dried up, as God's provision to keep him alive, as birds brought him food.

If we are trained only to see miracles, which *are* a demonstration of the Kingdom, but only those, we will miss the majority of God's working in our lives. We will not a part of the thousands of other ways that the Kingdom can intersect our lives. If we miss them, we miss that which can be an encouragement, and the quiet ways of God. It is His glory to conceal a matter, and ours to seek it out.

Jesus came and demonstrated the miraculous, and the people saw and marveled. But, when He was in a crowd that wanted to throw him down from a cliff, they probably didn't perceive him pass through their midst, maybe only the disciples did. And, in the garden before the crucifixion, history only records that the angels strengthened Him. It doesn't say how He knew it was the angels. It doesn't record whether they were seen, felt, or simply known.

What is the rest of the Kingdom? What are the deeper things of the Spirit of Christ, in whom are hidden all the mysteries of wisdom and knowledge? We are supposed to know these things, as Paul quoted:

1 Corinthians 2:9 (portion)

THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT
HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF
MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO
LOVE HIM.

Yet, in the next verse, Paul says this is NOT written concerning us, "For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit" (1 Corinthians 2:8 portion).

The miracles, the signs, and the wonders are all a manifestation or demonstration of the Kingdom, but if we are only trained to see that, we will need a miracle in order to believe. What if God simply brought a gentle wind to lift your spirit and your eyes, and bring refreshing by which you could see clear again?

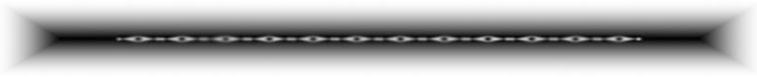
The easiest way to teach faith that I know is this. Take your dire situation, and realize that in your inability, the Kingdom is yours right then. Tie a knot and hang on! God's comin'! Just roll that around in your heart for a while. After a bit, maybe long, maybe short, you'll find your attitude changing. You'll find yourself become happy. Something's fixing to happen. God's going to move. And, it will be bigger than the need, just as when Jesus fed the 5,000, there were twelve baskets left over. So, when you realize that, you're happy. In fact, you're happier than you were than when you weren't pressed thin in the first place. And, the thing that changed is called "Faith"!

Of course, if you put the word down and your attitude begins to change back, and various thoughts come and try to alter that good attitude, you have just as quickly identified another important gospel principle. Whatever made you unhappy is called "Unbelief". As you search it out, you'll find all the doubts and accusations of the enemy and, well, since he's a liar anyway, you simply don't have to listen to it. You simply go right back to the thing that matters, which is that the Kingdom is yours, which brings faith, which brings happiness.

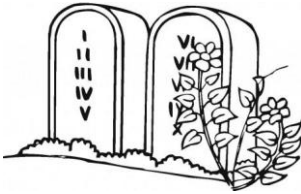
Attitude is Everything! Though you may find yourself praying and contending, so long as your eyes are on the promise, your attitude matches your gaze. It doesn't take any strength to stay on the word, simply don't get off it!

It really doesn't matter how the Kingdom shows up in the natural. When it is yours, the immediate issue gets solved. If it seems that it is taking longer than usual, it usually means that what is coming is

bigger than you're expecting! When it seems like what Heaven could possibly pour out couldn't ever make up for the losses, it is simply because you haven't yet grasped how Good God Is! Even when, by comparing every deliverance from your past, and wondering how God could possibly break through for you today, you only have to think, faith to faith, and glory to glory. These light and momentary trails are not worth comparing with the glory to be revealed. In the end, we don't have a clue how good God actually is! In simply a moment of time, a blink, a flash, a twinkling of an eye, more of Heaven will arrive than you have even framed the capability of in your mind. Yes, it blew your mind last time, and you couldn't possibly think of how it could be any better. But, get your eyes off of the tumult, and get your eyes off of the trials. This thing called Kingdom is coming, and it is yours. And, it doesn't matter at all what you feel!



In the Light of The Finished Work



I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

Jeremiah 31:33

We are under the New Covenant. We are not under the old, and we are not looking for another. Jesus died for us, not only for our actual sins committed, but to remove our sinful nature. As the prophet writes, to remove the heart of stone, and replace it with a heart of flesh.

Given that 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that we are a new creation in Christ, and the other scriptural references that indicate our new spiritual position in Christ right now, we are now faced often with the question of "Why are real, born-again Christians not living according to their new nature?" For surely, when we doubt, get unjustly angry, jealous, and contentious, we are still, as Paul writes, carnal (1 Corinthians 3:3).

It is in the light of the finished work of the cross, the New and Living Covenant in which we are a part, that we must understand the teachings of Jesus. They were spoken by the Spirit, to those who would live by the Spirit. They were not the words of Jesus as such, for they were the words of the Father (John 4:10).

The entirety of the Old Covenant demonstrated irrevocably the inability of ANY fleshly man to live out God's perfect order. While many tried, all sinned, and fell short of His glory.

Instead of the Law, Jesus came to show a righteousness through faith in Himself, by His Spirit.

The goal of both the Jew and the Christian has always been total obedience to the Lord, yet, where the man was unable to live up to the true law because of the flesh, by the Spirit, through faith, we enter into the Kingdom of Righteousness through the new and living way of the blood, into the perfect liberty of the Grace of Christ.

No where does the Sermon on the Mount dictate a new moral code, nor specify precise ways to live. Rather, it speaks to the heart, and further, beyond that, to the Spirit. The man living by the Spirit will live out the Sermon on the Mount perfectly, even when exact "prescription" of a situation is not immediately clear. Similarly, a fundamental deviation from the Sermon on the Mount indicates a place where one is NOT relying on the Spirit.

Understand this. If the law was not sufficient simply to say "Thou shall not commit adultery", then the new commandment is equally as weak, if not more so. "If a man so much as look to lust, he has committed adultery in his heart." If the first was unlivable (on the whole, combined with all the other laws), what we do not have is a set of harder laws in which to force ourselves into. Yet, at the end of it all, we must live by them. This is the paradox of living after the flesh or after the Spirit.

Obviously, understanding the heart of God, the latter command is the full intent and interpretation of the former. To simply live out first, without it affecting the heart, is at the core of the failure of the religious mind to grasp the Truth of the nature of our Father in Heaven. Yet, what Jesus spoke strikes deeper at the essence of the human heart. So long as sin remains, for the law, though fulfilled, remains unchanged and Eternal, even to the slightest jot or tittle, there is more of the Spirit that can be had, more of surrendering to His love.

In the end, in the light of the finished work of the cross, the problem is NOT the sins, it is lack of faith. At the bottom of it all, it is fear. Faith that the Father will supply all your needs, irregardless of anything else. And, when you've crossed over that, and you're no longer clinging even to this early life, not only are you a free man, but you can walk by His Holy Spirit within you, the only TRUE rock within, Immanuel, God with Us.

So long as you look at the Beatitudes as ideals to adopt and the sins listed in Matthew 5-7 as ills to avoid, you have only recreated another type-and-shadow religion, another law, another system you will never live up to.

But, rather, you were co-crucified with Christ on His cross. You were co-buried with Him. You were co-raised with Him. This is what baptism is. Not only that, you were exalted with Him, and you now sit with Him in heavenly places on His throne in heaven, far above all power, authority, dominion, and all other things in this world and the world to come. The verb in Greek is present tense. This is not a future reality for the believer, but must simply be believed by Faith.

You have a new Spirit, and your old life is dead. Put to death, therefore, everything of your earthly nature. Put it to death by the Spirit within you.

When Peter walked on the water, and sank afterwards, Jesus asked him one question: Why did you doubt? There is no recorded answer, but Jesus did the simple thing of looking to see what the doubt was in Peter's mind. When Peter's walk did not line up with the Spirit operating in and around Jesus' life, for the Spirit was only poured out upon Jesus at that point, Jesus confronted Peter's doubt, his unbelief.

Simply to become aware of ones emotions can be a hurdle for some to overcome. Some have learned to ignore certain emotions and only feel others. Still others have simply not developed sufficiently emotionally to distinguish between the many emotions of life. Yet, it is precisely in the emotional realm where we are overcome. A thought gives way to an emotion, which elicits a behavior. This

results in more thoughts and beliefs, yielding emotions, yielding responses. When we are, as Jesus put it, full up with dead men's bones, with bitterness, anger, hatred, worry, and the like, we are not in faith, to say the least!

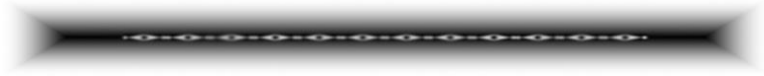
The life lived by the Spirit in the Kingdom yields these responses naturally. As fruit, it simply grows. Yet when we hold onto ourselves, when we are unable to forgive and stay out of offense, not trusting Him to meet our every need, even when others short-change and hurt us, His grace cannot as fully flow through our lives, and we step out of line with His Kingdom.

Although we are covered by His blood, and continually cleansed from our sins, we often miss out on the fullness of what He has because we have not fully yielded our members to Him.

The goal is to get the house built on the rock. If we can do that, we will withstand the storms. Yet, an honest heart who simply reads these commands, and, in his failure, cries out to the Lord desperately, with his whole heart, is heard, and answered by the Lord. If he falls seven times, and gets back up again, he is forgiven. For the one who continues to come to the Lord, knowing he is blind, the Lord grants sight, yet to the one who says he can see, his sin remains.

The goal is absolute obedience, and yet, the goal, on man's end, is impossible. But God, in His mercy, shows us His Spirit, His Kingdom, when we call to Him with our whole heart. He shows us His Kingdom, His Spirit, and He enables us when we continually call out to Him with our whole heart.

In the end, the stable man is the one completely built upon the rock of the Spirit. He withstands the storms, because his entire personality is built upon Christ. Christ within me, I shall not fail. Christ is for me, whom will I fear?



One Thing

One thing I have asked of the LORD, this one thing I seek:

1

That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

that I may gaze upon His beauty,

and inquire of Him in His temple.

Psalm 27:4

The House of the Lord is my home; I have none other.

When the Israelites were allotted fields on their entering into the Promised Land, every tribe was given an inheritance, except for the priests, the Levites. They received houses to live in, but not fields. Their portion was the temple.

Today, we are a Kingdom of Priests to our Lord. We live in a world to which we do not call home, which Paul likens to a crucifixion. We are crucified to the world, and it to us (Galatians 6:14).

We have no part in the world, nor any delight in what it takes delight in.

He who loves the world, and the things of the world does not have the love of the Father in him.

1 John 2:15

Jesus showed us The Way. The point is not to empty your life of everything for the sake of everything, but it is to get as much of the Good Thing as possible.

There is only one thing that is required in this life. All that we strive for, all we look up to, is a passing shadow, and a vaporous bit of dust. If the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love, then what does success in business mean? What does a six or seven figure income really point to? Except, maybe, a drivenness, and a blindness to love, and to the Spirit.

Why is it so hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom? Partly because he spends all his heart energies in amassing wealth, instead of learning love.

Jesus said this:

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21

The whole focus of the Gospels, the point of the parables is simple. If you simply get a hold of Jesus, see Him for who He really is, and in excitement over just the glimpse you have of Him, lose your entire world to find Him, your Father in Heaven will out pour even greater works than Jesus did Himself (John 14:12). What are the obstacles? Well, not understanding in the first place, for one. Not getting past your own hardness of heart for another... And, then what? Letting other things get in the way.... Why not just sell all?

One thing I have desired.... Sounds a lot like, When your eye is single, without folds, your whole body is full of light (Matthew 6:22). Sounds a lot like, He keeps in perfect peace Him whose mind is stayed on Him (Isaiah 26:3). It sounds a lot like a simple little, smaller than all the rest, kind of like a seed, that if you plant it, it grows into the largest of all those other plants.

And what happens? The birds of the air nest in it! These aren't the same as those mean birds that wanted to steal the seed... No, while

there ARE unclean birds, there are also clean birds too. What else, in the heavens, also has wings and feathers? What else would be ministers unto the heirs of salvation? (Hebrews 1:14).

Jesus said this to a man in whom there was no deceit, no falsehood, and without folds: You shall see angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man (John 1:51). Those same angels ascend and descend upon us, when we are in right relationship with God, living in His Presence and His Kingdom, and living a life of prayer and worship daily. They are our inheritance also. They are our covering, and our ministers.

Worship is the intentional giving over of oneself to another. The Hebrew word picture is that of a dog licking his master's feet. Worship and adoration makes no sense to the world, as much as the love of the lover makes no sense except to himself, and his beloved. Though he gave all he had for love, it still has no estimation in his eyes (Song of Songs 8:7).

I'm not so much interested in fighting a battle as I am loving a lover. I fight when its there, to get to the place of His love. When I lose myself in Him, there is nothing left of me. In all the struggles to enter His Kingdom and His Rest, it is in that place of total abandon in which I am totally free.

The world could never recognize this freedom, and this bliss. They see the hardships, the austerities, the lack and the desperation, and they want no part of it. But, what is death in the flesh is absolutely life in the Spirit.

If He's really worth it, why not let it all go? If He's really all that good, why settle for anything less than absolute, total, complete, and Eternal Possession. You are His Possession.

Even Esther, when she went before the King, wore only what the King's servant Hegai suggested, and she won the King's heart. Smart girl. Listen to the King's inside man. If only we would do that, and let Him be our One Thing.



Millennial Reign

Revelation 20:1-3



And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a **thousand years**. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the **thousand years** were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

An angel came down, and bound the devil with a chain for a thousand years. Chained, satan was thrown into the pit, which was then locked and sealed. Afterwards, he must be set free.

An angel did the binding, and the binding was for a specific length of time. It specifically says the devil was bound, but does not mention any other beings, including thrones, dominions, principalities, powers, etc, or, note, any other demons. They may also be bound, but scripture does not say that. Only the 'ring-leader' is indicated. It was the chain that bound him, and the pit that contained him. Again, it is the chain that binds, not the pit. If the it is more than simply the dragon, it would still be the chain that binds the others. The rationale for the liberation is not expressed, other than its requirement "must be".

Revelation 20:4-6

I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who

had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a **thousand years**. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the **thousand years** were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a **thousand years**.

Once satan is bound, those who had been given authority to judge were seen. They may have been there all along, but are now *seen* by the revelator.

The first resurrection is here. Those beheaded for their testimony for Jesus and the word come to life. The only ones explicitly mentioned ruling and reigning with Christ here are those beheaded, apparently those in the time of the beast, for it mentions they had not worshiped the beast nor received his mark, which indicates they could have.

The text explicitly says the rest did not come to life until after the thousand years. Possibly, they did not come alive until after the "short time" too, although this is not specified. It is somewhat plausible, however, since the short time brings forth ALL the dead. But, let the text say what it will say. Blessings of this first resurrection are listed.

Those explicitly listed as reigning during this millennium are those "who had been beheaded", and no one else. It says they came to life. Understanding would seem to indicate that resurrected, they would have glorified bodies. Like Jesus after his resurrection, He was still "man", yet his body was changed. As Paul wrote, that which is sown corruptible, raised incorruptible. It is sown in dishonor, raised in glory. Sown in weakness, raised in power. Sown a natural body, raised a spiritual one (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). The state of a "raised" beheaded person may not be what one would expect. As Jesus' glorified body could appear in a room, we do not know what

the parameters, restrictions, and qualifications of a glorified body are. We do not know what we shall become, but when we see Him, we shall be like Him (1 John 3:2). We know He was not a ghost, and was tangible and could eat, but beyond that, we have little grasp of even what a glorified body is. We are not guaranteed that those who are flesh and blood, still in their natural bodies, would even be directly aware of a ruling group of beheaded believers raised in glorified bodies. They would know, but we, who are so often unaware of the spirit realm to begin with, may or may not. If flesh and blood does not inherit the Kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:50), and those who are not born again cannot see it anyway (John 3:3), with no textual support that all of the powers of darkness are removed, what does this look like?

Revelation 20:7-10

When the **thousand years** are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth Gog and Magog to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

After the thousand years, satan is released again. Again, no explanation of why, other than we know God's perfect justice is involved. Also of note, the demons are still not mentioned. We hear a lot of talk these days about the Gog and Magog invasion, especially out of Ezekiel 38 and Ezekiel 39. But, if Revelation 20:8 is the same Gog/Magog invasion, this is POST MILLENNIAL. If we are talking about Ezekiel 38 and Ezekiel 39 in reference to current events regarding Israel, then either these chapters refer to a different Gog/Magog war, or the Millennium is already occurred, obviously.

Revelation 20:11-15

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

And, finally, the final judgment. Earth and sky fled away from the True God on the great white throne. Final judgment, apparently with the removal of heaven and earth itself, as Revelation 21 speaks of the New Heaven and the New Earth. All the dead were judged, and the book of life was consulted. Death and Hades itself, and all not listed in the book of Life were cast into the lake of fire.

No where does it specifically annotate the millennial reign in detail, nor does it describe what that "short time" of verse 3 is, in which satan is released. No where does it LIMIT the 'reign' of Christ to only the thousand years, or the "short time" afterwards. After the devil is cast "for ever and ever" into the lake of fire, it appears to transition immediately into the New Heaven and New Earth. Most assuredly, as He was given a name above all names and title that can be given both in this age and in the age to come, Eternal Life, He will still be reigning perfectly in that New Heaven and New Earth.

Without a complete study of all possibly related texts, but only on this text, Revelation 20, which is the only text in the Bible to mention the Millennial period, there is no reason to believe that simply because the mastermind of evil, satan himself, is bound for a thousand years, that the period on the Earth will be peace, love, and glory. Many passages, as I understand them, could be as easily interpreted in reference to the New Heaven and New Earth period,

rather than the millennium, while still being a literal thousand years of reigning.

Again, from the text itself, Revelation 20 is the only mention of the millennial reign of Christ. Other passages are attributed to it as well, but it is by interpretation. Clearly, however, the thousand years of reigning could NEVER be construed as the full extend of the Kingdom of the Lord. His Kingdom is Eternal, and will never be done away with. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end. So, however this thousand years of reigning fits in, it is merely one epoch of time within a vast, eternal array. Whether it is the first installment, or sits somewhere within the middle, the focus here is not that this is the thousand years in which Christ will reign, for certainly He was upon the throne when Paul wrote his epistles, because that is where Paul places Him (Ephesians 1:20). Instead, the focus here is on those raised to life in the first resurrection, that this is the thousand years that they specifically and apparently exclusively (compared with the rest who will rise later) will reign WITH Him. He may have been ruling before this, but for this time period, they rule with Him, and possibly afterwards as well.

There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:7

References to David's throne may first have been understood to be his physical seat in Jerusalem, but it is apparent through the words of Isaiah that it must refer ultimately, in the mind of God, to the spiritual throne, the house of the re-born, to the church of Christ. Even as heaven and Earth pass away, but His words never do, the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy of the Kingdom must be the Eternal one in the heavens, and not the temporal one, which will, ultimately, pass away.



The Kingdom of God



[A]s He is, so also are we in this world.

1 John 4:17 (portion)

The Kingdom is like yeast that fills a whole lump. The Kingdom is like a seed, which grows to an entire tree.

No where in scripture is the Kingdom ever depicted as incomplete, nor as coming in multiple installments or dispensations. In fact, from the parables of Jesus, the entirety of the Kingdom is completely contained in its inception, just as with a seed, or with a bit of yeast.

Even an embryo within the womb will produce all the parts necessary: the head, the liver, the eyes, toes, hands, skin, hair, etc. After conception, physically, the mother provides nothing of the material other than nutrition after the baby is implanted in the womb. This is the image of the Kingdom.

His Kingdom is an Everlasting Kingdom, and it only grows (Isaiah 9:7). If in any sense at all the Kingdom was here when Jesus was, and it was, it was here in its entirety, even as the rock of Daniel was a complete rock that grew to a mountain.

The words of Jesus could not be misunderstood: The Kingdom of God is at hand (Matthew 4:17, Matthew 10:7, Mark 1:14). Though the substance of that Kingdom was not what was expected, it is often the case that the heart of God is often different than what man esteems (Romans 3:4). The Kingdom was present then, has not departed, and is now.

But, John the Baptist looked towards what he saw in Jesus and had questions. He sent to Jesus, asking, "Are you the one to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3). Jesus responded about the miracles and the Good News being preached. Yet, what was John's prophecy?

I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Mark 1:8

This was John's expectation of the coming Kingdom. But, in John's day, he never saw it. To tell the truth, in His life before the cross, Jesus didn't fulfill this prophecy, for the coming of the Holy Spirit was tied to His departure (John 16:7).

Even in Luke 19:11-26, Jesus indicated that He had to go away first, before in the Kingdom the Holy Spirit would be released to the people. Just as Jesus gave His authority to the disciples when He sent them out to preach, they were no longer operating in this authority after Jesus was removed. They had operated in Jesus' anointing, and Jesus' power, seeing even the demons be subject to them in His name. But, there is no record of them even trying to move in this power after the cross, before Pentecost.

The Kingdom was not restored to the political state of Israel at that time either (Acts 1:6). But, to His disciples, He said they would be witnesses.

Yet, it was the power over the spirit realm that Jesus declared as one of the distinguishing features of the Kingdom of Heaven (Luke 11:20). Where as, in the Old Testament, there was no casting out of demons with authority, Jesus said that it was proof that the Kingdom has come upon those around.

We live in an interesting time, apparently at the end of the time of the Gentiles (Luke 21:24). In Jesus' ministry, the religious Jews were sharply divided. Half believed in spirits and the resurrection of the dead (Pharisees), while the other half did not (the Sadducees..

Leading to the timeless preacher joke, saying, they didn't believe in spirits or resurrection.. That was why they were "so-sad-you-see"). And, interestingly enough, we are in a time in the Gentile church where, half the body seemingly believes in an realm of spirit in which we operate and interact, and the other half, denying the scriptures themselves, do not believe in the domain of the spirit. We live in a day where even much of the church does not effectively even believe in deliverance.

As has been pointed out, whether a demon is in, near, around, or otherwise is a side-line issue to its removal. Arguing over the former is adopted because actually getting rid of it is forgotten. Deliverance and healing is the children's bread (Matthew 15).

If deliverance was the sure sign, according to Jesus, that the Kingdom had come upon the Pharisees, then surely it must be a part of the church today. If Jesus cast demons out in the synagogue, then surely we must do so in the church today. If casting out a demon and leaving an empty house is a dangerous thing, surely we shouldn't be focusing all of our efforts on deliverance on non-Christians alone. If salvation was enough to displace a demon, then obviously it would have been enough for Jesus to simply say "Believe", rather than "Get out!". If the woman with the Spirit of infirmity already did believe enough to come to Jesus, then it was something else that was sickness that was cast out of her! The same with Peter's mother's fever, and the same with the woman with the issue of blood. In the latter, it was her faith that healed her, but an affliction of body caused by a spirit is cast out by authority, faith, and the power of God. As it was then, if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you. Only if you attempt to deny deliverance in the modern day can you say the Kingdom is not Now, come upon you, and "at Hand".

Miracles, signs, and wonders, while not exclusive to the Kingdom, must somewhere accompany the preaching of the Kingdom. While they are not the direct guarantee of the authentic Kingdom, they should be part (2 Corinthians 12:12, 1 Corinthians 4:20).

What must start small, has grown to fill all in all. Whereas Jesus walked in the Holy Spirit without measure, so does the Father desire us to as well. As Christ is, so are we in this world. Perfect, as He is perfect.

The will of God is that we be built up until we reach the unity of the faith and all attain to the full measure of the stature of Christ (Ephesians 4:13). This is His Kingdom, the new creation reality (2 Corinthians 5:17). There is nothing impossible in God; nothing impossible for him that believes.

As it was in Jesus' day, so it is now. The Kingdom of God is at Hand. Repent, and believe.

Isaiah 61 speaks for the Jesus' mission while He was on the Earth. While the quotation in the New Testament stops in the middle of verse 2, it seems apparent that the entire chapter describes His mission:

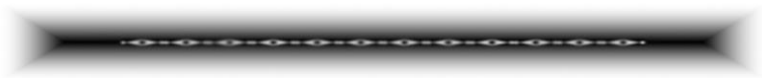
The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. Aliens will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. Instead of their shame my people will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace they will rejoice in their inheritance; and so they will inherit a double portion in their land, and everlasting joy will be theirs. "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity.

In my faithfulness I will reward them and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed."

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.



The Sweetest Thing



His mouth is sweetness itself;

Song 5:16 (portion)

Oh, how I love His Word. His mouth is sweetness itself. There is nothing finer, nothing more pleasant, nothing more desirable, than His mouth. Taste and see that He is good.

If ever there was a question about God's greatness, it is settled in this. You may talk about love, but He is it. You may talk about justice, but He is it. You may talk about joy, but He is the only source. You may talk about peace, but He is its prince. You may talk about patience, but who is more than He? You may talk about kindness, but show me another father willing to send all his prophets, and then, at the last, His son. You may talk about anything that it is to be human, and, you may see someone demonstrate some portion of it, or you may see idealized someone who is famed for it, but Jesus is it all.

Many have various views about what the Kingdom is. But, one thing that must be understood, is that it is His. Hear oh Israel, the Lord, The Lord is One. He is not distinct from His Kingdom. He is not only the beginning and the end, but He is our all in all.

In all of His Power and Majesty, He is the only Good King. In all of His strength, He does not crush the broken.

God doesn't change. A Kingdom that is not near the broken hearted, comforting the afflicted and the downtrodden, so long as they exist, is not His. A Kingdom that does not offer one's first-born to save the lost is not His Kingdom. A Kingdom that does not lose all for love is not His Kingdom.

The leaders of Jesus' day expected a different kind of King. His is also that man with the robe dipped in blood, but it never leaves the realm of perfect justice. Even as the terrible judgments are poured out, in Revelation 16:7, the altar itself approved of God's judgments, saying, "true and righteous are your judgment." While much of the world may cry out about the injustice of the punishments, and hardships, and the tribulation, the official voice, the one whose job it is to ascertain true justice, offers his official, judicial decree. True and Righteous.

For His mouth is sweetness itself and He is altogether lovely. This is my lover; this is my friend.

True and undefiled religion is this, to look after widows and orphans in their time of distress, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world (James 1:27). He spoke the world into existence, and yet speaks to the one in need. He is the friend to the friendless, hope to the hopeless, rest for the restless, and strength for the weak. He fulfills all your dreams, and your desires (Psalm 37:4), and makes the poor to walk on the high places of the Earth (Psalm 113:8).

Sure and upright is the Lord, and altogether wonderful.

When He speaks the earth trembles. At His word the worlds were framed. At His voice time began, and from His lips man breathed his first breath.

He carries me and sustains me upon the apples of His word. He fulfills and satisfies me with the kisses of His Mouth. He charges and commands me, at the lifting of His Voice. And He surrounds and defends me with the fury of His wrath.

He is the voice that I hear, it is the only voice I listen to. His heart changes mine to love, his life makes me whole again.

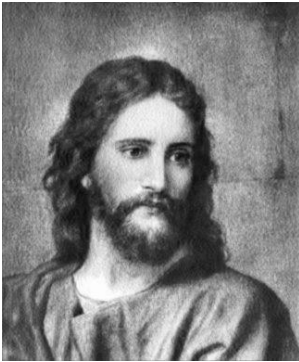
There is no want for those that serve Him. His ways are perfect in the Heavens and all His ways are just.

Before we can understand the universe, before we can preach to the thousands, we must first sit beneath the shade of the fruit tree, and eat of His gift of life.

Surely, His mouth is sweetness itself. There can be none other, ever before, nor after, for His is, and He fills all in all.



Give Yourself to the Master



Give yourself to the Master. Unreservedly. Whole-heartedly. He is a treasure worth buying. He is a pearl worth selling all for.

Absolute bondage to the Spirit is absolute freedom from sin. Self seeking, self promotion, and selfish ambition are slavery, and provide for nothing.

Until you are willing to die, you will never live. Until your life ends, you live, not Him.

Unless you hate your life, you are NOT His disciple. Luke 14:26.

For the Kingdom of Heaven is not a matter of words, but of power. It is not a board meeting, nor is it a gathering. It is a realm of the spirit, and a domain of authority.

One thing remains, and that is faith through love. It is not love alone, for that in itself never moved anything.

When your every whim is made subject to Him, every delight is brought within this man, and every heart cry is answered fully in His heart, you are fully whole. Only He can fill, and He will, for He is able, and has prevailed. His love is enough to keep you; His word is enough to sustain.

For His words are Eternal in the Heavens, and His peace only grows amidst the ages.

For He is the one called Immortal, and His way is in the Heavens.

Give your soul and live. Give your self to be alive. For only He can satisfy, and only His Word is alive.

So, give yourself to the Master, and be Eternally satisfied. Nothing else can keep you. Nothing else can maintain you. Nothing else will remain with you. Nothing else but Him.

One thing remains, and all else will pass. Only what is in Christ has meaning, and all else is filthy rags.

Unless you hate this world, you will always be tempted, but when the prince of air comes calling, may you be found with nothing of him.

There is no fame or title, nor name that can fulfill you, and no other thing with any place. For, they find their way to the fire, and only what survives will remain.

On that day, may you be found with nothing, but the blood, the cross, and the grave.



Don't Miss God's Plan



Don't miss God's plan... It doesn't include you, per say, although it does... You'll be there, when you're in His love, but it'll be His power.

But, a whole nation missed it, because the physician was sent to the sick, and not to the well. Those who said they saw, their sin remained, but to those who cried out in poverty, desperation, and misery, the Son came.

Only the eyes of a child can see it, and only the pure can remain. Only by the blood, and only as a child. Nothing else matters in Eternity, nothing.

Are you standing in His Spirit? Is He your power, alone?

The path of the Spirit is narrow, and demands everything. Even Jesus said to count the cost before you began. It costs everything, every day, for your whole life. But, it is worth EVERYTHING.

Even Moses, sent by God, nearly died along the way. He neglected to circumcise his son, and the angel of the LORD nearly slew him as he approached his God-given mission. It was only his wife that preserved him, and called him her bridegroom of blood.

Even sent on a mission from God, there is a perfect way to go.

The pure, perfect, and humble way, is Jesus. When all is said and done, when we recognize Him as the true tabernacle, there is only one Message of the Kingdom, and it is that of the King Himself.

There are angels, there are trances, there are visitations and habitations. There is joy unspeakable and full of glory, and there is freedom, and liberty, and revelation, and wisdom. And, yet they are all in Christ.

Of all the revelations of the Bible, get this one in this day and hour. There are many things that seem to have a form of wisdom, and a form of spirituality, but if it robs the cross of its power, it is false, and have no part of it.

Only one altar was allowed in Jerusalem, one place of sacrifice, and one place of incense. It was the city God had chosen. The high places had to be torn down, the places of incense and the places unsanctioned by God. In every successive generation of the Kings of Israel and Judah, this was what God continually pointed to as their sin, not turning to the Lord with all of their hearts.

You see, many people have tapped into some form of spirituality. Even Nebuchadnezzar caught something of the spiritual, in a manner of speaking. He said, bow down to this image, or else end up in a fiery hot place called the furnace. Some time later, God the Father says, worship this, the image of the invisible God my Son (Colossians 1:15), or else end up in this fiery hot place called gehenna, hell. Someone with sensitivity can too get caught up in spiritual seeming things, but if it isn't the altar of sacrifice in Jerusalem, it could just be one of those damnable high places that need to be torn down.

Yet Colossians says we are free from the elementary principles of this world. In God's awesome plan, He demonstrated the pattern of Christ through the pattern of the tabernacle.

There is not power in an altar today, and there is not holiness in a man-made building. In the Jews, in the God-made pattern, these were still only a shadow of the real, yet when we build these today,

they are imperfect copies, not of the original, but of the shadow. They are replicas of the shadow, not the person of Christ. Imperfect replicas or counterfeits of a shadow that do not even capture the original shadow will always fall short of the man Jesus. But, the substance is in Christ. The reality is a Person. The Truth is in His Spirit.

The Jews missed the door set before them. They failed to see that in a simple, humble, son of a carpenter, dwelt the Godhead bodily, that it was their very maker. Today, we miss His Kingdom in our midst, because we look too much towards the flesh.

But, Jesus is seated with the Father above, and the reality of everything spiritual is in Him.

If we get caught up in the basic principles that run this world, we have become subject to it, and not to Him, who has transcended and is seated above.

We have one altar, the cross. We have one torn veil, even His Flesh. We have one temple, even His body, and we have one place of worship, His Holy Mountain, His Eternal City, within His Spirit.

What the Jews couldn't see was there in the Spirit before them. The Roman Centurion recognized it, and saw His Authority. Jairus saw it, and knew that despite being a leader, that Jesus was the only way of life for his daughter.

Jesus will not leave us, if we come to Him. But, the spirit of unbelief blinds us to the visible. When all we see is what the arm of the flesh can provide, our hearts are fat, and our eyes are blind. When all we can do is imitate a religious worship, we settle for broken shadows, and dead images. But, when we meet a man, whom they eye of the flesh may not see, and we bow to His Name, we come alive!

There is no life in form, and there is no hope in a shadow. Come to Jesus, and don't miss His Plan.



Focus



There is only one way to walk consistently in the power of God, and that is focus. What a man beholds, he sees that thing, and it is magnified in his imagination.

If a man set gaze upon it, he can possess it, though it is costly.

Consider the following:

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you.

Matthew 7:7

Other versions translate "ask" as, "ask and keep on asking". But the immediate point is the same, it will be given. Consider even Jesus' parable about the friend's house (Luke 11:1-11) or the unjust judge (Luke 18:1-8). It was not the right standing that either of them had that got them what they were looking for, it was simply their relentlessness. Jesus even goes so far in Luke 11 to say that the man would NOT get up because he was his friend, but would answer simply because the man wouldn't stop! He was his friend, but that wasn't the reason for the answer. It was simply the continual knocking. If even a man would do that, then so much more would God! God is NOT an unjust judge as in Luke 18, but IF EVEN an unjust judge would, so much more will the Father when we ask.

We despise in Western culture things that make a scene, things that disrupt, things that cannot be emotionally contained. These actually come to Jesus as faith.

The determination to push through a crowd to touch Him. The tenacity to climb a tree to see Him. The boldness to stand up and respond wisely to being called a dog. The ability to recognize authority, a Roman's own unworthiness, and yet still come because of need.

These go beyond what the mind can control. These go beyond what is possible to drum up in the intellect and the soul. A cry within was stirred, like that of a father named Jairus when he needed his daughter to not die.

When all logic is gone, and everything else that can stand falls, and there is still that cry within that will not let go, you will win if you keep on asking.

When there is a theme in your heart, a passionate cry for something that defies your very spirit, and you are pricked with a passion you CANNOT contain, then you WILL not be stopped until heaven responds, even unto death. This is the focus of the cross, and this is the prayer of focus that heaven always hears, one way or another.

It takes faith to hope beyond all hope, like Abraham did. It takes the substance of the thing on the inside. It takes tenacity to keep pressing in, even when every demonic voice is screaming at your brain telling you to back off. The warfare, the spikes and the needles going through your body, can be very imposing.

Yet, Jesus promises us that He will prevail. He will answer, if only we keep on asking. Ask, and keep on asking, knock and keep on knocking, seek, and keep on seeking, and you will find it.

Many people can run with the footmen on the open plain.. But, if they tire you, how will you ever keep up with the horsemen in the thickets by the Jordan (Jeremiah 12:5)?

But at the end of your strength, you meet his, and at the place of desperation, there is a Kingdom waiting.

Fight until you cannot fight anymore, and then take one more step... What have you got to lose? Every time, Jesus has always come through.

Faith is spelled faithfulness, and Integrity is only based on its first letter. I will bless the Lord at all times. I will praise Him. I will seek Him in His holy dwelling. I will honor Him with my whole heart. Bless the Lord, Oh my Soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name

They overcame by the blood of the lamb, the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives even unto death.

Revelation 12:11

It was all three parts of this verse that they overcame by. If you are living for anything less, you may reach your destination, but your way is not as secure.

We live for nothing but His presence. We hearken to nothing but His Word. He is able to deliver and sustain us, and He is the one that is faithful even unto death. Though we walk through the valley, we will fear no evil, for He *IS* with us.

The walk in the Holy Ghost is a steady, continual growth of trust, love, and consistent faithfulness.

Psalms 116 says that precious in His sight is the death of His saints. Until America loses the "Your best life now" notion in the church, and adopts the "Only His life now" attitude, I can see little progress against the darkness. Gains will be made, and more prayer movements are better, but it is when men and women begin to once again count the full cost of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and pay it, that we will see America turn back to God. Not before.

And the lie that comes against this is straight from hell's original playbook: "But God wants better for you" or worse "But God's keeping you from the best part" (see Genesis 3).

Jesus said that the Kingdom of Heaven was like a treasure hidden in a field, that when a man found it, he hid it again, and FOR JOY, went, sold all he had, and bought that field (Matthew 13:44).

Or, perhaps look at this concept in the light of another parable of Jesus...

But He said to him, A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, "Come; for everything is ready now." But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, "I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused." Another one said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused." Another one said, "I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come." And the slave came *back* and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, "Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame." And the slave said, "Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room." And the master said to the slave, "Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel *them* to come in, so that my house may be filled. "For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner."

Luke 14:16-24

The various excuses included "I've just bought land", "I've just bought oxen", and "I've just gotten married".

Now compare this with another passage from the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 20:5-9, in the instructions on going to war.

The Gospel of the Kingdom

The officers shall say to the army: "Has anyone built a new house and not dedicated it? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else may dedicate it. Has anyone planted a vineyard and not begun to enjoy it? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else enjoy it. Has anyone become pledged to a woman and not married her? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else marry her." Then the officers shall add, "Is any man afraid or fainthearted? Let him go home so that his brothers will not become disheartened too." When the officers have finished speaking to the army, they shall appoint commanders over it.

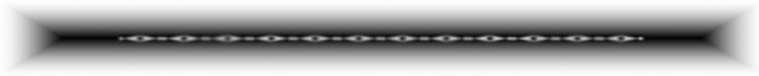
Deuteronomy 20:5-9

The loving-kindness of God is demonstrated wonderfully here in Israel's instructions for times of war. God cared if someone had just bought land, and wouldn't be able to use it. Or just got married, and wouldn't be able to enjoy life with his wife. But, the Kingdom is something different. It supersedes all other realities. It is better than any other thing of any human origin, anything of the Earthly life, and transcends it. In this saying, Jesus confirms what He spoke concerning John the Baptist, saying he was the greatest ever born of a woman, but the least in the Kingdom was greater than him. John turned an entire nation back to God in repentance single-handedly, yet in the Kingdom, even the least in the Kingdom, even those sin and teach others to sin but are still in the Kingdom and who proudly promote themselves, they are greater than John the Baptist.

I admire John in his position as the one to introduce Messiah, and his austerities, yet what he did does not even constitute the floor of where I desire to go in the Spirit. For, Jesus is my chief cornerstone, and John was not worthy to untie His sandal. And, while I am not, in myself, worth either, I chose to believe the report of the Lord, and trust His word that says He has qualified me and made clean.

My vision is Jesus, His Kingdom, and not another. My pathway is His blood, and His Word. My life is His life, and cannot be altered. His judgment is sure, and in this I am secured.

His love is my sure portion, and His faithfulness is my shield. I shall not be moved, nor shaken, nor hindered. For surely, nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few (1 Samuel 14:6).



We Testify to What We Have Seen



I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.

John 3:11

One of the tenets of the Gospel is faith. This can mean many things to some people, but a Bible definition goes something like this: Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1). While many people claim to have a "faith", their claims prove to be nothing at all. They are houses built upon sand (or worse), and they have no ability to stand up for the Truth.

Faith is **NOT** a set of doctrinal agreements. Faith is *MORE* than mental assent. Bible faith is an assurance stemming from a connection with a very real spiritual thing. Faith possesses something, and a faith that has no foundation is nothing at all. It is, by definition *NOT* faith, for it is neither the substance, nor the proof of something false. It is, in fact, a lie.

Faith stands sure in the storms, and faith sees what cannot be seen.

When Jesus walked the Earth during and before His ministry, He lived completely as a man, even though He had all his godhead available, should He call. Like a Royal Prince in disguise in a common marketplace, all he ever had to do was throw off the

common robe (the flesh), flash the signet ring of the King (the power, authority, glory of God the Father), and everyone would have backed off. In fact, it was the spirit realm, the demonic powers, that still recognized Him while He walked amidst those whom He himself created.

As He ministered, this was His statement, as a man fully anointed by the Holy Spirit, subject to our weaknesses and frailties: we testify to what we have seen. Just like when the woman touched Him on the hem of the garment, he indicated that he FELT the virtue, the strength and the power of God, going out of Him.

There is always an element of walking by faith in the Kingdom, but as Proverbs says, [T]he path of the righteous is like the dawn, it gets brighter and brighter until it reaches midday (Proverbs 4:18). That which we grasped at in faith yesterday, and have seen manifested into the earth, so that our hope is no longer hope and our faith is no longer faith, we see with our eyes.

Jesus understood that His claims challenged the established order, but He came with a demonstration that was out of this world. He testified to what He saw with His eyes, and spoke of what He knew.

What He came and preached, the Father's message, was proven and seen.

What people mock today is what they have not seen. What people disbelieve is what they have not yet experienced themselves. Yet, the path of the righteous is characterized, by Proverbs, as a continual unveiling, a brightening, of what has only been dimly exposed before. Greater and greater clarity, nuance, color, definition, should all come as we progress in the Lord.

Even to the disciples, Jesus deferred some teachings to the Holy Spirit who was to come, saying, I have much to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But, He would guide them into all truth.

Jesus demonstrated a greater wisdom than even that of Solomon, and as He walked with God, He grew in favor with men and with God.

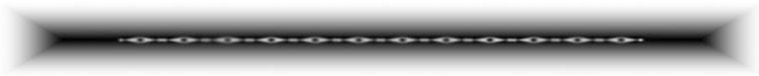
There is more to this walk in Christ, not in foundation, but in experience, than we know at the outset. There is more to discernment, more to the anointing, more to faith, than we understood at the beginning. If we are afraid of stepping out into a place where we feel like a novice again, it is most likely simply our pride, afraid to look foolish, for as God says, as far as the heavens are above the Earth, so are my ways above yours.

Jesus testified to what he had seen and heard and what He knew, and so when He spoke, it was more than just words in a book. How can we be certain? When we have the Faith of the Bible, the living, active word of God (Hebrew 4:12) so works in us, is so alive to us, that though we do not see as the world sees, we see clearly, we testify surely, and stand up with all confidence, because our house is firmly built upon a rock.

From this sure place, we can speak to a muslim and say, your god is false, and you're bound for hell (Mark 16:16). Repent, and believe the one true God. Why? Because we speak of what we know, and testify to what we have seen. We do not write to the wind, nor are we led by our eye. We serve an Eternal Kingdom, not seen with our natural eye, but known perhaps better than we know this world. Revealed in His Word, and revealed to our heart as a sure reality.

What is this truth? It is simply the word of God, saying, For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes on Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 has become synonymous with many gospel presentations today, and rightly so, and yet, if we would simply learn this one verse, in greater and greater measures, the nation would turn. There is no room for bhudda, when Jesus gave His life. Either Jesus was God's son, given for our salvation, or He wasn't, and if there was an easier way, surely, the most lovingest Father of all creation would have done that first. Either Jesus is worth selling all for, as God gave all He had for us, or you make God out to be a liar. Either His love is as real as the love you may or may not feel from a spouse or other loved one, or this is a sham.

It is NOT about feeling, it is about Faith, but if your Faith never translates into the possession of the genuine article... Let me put it this way... You're settling for bread-crumbs when you could be eating at the Lord's table. Press on, and lay hold of the master. Lay Hold of His promise. Lay Hold of His Kingdom.



Hate



If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters yes, even his own life he cannot be my disciple

Luke 14:26

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Heaven and Earth will pass away before any one of His words passes away. Many people would like to interpret this passage into obscurity, equating it with similar, albeit, related scriptures, such as this one.

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 10:37-39

The problem with taking this approach, is that it denies the first scripture. These verses are quite assuredly saying much the same thing, yet Jesus explicitly uses the word hate, and therefore, despite much of the church world today not liking this, and shying away from this word, it is absolutely correct to use it, in the correct context, simply because Jesus did. It is the Father's word.

These two verses do mean very similar, and related things, but are different. The first does indicate loving and preferring someone more than Jesus. Jesus is first, always. We seek first the Kingdom of God

and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). But, the other verse, although enigmatic to some, means exactly what it says, from the right perspective.

Consider this passage:

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Mark 8:35

Jesus is speaking of two different "lives" here, using the same word. While this may seem confusing at first, it is quite simple. For many, their "life" here on earth, and everything they love, stands directly in the way of them coming to the Lord, and producing a 100-fold return (our goal). The parts of our earthly life, our old nature, that we want to save, will cause us to lose that in our heavenly life. Whereas, when we lose our life for Him and His Gospel, we save our life eternally.

Really, the "hatred" from Luke 14 is no different. If we really believed Mark 8:35, we would hate everything to do with our earthly life. As Paul exhorts, "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry." (Colossians 3:5). When we hate that which pertains to our earthly nature, we want to kill it. When we want to cling to it, preserve it, and live in it, we lose our heavenly life.

As Jesus said in another place,

No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Luke 16:13

The truth comes down to this point. You WILL either hate one and love the other. You WILL either live by the Spirit, or live by the flesh. You CANNOT serve two masters.

Jesus said, "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:30). He said that, when properly followed and believed in, is actually not burdensome to the soul, is not a heavy load to bear. To live fully yoked to the Spirit of Life, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Holiness, is actually a light and easy yoke to live, day by day.

Yet, as many things in our modern church vernacular, we have somehow lost the vocabulary of hate. Christianity is made out to be a religion only of love. But, we must not forget that we will only serve one master. We must not forget that we will each be rewarded for our deeds and our words. We must not forget that we serve a just judge, who will serve everyone justly for what they have done.

Jesus said, unless we HATE those near us, unless we HATE our own life, we cannot be His disciple. There is a part of you that you are commanded to hate. Your earthly, fallen nature. There is a part of others that you are commanded to hate. Their earthly, fallen nature.

You do not get along with sin. You cannot fellowship with the spirit of Belial (2 Corinthians 6:15). You do not "get along" with a devil, ever.

As Paul writes in Romans, it is not I that sin, it is sin in me. The point is not to hate people. People regenerated by the Holy Spirit, though they still make mistakes, are loved by the Father. But, to sow to the flesh is to reap corruption. To fellowship with bad company corrupts good character. There is a way to hate the fallen part of an unsaved person, or a brother in struggle, and yet love what God loves of them. In fact, this is not only the only way to be Jesus' disciple, and it is actually the MOST loving in the total sum of things.

Even take Jesus as He talked His disciples and asked them who they thought He was. Peter responded He was the Christ. But, right after that, Peter tried talking Jesus out of going to the cross. Whether He

was addressing an evil spirit or Peter himself with His next words, Jesus had no problem with saying to the one talking, "Get thee behind me Satan! For you do not have in mind the things of God, but of men." (Mark 8:33). Jesus didn't really mind the offence that might have created then, or in John 6, when many walked away because His teaching was "too hard".

Jesus wasn't after their intellect, He was after their hearts and spirits. He wasn't after the parts of them that could "understand", so much as he was after the parts within that would "know". To know the unknowable, because it is given of them by God. To respond to a call, because they did not choose Him, but He chose them. To come to the Father, because and only because the Father has drawn them.

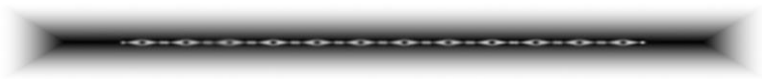
Unless you HATE your father, mother, bothers, sisters, wife, husband, children, and even your own life, you cannot be His disciple. Until you differentiate between the soulish, earthly, carnal part of a person, and that of yourself, and hate that, and see the spirit and God's plan, you cannot be His disciple. This was true at salvation, when the cry was to "repent", to hate those things you formerly did, and it is true at every step along to road to Calvary. Unless you hate what you have, you will unconsciously hold onto some part of it at some time. Until you absolutely hate everything this world can offer, agreeing with what Paul's claim that the world was crucified to him, you are not completely free.

So, what will you have left if you absolutely crucify everything in this life? Well, Jesus answered that too.. "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:18). By His Holy Spirit, dwelling in us, He is our portion in this life, as well as the next

What else would these words mean but this:

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Matthew 13:44



Fullness

Matthew 13:24-30



Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, "Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?" And he said to them, "An enemy has done this!" The slaves said to him, "Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?" But he said, "No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them." Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.

We are not in the barn yet, that one thing is for sure. So, the wheat and the tares stand side-by-side.

Freedom is the mark of the Gospel. It is one of the unmistakable marks of humanity. It so threatens the enemy because it is so recognizable when it is real.

There are really only a few options when it comes to anything resembling freedom. For example, you could say any one of the following..

1. You could, of course, just simply be bound and not know it and not try to escape. This becomes obvious pretty quickly.
2. You could say that you no longer have any standard of right and wrong, for whatever reason. This is lawlessness, the yeast of Herod.
3. You could put on a front, and pretend you are more righteous than you are. You may even be able to pull this off to some degree, but it will, invariably, eventually come out, as either anger, reviling, adultery, murder, or something else. This is one of the underlying premises of the Sermon on the Mount. If you're living out of your self, that is the sandy, earthly "adamic" nature, you will get knocked over when a storm comes, and it will be messy. This is the state of hypocrisy, the yeast of the Pharisees, which some interpret as legalism. I disagree with this interpretation, but, thankfully, Jesus said it was hypocrisy, so, if by interpretation it is legalism, it is primarily correct to call it hypocrisy.
4. Finally, you could actually BE free, which is ONLY to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The interesting thing about this is, the only true way to have lasting joy, even in the storms, is Jesus. The human nature, fallen as it is, has proven, time and again throughout history, that it will not stand up and be truly free, and have joy.

What does this mean? That all have sinned, and fallen short of the Glory of God (Romans 3:23). If you tried to live out the Sermon on the Mount *in your own strength*, you would invariably fail, and prove yourself a sinner. This, is the long and short of it, and demonstrates our condition as no other sermon in all of history quite has.

Many people leave it here, however. They agree that, since the words seem even harder than the impossible-to-fulfill law, that we

are not meant to live these words either! Nothing, however, could be further from the Truth!

Rather, the very fact that we cannot should drive us to repentance, which will lead us to faith. In the place of faith, we will meet with God. We will not need someone to teach us, saying, "Know Ye the Lord", but, rather, each of us will know Him.

We do not need to back up, or dwell in shame or self-condemnation. The Word simply says, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. As new layers of self, and self-reliance, and other things are revealed, we need only to look to the cross. It was enough for our conversion, it is enough for every step of the way. What He carried to Calvary, carries us to glory.

There are many false kinds of freedom, but it is ONLY the freedom from having your sins forgiven that lets you laugh again. It is only being made white as snow, and having your old, bent, fallen human nature not restored, but completely destroyed, and replaced with another.

It says in the parable of the weeds and the wheat in one version, that when the head appeared, then the servants recognized that there were weeds among the wheat. It wasn't until the saints lifted their heads, that they could see the false imposters growing amongst them.

By this they will know that we are His disciples, that we love one another. You cannot love without Christ, and you will not have true joy without knowing His sweet, sweet salvation. He restores my soul.

The Vortex



A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.

Luke 6:40

In this life of hungering and thirsting for the Lord, when will it ever be enough? Jesus answers this clear enough:

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. **It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher**, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebub, how much more *will they malign* the members of his household!

Matthew 10:24-25

It is enough to be like him. For the slave to be like the master.

The Kingdom of God is at hand. If it was 2000 years ago, and the Kingdom had come upon those witnessing Jesus, it is here now, only more (Isaiah 9:7).

Jesus welcomed the people, and taught them of the Kingdom (Luke 9:11). He gave instructions on how to live in the new Kingdom He had brought. He instructed on the door, the worth, the cost, the dynamics. He demonstrated its power. He warned of living any other way.

Jesus' gospel was the Gospel of the Kingdom, of which He is the only entrance.

I have no interest in an attitude of perfectionism. Even Paul wrote saying he thought he had not yet attained to all that he could, but he pressed on (Philippians 3:12). But, whatever the goal of "perfection" is, we do not even see the real "perfect" yet, for no one is good except for God Himself. What we imagine as perfect is in itself so imperfect, that it is laughable. It may actually turn out that we are called to is yet still something higher than what we even yet imagine!

Yet, the way forward is not performance, it is through submission. It is found in worship and hunger. No man has ever perfected himself, but what IS impossible with man, is possible with God.

John wrote in 1 John 4:18 that he who fears is not yet made perfect in love. If we try to be good, we fail, yet if we do truth (John 3:21), we come into the light. When we do truth, we expose ourselves, and our motives, because we have nothing to hide. And, in repentance, in humility, in simple, trusting faith in the Lord, He sets us free.

The light come in. Our countenance changes.

Suppose we want to change our behavior in a certain area. Perhaps we could apply a little effort, and see ourselves change. But, for anyone who has ever attempted to live right, to make the right choices all the time, it is usually recognized before too long that things don't always respond immediately the way you want.

As any attempt at discipleship demonstrates, positive change can be a lengthy process of development and re-training. Yet, whatever the length of time required, Jesus trained his apostles in three and a half years to a level a self-sustaining maturity. And, that was before any of them had the Holy Ghost living within them.

But real change comes from within. Out of the heart, the mouth speaks; it is the wellspring of life. Jesus said that it was out of the heart that comes evil thoughts, adulteries, thefts, murders, and every evil. In the days of Noah, God sent the flood because every thought and intent of man was continually towards evil all the time.

Real change comes as we are changed by Him. When we make ourselves vulnerable to Him. When we let Him cleanse and purify us with His holy fire, His Word, His Presence, and His Spirit, we are changed. His life comes through, and manifests in us.

If we attempt to change ourselves (outside of refraining from blatant, obvious sin, as much as possible), we are not truly living out of the depths of Christ. He may use some of it, yet, if the motive at the heart-level is based out of fear, rather than love, we have accomplished no lasting change. The effort of the Christian should be light and easy (Matthew 11:30). When we learn to expose ourselves, reveal ourselves, "tell on" ourselves, and humiliate ourselves before God, He lifts us up, even before men.

If you are filled with light, with no dark corners, your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light (Luke 11:36). This is the simple answer. Where is there still darkness within you?

The saddest part of this, today, is there are few ministers that are willing to sell it all. Jesus was the light while He was here in the days of His flesh. He was the perfect man, with no darkness. Simply to be in His Presence, if you were willing, your would have been convicted of your sins. When He was around demons, they reacted--violently! Where there has been little gospel light, it is up to the individual to seek God continually to find out what actually IS pleasing to the Lord (Ephesians 5:10).

If we want change, the problem is the darkness. It is the fears, the closed places, the places where God is not fully inhabiting with His brightness.

The life of David demonstrates this. He loved God, and yet, for a short period, he lost his mind. He saw a naked woman, sent for her, committed adultery with her, got her pregnant, and had the husband set up to get killed in battle on purpose. Whether you draw the knife yourself or not, or simply intend on it happening through the hand of someone else, you are still guilty. And, after all this, David still managed to remain functioning. Nathan the prophet had to come

with a story to get the king to convict himself (2 Samuel 12). "You are the man!" Nathan exclaimed after David condemned the man. He couldn't see his own sin until he saw it from a different perspective, in the language of his own heart.

David indicts his own iniquity (Psalm 51:5), and says it was in sin that he was conceived (he was the fourth generation from Rahab the harlot, and the third generation from Ruth, the Moabitess). In his soul was a corner of darkness that until then he had not discovered. It most likely had appeared many other times in lesser forms that were "controllable", but one day, when he saw a Bathsheba bathing, something clicked, and something "else" took over.

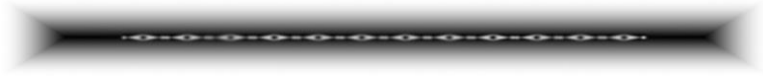
But, in Jesus, as we stay in his light, and come further and further into His Gospel, the darkness can no longer stay. Even though we may make mistakes, the light continually exposes us, and, if we let it, cleanses us from the inside. We are changed, because He changes us. We are free, because He makes known to us His truth.

When we have died to this world, when we have loved Truth with all our hearts and souls, when we have let Him come in and give us His heart, our every delight and motivation becomes rooted in Him. Our entire identity and personality becomes centered upon the one thing that matters, His heart, and we live with every thought and desire satisfied in His love and presence.

When we allow the light to come in, we see that the reason for our struggle is our self and our own desires. We cannot live without desires, and simply shut them off, for that would destroy our very self. But, to be satisfied on the divine satisfaction, to be consoled only with the heavenly consolation, and comforted only by the holy comforter, means we live a life without fear. We live in the center of the light it only gets brighter, as it is written:

With you is the fountain of life; In your light, we see light.

Psalm 36:9



No Shovel?

Many in the church would like to go deeper, they honestly would. Despite modern church culture being filled with the seeds of the



devil with false wisdom such as "Don't be so heavenly minded you're no earthly good", or "God doesn't want us to be perfect", or, even the more scripturally documented lies such as "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord, and He is pleased with them." and "God isn't going to judge." (Malachi 2:17), despite these, many people would actually

like to get free from the sin in their lives. Some people are actually still grieved by the sin that they cannot seem to get free from.

Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life.

Proverbs 4:23

Proverbs denotes that it is out of the heart that all life comes. Jesus reaffirms this, saying...

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.

Mark 7:21-23

Jeremiah also convicts mankind at the root of the problem.

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:9

The first thing is to not give up. The righteous man, though he falls, gets up again, and keeps going. The second is to approach the root of the problem, and not just its fruit.

He who sins is a slave to sin.

John 8:34 (portion)

Unless we approach the root of the problem, our own heart, we will never be free.

The Gospel of the Kingdom shows us the life of faith. It shows us where we step out of that. But, when we are faced with our own anger, with our own judgment, and our own inconsistency, where do we go from there? We know that Jesus is the only solution, but exactly how to apply the remedy sometimes seems to escape us.

When Jesus was present, and the disciples were arguing over who was the greatest, He was the light to tell them that the greatest was the servant of all. When they were rejoicing over the miracles and demons being subject to them in His name, He was the light to tell them NOT to rejoice over that, but to look at something Eternal. He told them to look at the fact that their names were written in heaven. When the disciples were looking to fall asleep after dinner, He was the light to warn them to pray, lest they fall into temptation.

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Psalms 119:130

It is His word that brings light. As Proverbs 25:11 says, a word in season is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

What must acquire then appears to be more shovels, or at the least the faith to use them. When Peter walked on the water, and subsequently sank, Jesus' question was, "Why did you doubt?". The question probed into the core of Peter. He probably could have recited a thousand other storms he had seen in his life as a fisherman. He probably could have listed hundreds of stories from his lifetime of people seriously hurt or killed in seas like those that night. His mind could have gone on a thousand different tangents, perhaps, yet whatever tangent it was, when he saw the waves and the foam, He go distracted from the Master.

The ironic aspect of the fear of Peter was that what he feared immediately came upon him. He was afraid he would drown, and immediately began to do so. Better for Peter, from the position of an observer, mind you, as I am now, for Peter to have feared he might begin to walk on the air above the water. Better to fear the water would cease to exist because it was in violation of the Kingdom, which had chosen him to be a witness to the nations. Better to have been willing to lose his life. Who knows if this very seed in his heart was the same self-preservation that came on the eve of the crucifixion after the rooster.

Jesus offered Peter a shovel... He asked him why he doubted. The doubt, the fear, were obvious, the question is why he did.

Emotions follow beliefs. If you don't believe you're about to die, you're not afraid of death. If you don't have an inner desire to be better than someone, you don't argue about it. If you don't have a reason to be afraid, you aren't.

The path up, is the path in. The way forward is the way down. The church today stands before the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, offering to us the opportunity to hear His words, and obey them. That man will be like the man who **DUG DEEP** and build his house upon the rock.

If you simply know that the problem lies in the heart, but do not know how to get there, at least follow the advice of Jeremiah five verses after declaring the heart wicked, where he cries out, "Heal me

and I shall be healed!" (Jeremiah 17:14). "Jesus, Help!" is one of the most profound prayers available.

Yet, in His answer, let His light come into the depths. Let Him ask those questions, "Why did you doubt?" "Why are you afraid?" "What do you believe?" Perhaps we are afraid of losing? Let yourself die. Perhaps you are afraid you are missing out? So did Eve. God is the best, and all His commands lead to life. Perhaps you are afraid you will be left wanting? He shall supply all your needs, according to His riches. You may not be "first", but many who are first shall be last, and the last first, in His Kingdom.

Certain inner healing ministries are learning this. When faced with sufficient pain, pressure, anxiety, and stress such that a person cannot function normally in society, people usually seek help, if they don't have too much pride. The more honest, and scripturally integretous ministries usually point back to a person's own belief and choice as the root of most ills, but when it comes to ministry, the anointing, platforms, and microphones, do people forget that it is out of the heart that a man speaks, and a man is defiled?

Or in a job, struggling to keep one's temper, or to be gracious even to an ungracious slave-master, do we forget that our own inability to function in the peace of Christ is an indication of our own heart's inner chambers?

The questions are the same, and the answers are merely the scriptures. You will not live this fruitfully with a love of this world and it's pleasures. Yet, in light of the Good News, what you gain, in this life and in the age to come, is one-hundred times as much, if not more, albeit with persecutions.

Prayer is a bore until you find His Presence, and then you can't live without it. Worship is only a drill until you get captured by love. When you're in His presence, you don't need anyone to explain, and when you're caught up in His glory, there is no one else there.

Yet, it is the place of the shovel, the place of the digging into the chambers of the heart, through the hurt, pain, and memories if need

be, into absolute trust and reliance, that the disciple is truly built. Without it, there can be no progress. Even if all that on the outside appears good for a time, it will reproduce after its own kind, and when the wheat bears its head, the tares will become obvious.

The work of the follower is the heart, and those that facilitate this must never be afraid to both point to it, and offer people more tools to dig deeper into what is there. Whether it be a shovel or a backhoe, until it is only the Spirit of Christ that we function out of, even "good" might not be "truth", as far as John 3:19-21 is concerned. If the light within us is really darkness, how great that darkness is, for how many in the name of "good" have denied Truth, and led many down the wrong road?

If the inside of the cup is washed, the outside of the cup is clean as well (Matthew 23:26). If the blood cleanses our heart, and removes sin in every part, our every behavior is changed, and we are made whole again.

We don't have to live a life of bitterness, anger, strife, anxiety, or the like. But, we must be willing to recognize and acknowledge, in deeper and deeper ways, what is going on in our heart. What are our emotions? What are we feeling? Are we afraid on some level? Why are we feeling this way? Why do we doubt? Why are we afraid? Why are we angry?

This last question is the question God asked Cain after his sacrifice was rejected and Abel's was accepted in Genesis 4:6. It is also the question He asked Jonah in Jonah 4:4-9.

Jesus' question to Peter was equally as hard. Three times, Jesus asked Peter, "Peter, do you love me?" The third time, Peter was grieved because it was the third time, and said, "You know that I love you." And, Jesus responded, "Feed my sheep."

Love is as strong as death, and perfect love overcomes the fear of death, for perfect love casts out all fear.

Jesus was the light of the world, for He knew perfectly where He came from, and where He was going. He was fully lit, because He had no dark corners, as He said before the crucifixion, the prince of this world comes, and he has nothing in me. He could see with perfect insight, because He didn't have anything in his eye, and hence, His vision was single, focused, pure, and whole. He could be a light to the blind, his heart was pure, and He saw God.

As we submit, and let Him reveal our own hearts, more and more light comes in, for God himself is the Father of lights and His ministers angels of light (2 Corinthians 11:14 says satan *disguises* himself as one, not that he is one, even as satan's ministers disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness, not that they really are). The weight actually comes off, to stand wherever God would have us. We can be before Kings or crickets, because both the pressure of performance and the fear of failure mean nothing when we are no longer afraid, and only have Eternity to gain. In Jesus, the reward for obeying is better than the striving of sacrifice.

We can offer people shovels to help them dig through their own heart down to bedrock, especially if we let Him do it in our hearts as well, first. We can be the first to come to that place where we let 1 Peter 1:22 be said of us, that our souls have truly been purified by obeying the truth to the point where we can have warm, real love for our brothers. We can let that love of God govern, and control us.

Some people are afraid of the brightness of the shining, and many might be ashamed if they saw the depths of their own darkness. But, Jesus promised that those who follow Him will NOT walk in darkness, but will have the light of life (John 8:12). Those with a true, honest, and sincere heart shall bring forth the true fruit of the gospel, some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundred fold.

Faith is not Seen

One word from God's lips is worth more than a thousand others.

The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul. The testimony of the Lord is sure, enlightening the eyes.



The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea than much fine gold. Sweeter also than honey in the honey-comb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned. In keeping them, there is great reward.

Psalm 19:7-11

Jesus was the master, and He taught us how to live. He taught us to separate ourselves from all uncleanness and worldliness (James 1:27), and to live for the Kingdom (Matthew 6:33).

In Matthew 13:44, Jesus describes the Kingdom of Heaven as a treasure hidden in a field. He says that is for joy that the man who found it, hid it again, sold all he had, and bought that field.

For sure, this is what Jesus did in coming to the Earth. He saw the field of the world, the treasure of his bride, and paid the full ransom

price for us by His own blood. He did this in faith about what He saw, "for the joy set before Him."

Yet, if this parable were limited in scope to this, it would have very little application to us today, other than yet another homiletic and devotional for Jesus to talk about His own work.

Rather, this parable describes the operation of the Kingdom, and is instructional to us as well as portraying Jesus' choices. Its most perfect, bold example **IS** the cross, but it is not limited to that. Instead, it describes EVERY walk of faith.

You see, when one receives a *Word of the Kingdom* (Matthew 13:19), those words that are Spirit and Life (John 6:33), whenever heaven reveals anything to you, you have a choice about whether to make that word yours by mixing it with faith. You can receive all the promises you want, and you may or may not receive them, but if you mix them with Faith, they are yours, for that is God's requirement.

Every word of God is pure, tested, and sure. You only need one word from God to go all the way around the World.

It is based on the revelation, finding the treasure. You may be able to have faith for something someone else might not, because it has been revealed to you. You cannot have faith to buy the field another man bought, because, even if you did, you wouldn't know about the treasure.

You must sell all, because the natural senses, the natural mind and intellect, work against faith. For the flesh wars against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so you cannot do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law (Galatians 5:16-18).

But, it is always in joy that you sell, if you see it correctly. The loss is not worth being compared with the gain. If you have correctly discerned a word of the Lord, which you can do simply by examining it, and looking at it in the light. What you gain, far outweighs any loss.

Faith is the substance of the thing hoped for.

When you have a word from the Lord, you can step out into it. You can eat it. When you have the word of the Lord, you can trust it. When you have the Word of the Lord, it is as sure as God Himself.

If you really learn faith, you cannot have true faith in a false word, for there is no substance. You cannot stand on something that has no reality, you will have no solidity to your faith, it will be a grasping in the wind. The way of the demon is to create fear and panic, and to keep the mind trapped in the natural. But the way of faith sees above the principles of the world, above even all cosmic powers that run the universe, good or bad, and see the domain of God.

Faith, although not seen with the natural eyes, sees with the eyes of the heart (Ephesians 1:18), into the domain of Heaven, of God, and what is needed from Heaven appears.

Take for example, a passage from the Old Testament. God doesn't change, and He used the principle of Faith of Jesus even before He came. In 2 Kings 3, when the army ran out of water, Elisha had them dig ditches in the valley. Why ditches? Because, as those ditches filled up with water supernaturally over night, the enemy army saw them, and saw them as blood. This, the took, was a sign that Israel had come under confusion, and slaughtered themselves. They sauntered down lazily to loot the bodies, and found Israel alive, ready, and waiting, and they were slaughtered. But, why ditches? Why is it that the enemy looked on, and it was as blood, but to the children of the Kingdom, it was life-giving water? Because, as Elisha sought the Lord, the Lord allowed him to see a shadow of the Christ that was to come. The stripes of Jesus' back, filled with blood, flow for us with the life giving waters of His Spirit, for all of us who believe. He is the Living Water, and by His stripes we were healed. While the enemy looks on and assumes that destruction and death overtaken the camp and comes to plunder, God sends His resurrection, and routs the wicked.

Elisha, being a prophet, heard the Word from God, and, though he may not have understood that in his ditch-digging, He saw Jesus, the

man of God entered into an agreement with Heaven, and Faith in the Son of Man, and was saved.

Really, this is no different than Moses building the Tabernacle. We know the real tabernacle was Christ's body. He is our temple, and, as the chief cornerstone, we are built into one too. But, everything of the Tabernacle pointed to the Lord. He was our brazen altar sin offering. He is our cleansing at the sea. He is our bread of life, and the light of the world. He is the chief intercessor and great High Priest. He is that head of pure gold, that radiance of God's glory, and the Merciful savior. He is the New Covenant in His own blood.

When the Israelites entered into a Word of the Lord depicting Christ, they entered into the power of Christ. Though He was not seen directly, even His shadow passing over them healed them.

Today, we are all given the Spirit, and it is not reserved for a few (Joel 2:28-32). We are all "prophets", in the sense that we all have been given the Spirit of prophecy, which is the Holy Spirit, even as Moses exclaimed (Numbers 11:29).

But, as we receive the word of the Lord, all else must yield to it. Our own thoughts our own opinions, our own life.

Heaven and Earth will pass away, but His word will never pass away. When His word is in you, you cannot be moved. He has exalted His word above His name (Psalm 138:2). His Word will never fail, and so long as you have true, active, living faith in His every Word, you will never fail.



Walk by the Spirit



This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16

This verse is Paul's advice on how to avoid sin. This is the simple solution to the issue plaguing the church today.

I call it the *Million Dollar Question*, that is, why are new testament believers not living according to their new creation nature? We know why the world does, because it's in 'em. But, why does a Christian?

Obviously, many things need to be taken into account. 2 Corinthians 10:6 says that every disobedience is only punished once our obedience is made perfect. That is, only once we know better. God wants our obedience established on the basis of His love and His wooing. He works in us to both will and to do according to all His great purpose (Philippians 2:13). Add to the issues of teaching, deliverance, history, etc. Yet, 2 Corinthians 5:17 says we have a new nature. Romans 8:3 says its a done deal. Romans 6:11 gives similarly simple advice, reckon yourself dead. That word reckon is an accounting word. It does not mean "pretend", it means, account as though accounting for payroll. It means, because it is so, mark it down in your book that you have died, because you have.

For we were crucified with Christ, and it is no longer us who live, but it is Christ in us (Galatians 2:20).

But, Jesus said that you could not see nor enter the Kingdom unless you were born of the Spirit (John 3:3-5). If the natural man can see it, it's not the Kingdom.

If we brush aside simple nonsense such as "don't be too heavenly minded", and look Beyond to what He is calling us to. Realize that the most heavenly minded person is God Himself, and He cares about every single sparrow. See that that Spirit realm of the Holy Ghost is with us always. See Beyond into the dimension of Eternity, and into the heart of God, and listen to His voice. If Jesus only did what He saw the Father doing, how much further do we have to go?

Much of the current prophetic movement is simply getting used to the realm of the Spirit. It is merely getting sensitized to the flows and presences and realms. There are some that are very advanced, but as a movement, people are not pursuing fully the hidden realms of the Spirit, where the only Light is the Counselor, and the only Bread is His presence. That is where the altar of incense is, and beyond that, through His blood, is His Glory.

I am speaking of the tabernacle of Moses, for it was their pattern because it is His pattern. As in all of the Old Covenant, types and shadows were employed to show an earthly picture of the Heavenly truth, namely Christ Jesus Himself.

In Him was life, and that life was the light of men (John 1:4). Inside that temple, where there was no natural light, dwelt a presence so Holy, that if a man entered it without blood, he died, and sometimes even with blood. But now, the curtain separating Daddy's favorite chair (the mercy seat) from the rest of the living room has been removed! And we have access to come boldly before His throne to receive mercy and grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

When we fail to recognize the realm of the Holy Spirit, that it is ever with us, ever amongst us, ever in the life of the Believer, we fail to see God in our midst. Why did the Jewish leaders miss Jesus while the entire demonic realm recognized him instantly? Because the leaders saw the flesh, but the demons His Spirit! They knew who He was.

This is why Isaiah prophesied:

Matthew 13:14-15 (portion)

You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.

(quoting Isaiah 6:9-10)

The hearts of the people had grown dull, calloused, or, literally, "fat". With heavy ears and dazzled eyes. They had become hard of hearing, that they could not hear the voice of the Spirit whispering. They had grown to have dazzled eyes, because they could no longer perceive the realm of the Spirit, and the angels and the more subtle things of God.

Even at the baptism by the river Jordan, only some heard the voice, and some said it merely thundered. They could no longer perceive the depths of God.

They could no longer discern between the holy and profane, they had little to no operative discernment of the spiritual realm to determine what was good and evil. They had no light among them, no clarity of vision to see who Jesus was. For, as John wrote, He was in the World, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him (John 1:10). He was their very creator, the one who made their very frame, and because they were dull, because their hearts were calloused, they did not recognize Him.

Yet, as two men walked down a road towards a city named Emmaus, talking to a complete stranger, they found their hearts burning within them as the Spirit of the Eternal, though unrecognized in the flesh,

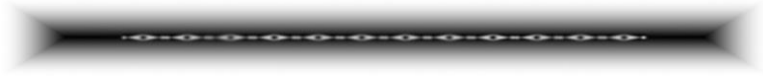
spoke to them (Luke 24:32). Theirs hearts had begun to recognize the One Thing upon which the entire universe turned. The creator of creation, though unrecognized, spoke the words of Eternal life, and their hearts within them knew that voice!

If we fail to recognize the invisible, we have failed to recognize the Eternal. If our church services are primarily composed of what we can see, they are primarily composed of materialism. If our services are primarily organized by man, it is primarily organized by the flesh.

One of my favorite scriptures is Matthew 6:33: Seek first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you. It doesn't matter so much if you start out going in the right direction in terms of "seeking", because there is a difference between the thoughts and intents of the heart. But, if the intent of your heart is towards God, with sincere heart motivation, He can work on getting the thoughts of your heart in line with that. If the thoughts and intents of the heart are upright, your speech will change. If you change your speech, you've moved your rudder (James 3:6), and your course will change.

This is why repentance is so crucial in this hour. The only way the deep down places of the heart will change is Christ giving you His heart. It is the revelation of any part of His heart that is not in full accord with His, and the repentance unto faith, and the faith to walk in His heart. He changes us, as we come to Him, submit to Him, worship Him, and offer ourselves to Him. Yet, if we miss the voice of the Spirit along the way, it will be much harder, if not impossible to make it to our destination.

It is a time to walk by the Spirit, and that means walking in a way not our own. As the entirety of the Sermon on the Mount points out, it is precisely the places where you are NOT doing Matthew 5-7 that you are NOT built upon the rock, not rooted in Him and His Spirit and His love. If we made the Spirit our focus, as Matthew 6:33 says, and decided to love His discipline and hate the leadership of this life, we would see instant transformation.



Daniel 2

In particular, Daniel 2:31-45.

The Dream



Daniel 2:31-35

You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue, an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

This was the substance of the dream of the king. Some of the major points of what the king saw are:

- A large statue. Enormous, Dazzling, Awesome
- Head of pure gold

- Chest and arms of silver
- Belly and thighs of bronze
- Legs of iron, feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay

The entire statue exists at the time of Nebuchadnezzar seeing it. It has four parts, and they all comprise the same statue.

Now, the active part of the vision, "While you were watching". This concerns the rock.

- It was cut out
- Without hands
- It struck the statue on the feet of iron and clay
- It smashed them ("broke them small")

And, the results from the striking.

- All the materials were broken to pieces ("broken small")
- Broken at the same time ("together")
- They became like chaff, small particles susceptible to the wind
- The wind swept them away
- No place was left for them (YLT)
- The rock became a huge mountain
- The rock filled the land

Nebuchadnezzar's Kingdom

Daniel 2:36-38

This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

Nebuchadnezzar is called the "head of gold" (compare to Song 5:11). He was also called by the title later attributed to Jesus, King of Kings. Obviously, Jesus is the true King of Kings, but Nebuchadnezzar, in his day, is the world ruler over all kingdoms in his time. It does not equate the titles by any means, as Zion and Babylon are always at odds, but the parallels are strikingly similar. God has given him this dominion, and it extends even upon the creation itself. He rules over the entire earth, mankind, beasts, and birds. It is the nature of this statue to rule over the entire Earth. It is all in this man's hands.

The Second and Third Kingdoms

Daniel 2:39-43

After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours.
Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.

These are mentioned in passing. Of note is "inferior" and "third". The materials are, of course, silver and bronze respectively. Again, the reference is "will rule over the whole earth". This is the nature of the entire statue. While historically, the transitions between the materials has been conflict (aka, war and overthrow), the entire statue stands as one at the end, for the rock breaks all four at once. This is of note, because while we think of the rock destroying the statue violently, what we see as violence on the Earth was merely a transition of elements. Whatever the violence of smashing the statue is, it may or may not look like war in the natural, but it will absolute destruction in the spiritual realm. It is a primarily spiritual overthrow, not a physical one, that results in the removal of what is standing.

The Fourth Kingdom

Daniel 2:40-43

Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron for iron breaks and smashes everything and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

This is practically, the only place of contention and debate, the full identity of the fourth Kingdom. Most agree it starts with Rome, and some say it continues. Of note are some details. Assuming Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 parallel each other, there are exactly four kingdoms, and no conjecture could be made for five in light of Daniel 7:17. Second, people point out that since there are two legs, this Kingdom will divide, and in this, they see the eastern and western portions of the Roman Empire. Unfortunately, this does not follow, because the division happens in the "bronze portion", as you read the bronze is the "waist and thighs" of bronze. The iron actually starts somewhere around the knee, apparently, already in division. If there is significance to the iron being in two parts, legs, it is not directly scriptural, although it's truth could still be in contest. Suffice to say that it is not given in scripture that the two legs are two parts to this kingdom, but whatever it is, it must be in its basic form from its inception, since it starts around mid-leg. It may in fact be an accurate interpretation, but it is not given in black and white for us, and this must be noted.

Further, the feet and toes are part of it, and not a separate kingdom. How exactly this plays out is not the immediate focus, but, again, from Daniel 7:17, we know "these beasts, which are four, are four kingdoms", not five.

As stated, there were hostile events in each of the transition points in the statue. It would stand to reason that, even as the four elements

were added to and existed together, if the fourth was overthrown and a new one was to be replacing it, as a continuation, or even as a resurgence (revitalized Roman empire), this would be a fifth Kingdom, which does not fit the vision. Obviously, the iron and clay do not mix, and there is division as stated in the text. This we can be sure of absolutely. This fits with what we see of the Roman empire.

Finally, the toes, while conjecture is made as to the toes being kings, this is, again, conjecture and not obviously scripture (which doesn't make it wrong, it is merely noted that it is by interpretation, and not by the text).

The Kingdom of God

Daniel 2:44-45

In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

"The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."

This is the end of the matter. Concerning the result:

- "In the time of those kings"
- The God of Heaven will set up a Kingdom
- It will never be destroyed
- Nor will it be left to another people
- It will crush all those other kingdoms ("beateth small and endeth these kingdoms" YLT)
- It will bring them to an end.
- This is what the rock is (that is, the Kingdom)

The four Kingdoms all comprise the same statue, and hence are all of the same identity. It is in this manner that it was right to call the city of Rome "Babylon", for all four kingdoms derived from the same head, namely Nebuchadnezzar. From the vision, they actually all co-existed at the end, with all of the power of Babylon being rolled into the next kingdom (still being inferior, of course), until finally, Rome existed with all four at the same time.

Each of these kingdoms was a "world-ruler". There was no world-ruler before Babylon, and, for the approximately 1000 years from Nebuchadnezzar's beginning of reigning to the breaking up and scattering of the Roman Empire, there was one identifiable, obvious world-ruling power, and it was described completely by this statue as seen by the king and Daniel. Continuing from kingdom to kingdom, there was a one world government for the entire duration. This is the context of both the Daniel 2 dream of the statue and the Daniel 7 vision of the Beasts.

Of note, of course, is the "Kingdom" that will be "set up". "In the time of those kings" for some means the ten toes of the feet of the statue, but, again, that is by interpretation of the toes, which is not strictly scripture. The reference could simply refer to the kings of the four kingdoms combined, somewhere within the reign of all of "those kings", or, more specifically, it could refer to "those kings" of the fourth, Roman Empire. While my tendency would be towards the latter, it is indicated that it is in the reign of some of these kings that a Kingdom will be established.

This leaves exactly two options. Either 'set up' refers to Jesus' first coming, and the statue is broken, or 'set up' refers to something else, such as the Millennial Reign and/or His second coming, and the statue somehow remains.

But, let us review again. The statue description from the dream itself offers little direct clues. It merely mentions to four elements. The rock is described as "cut out" and "without hands". Broke small, scattered, and no place found for them are the images given for the elements mentioned. The rock, on the other hand, became a mountain (grew is conjecture again by translation. Other versions

simply transition. Considering this is a dream, it may have just been a shift in scenes). It filled the land. Notice that Jesus was born not of human descent, nor of a human decision, nor of a husband's will (John 1:13), but born of God, hence, "without hands".

Now, considering the beginning of Nebuchadnezzar's reign to be around 605BC or so, and the decline of Rome terminating by at least 476 AD, we see a one-world government consistently for roughly 1000 years. This is followed by what is called The Dark Ages. The Roman Empire, other than the Eastern half which continued in some fashion, but not as a world-ruling power, had ceased.

Again, looking at the statue, unless the Roman Empire continued in some form or another, it would seem fair to expect there to have been a fifth element to the statue, but there was not.

Further, we also notice from Daniel 7, assuming the parallel which seems to be a given, that at the destruction of the fourth beast, which is cast into the fire immediately, the other three beasts were allowed to continue to live for a time, although they had their dominion stripped from them (Daniel 7:12).

Realistically, from the decline of the Roman Empire, until approximately 1000 years later, there was little in the way of cohesive governmental structure. The only conjecture for a continuation of the statue would be what many have enlisted, which would be to implicate the Roman Catholic Church as being the continuation of the Roman government, and hence, the continued legs and feet of iron.

But, again, let us focus on the 1000 years of no government called the Dark Ages. There were many bad things about this period, but one thing was certain, there was no great beast ruling over the nations of the Earth as there had been for the previous 1000 years. Even today, we do not see any government (yet) that rules over the entire Earth. Some have tried, especially in the last century, but none have succeeded. We remain as distinct nations, independent.

And what changed this? The introduction of a Kingdom coming in.

Looking at the decline of the Roman Empire, many do not understand its dispersion. It simply seemed to break up and fall apart. Yet, when the ruling spiritual power (the beast of Daniel 7) is removed, there is no more "glue" to keep the statue together. Without the strength of the demonic leadership, the institution could not maintain itself.

Now, as to the striking of the statue. Many of the preterist viewpoint would point to the year 70 AD. But, whether it was at 33 AD at the institution of the Kingdom (the release of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost), the destruction of the city at 70 AD, the final revolt and banishment in 135AD, the conversion of Constantine and his reforms in 313 AD, or the later breaking up and dispersion of Rome up to 476 AD, the pieces had been broken small, they had been blown away, and there was no place left for them. Today, we do not see Rome any more. Again, unless you point to the Vatican and the Catholic church, you would have to logically conclude that Rome is dead.

And, what do we have left? Many people would argue over the meaning of the word "Kingdom" that God would set up. Some would say that it was predicted as a physical rule. That may yet come, in some form (Acts 1:6). Yet, what Jesus brought cannot be denied as bringing the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven, for by His own mouth, if He drove out demons by the finger of God, then the Kingdom had come upon those there then (Luke 11:20). It was one of the defining marks of the Kingdom, which differentiated it from all the Old Testament prophets who had done most of his major works in some form or another, including raise the dead. Further, since His Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, even if the thousand years pointed to it, the physical could never possibly be the full summation of the Kingdom in the mind of Heaven. Heaven and Earth will pass away, but the Kingdom is forever. Even if there is to be a physical reign on the Earth as many depict, and a literal throne of David, this cannot be the total fulfillment of the prophesy because the world is not Eternal, while His reign is.

While there are other schools of thought, and I am in no way saying that all scripture is fulfilled, on the basis of Daniel 2 alone, there would be very little reason for me not to conclude that the entirety of the chapter was fulfilled, as well as Daniel 7, with a study from it.

The statue portrayed at least a 1000 year period of four kingdoms, displaced and destroyed by the coming of a stone cut out without hands (obviously Jesus, but the question is When?). While many equate portions of Daniel 2 with end-time events yet to come, and the patterns and parallels may be informative, it would appear that the entirety this chapter was concluded with the life and ministry of Jesus, and the subsequent fall of Rome a few centuries later.

In terms of Kingdoms, God only has one to bring. If it was here at Jesus' time, then it would still be here now, and, in fact, for many, it is. The fact that it is a Kingdom in the realm of the spirit is not the same as allegorizing this passage, but rather identifying the true nature of it, as being not of this world (John 18:36). This is the same realm in which brought the miraculous, and so to say that the Kingdom is spiritual is not minimizing or belittling it any more than saying that the wisdom in which Jesus operated was a spiritual wisdom. To say such simply reveals a lack of understanding of the greater reality of the invisible over the visible, and at the worst end, belies a spirit of unbelief about the nature of the Spirit.

From this chapter alone, leaving place to study out the rest of to book and the scriptures, there is little reason to conclude that Daniel 2 was not an apt description of the Kingdom that has come and is among us now. For, even as we do see parts of old governmental system existing in some form or another, the first three beasts were allowed to continue to live, albeit with their dominion stripped.

Whether or not this has any direct bearing on other matters of eschatological debate, however, is also conjecture. Whether or not all the direct connections assumed between certain passages that commentators have made is correct is a matter of interpretation, and, while it is good to be informed and to have an opinion and to be expectant, let us not forget that the original prophecies of Messiah came in many places, many forms, difficult to connect, and, in the

end, impossible to predict. From the scriptures alone, without a knowledge of the life of Jesus, could you have predicted that He would be born in Bethlehem, flee to Egypt, be called out back, live in Nazareth, minister in Galilee, and die in Jerusalem, just to name a few? Yet, this is what he did, and it was God's plan. True to every word, but hidden from those who could not see with their heart. Those who thought they were wise were proven fools, while those who wanted to know Him, did, and He called them His own. It should never prevent study, but we should hold a distinction between what is written, and what is speculated. If we have the pieces, however, if at some point we have missed it, at least we will then have the pieces to put together when He arrives, and not just be left empty handed, with Him saying, why aren't you expecting me.



1 Peter 1:22



Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.

1 Peter 1:22

But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith (1 Timothy 1:5). This is what we are aiming for.

We are called to love. The verse at the beginning indicates our problem. We cannot love without God (1 John 4:7). Why? Because our souls are corrupt without Christ.

We are called to love from a pure heart, because it is only out of pure, sincere motives, that we can truly open up and be open to others, without being hurt. It is in the place of His perfect love, with no fear, that we are able to truly be brothers. This is the mark of the authentic gospel.

And, this cannot happen without sincere, gospel faith. It simply can't. When you walk by the Spirit you do not gratify the desires of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:16). It is by faith that we come to know and believe in God's great love for us (1 John 4:16). It is in the secret place of Him that we are able to live.

In obeying the Truth, Jesus, His way, His life, His teachings, His example, His heart, nature, and character, in living out that life, we find our souls purified. When this happens, and only when this

happens, we begin to become free. For, as Jesus said, If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free (John 8:31-32).

When we are free to love, because He first loved us, what is the command? Simply to love each other fervently from the heart.

Love makes the heart warm. Cold love is not love at all, and that which does not move the inner man simply indicates a greater level of purification needed.

We seem to have divided the camp of the Lord into two sections. The camp that focuses on the need for love stands at odds to what seems to be in excess, is afraid to point the way towards faith, and hence, fails to see real progress made towards the heart. On the other hand, many of the camps aimed towards faith take it to mean primarily finance and wealth (many, not all by any means), and do not by faith and obedience proceed towards a purified soul, and to such a gospel love that the world stands up and takes notice that they are Christians because of it (John 13:35).

Because of this, many people fail to see a connection between these two, yet they are inseparable. You cannot proceed in obedience without increasing faith, and you cannot love sincerely, fully, and fervently without a purified soul. What is the answer?

The answer is the path right down the middle, as many have found. An ever increasing faith, which does, as a by-product bring you health and wealth, but a consecration and a conscious awareness of the temporal nature of this life. Considering the verse in light of modern church culture.

Hebrews 12:2 (portion)

For you . . . accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.

Why could they joyfully accept the loss of their property? Because they knew that it was something else that remained, namely faith, hope, and love.

What if we simply believed the Gospel that instructs us to believe for the unseen above the seen? What if we looked to Eternity for our possessions. What if we hated our Earthly life as Luke 14:26 says, forsaking it all in our hearts, and looked primarily at the Spirit? God wants us taken care of, and in general circumstances, He will. He never leaves the righteous forsaken, or their children begging bread. Yet, He also said in Matthew 6:33, Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and it would be added, annexed, or put into your possession on no effort of yourself. He will cause men to pour into your bosom.

A faith that sees the realm of the Spirit, and believes in it, that prizes relationship and right standing with God and men above any wealth of this world, is what has been God's desire all along. And, His goal is that this not be a lesson learned, but a basic motivation from within, from the very heart.

Yet, this only happens through the purification of the soul by the cross of Christ. As it is a finished work, the object is faith. The only thing we need is faith in the truth. As Paul writes, he was in travail until Christ was formed within them (Galatians 4:19). And, it is only by the separation by the Holy Ghost and the Word of God between our soul and our spirit (Hebrews 4:12), the conscious life lived in love of the mastery of the Jesus through His Holy Spirit over us (and with it, the consequential hatred of other leadership -- Luke 16:13), and the partaking of God's divine nature through faith in His promises given (2 Peter 1:4).

As we enter into this, in increasing measures, to the degree that we have been given, we are purified by His Holy fire so that we can simply love.

Love, apparently, is the hardest, and yet, the easiest thing to do in the whole world. Hardest, because it took all God had to get us to be

able to do it, and yet, easiest, because it happens only when all the other stuff has been removed out of its way.

Love from a pure heart and sincere faith is our goal. As we are purified by obeying the truth, we are able to love sincerely. As we do this, let us love each other fervently from the heart.



The Softened Heart

Matthew 13:3-8



Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly,

because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Proverbs 4:23 says to keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issuings of life. Jesus, when confronting Peter after His resurrection, after that Peter had denied Him, asked Him three times, "Do you love me?" (John 21:15-17). Three times, He asked Peter if he loved Him the way He himself loved Peter, unconditional, undemanding love.

Peter was grieved, and said, Yes, that He had affection for Him, His Lord.

Peter knew the Lord, and yet, denied Him in a moment of crisis, pressure, and trial. He found his breaking point, and "lost his mind" for a moment, to use the phrase liberally. His heart reached the point where it could not take any more, and simply shut down.

Peter knew the Lord. He was the one to whom the Father had revealed Himself that Jesus was the Messiah when Jesus asked who they thought He was. Jesus exhorted Him, and encouraged Him, saying that it was "upon this rock" that He would build His church (Matthew 16:18).

But, Jesus knew what was in the hearts of all men. He knew Peter's frame. But, Peter did not. "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You.", he promised His master (Matthew 26:35).

We start out with the best of intentions, usually, wanting to serve the Lord, but as time, and pressure wear on us, we often find that we are not always completely pure as we assumed we were at the beginning. We can find ourselves running ahead, falling behind, turning when we shouldn't or not when we should. If Jesus only did what He saw the Father doing (John 5:19), what must we do to come into the same place?

The simple answer is nothing. There is nothing we can do, in ourselves that is righteous. There is no good thing within our flesh! (Romans 7:18).

Regardless, this is the lesson we must learn over and over, as the Lord reveals us to ourselves. Often, layer by layer, our motives are ruled out. Over and over, we are proved to by ourselves that we have nothing to offer. All we can do is yield our lives, willingly, humbly, and in sacrifice.

The key to being used of the Lord is found here.

1 Timothy 2:20-21

Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these *things*, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

The point is, if you're a cup, and you want the master to drink out of you, you should be clean and set in the cupboard. You don't take dirty cups to drink out of, you take clean ones! So, if the master is thirsty, and there's a clean cup and a dirty cup, He **MIGHT** choose to take the dirty one and wash it first, but, chances are, if He wants a drink, He'll take one that's already prepared, for that is the purpose of preparation. If you're on the shelf, stay there--it a step closer than being in the sink!

The place of usefulness is yieldedness. What is useful to the Lord is a vessel wholly sanctified unto Him. For the eyes of the Lord search throughout the whole earth, seeking a heart devoted to Him (2 Chronicles 16:9).

There is nothing you can do to improve upon God. His plan is always the best, yours is always doomed to failure, irregardless of what it looks like in the short-term (aka, this life).

He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He does not take pleasure in the legs of a man. He favors those who fear Him, and who wait for his loving-kindness (Psalm 147:10-11).

The growth of the Christian life marked by two things joined together. On the one hand, the increasing awareness of our inability, failure, and innate sinfulness, coupled with an equally growing awareness of His sufficiency in His sacrifice in our lives. In the place of this, and increased faith and awareness, is the place of all true spirituality. Anything else is a fading shadow, a dream, and empty hope.

True Spirituality is Jesus Christ alone, and all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Him [alone] (Colossians 2:3).

It is not in our own effort, our own ego, our own estimation of ourselves. Quite probably, just like Peter, when it comes down to it, we will be less in our own eyes than when we started.

But, in the light of the Gospel, the glory of Christ will rise and rise in our hearts. We will see Him, the perfect man, the firstborn of all

creation. With unveiled faces, we will see His glory, and be changed, from glory to glory.

His is the perfect man, and we have no righteousness apart from Him. He is the vine, and we are the branches. We bear no fruit apart from Him. If we do not see Him as perfectly as we ought, let us continue on to the full measure of the measure of the stature of Christ (Ephesians 4:13).

It is with an open heart, a gentle mind, being a willing vessel unto His honor, that we are changed from faith to faith, and glory to glory. It is with honesty, sincerity, and integrity, that we embrace the sincere word of the faith of the Gospel, and, bringing the Father glory, that as Christ was, so are we in this world.

His Word is perfect, and His promise is true. To the very end.



Daniel 7

The Dream



Daniel 7:1-3

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

This is understood as the parallel to Daniel 2. Daniel 2 was Nebuchadnezzar's dream, this is Daniel's. While Nebuchadnezzar saw the kingdoms, Daniel apparently sees the spirits of the kingdoms. The four winds church the great sea, and four distinct beasts came up out of it.

The First Three Beasts

Daniel 7:4-6

The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it.

And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, "Get up and eat your fill of flesh!"

After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

The first three beasts are all described as animals. A Lion, a Bear, and a Leopard, with modifications. The first was Babylon, the second Medo/Persia, and the third, Greece. As this began in Nebuchadnezzar's time (Daniel 2, that is), his reign is described in the book of Daniel itself. The second and third are described elsewhere in Daniel.

The Fourth Beast

Daniel 7:7-8

After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

The fourth beast is described as "different". Terrifying, Frightening, Powerful. It's image is not described (see photo above), but certain characteristics are pointed out. It's teeth were iron, and it was very dominating. It's ten horns cause Daniel to *think* about them. Another

horn came, which threw out three of the others. It had the eyes of a man and a mouth, speaking boastfully.

Thrones Set in Place

Daniel 7:9-10

As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was seated, and the books were opened.

After viewing the fourth beast, Daniel watched as thrones came, and God came and sat. He is described, along with His throne, with its wheels, and the fire and attendance that surrounded him. Of note was the court, the heavenly judgment, along with the books that were opened.

The Beast Slain and the Son of Man

Daniel 7:11-14

Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign

power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Apparently, the court sat in judgment of the fourth beast, or perhaps in judgment over all four. Three things apparently happened to the fourth beast. It was killed, its body was destroyed (different than being killed), and it was thrown into the burning fire (as if the first two weren't enough). The first three were allowed to continue to live, but were stripped of their authority.

After this, one like the Son of Man, Jesus, came with the clouds. He went to the Father, and into His Presence. This must be Jesus at His ascension, after the crucifixion. No human man before Him had gone into His presence. In Matthew 28:18, He had then all authority in Heaven and in Earth. Further, receiving glory is the fulfillment to the prayer in John 17:5, to be restored the glory He had with Him before the world began. Philippians 2:9 also indicates this, where "exalted" is a past tense event in Paul's writing. "For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name." If Jesus was given all authority, glory, and power *then*, what more could be given at a future date?

Again, His name is above every name that can be given, both in this age and in the age to come (Philippians 2:9), and His Kingdom is Eternal in the Heavens. This must be understood as the primary, and most truest reckoning of Christ's Kingdom, the spiritual one, for, if Heaven and Earth pass away, His Kingdom does not. Though all else fail, His Word will never fail.

Today, we see men of every nation worshipping Him. His dominion, in the Kingdom in which He reigns, will never pass away, or be destroyed.

The issue at hand is the Kingdom. What is the Kingdom? Jesus said His Kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36). That was its state then. This must be understood as the nature of Christ's Kingdom. This is not the same as allegorization. This is what the Kingdom is,

the same Kingdom that healed the blind man, cleansed the leper, raised the dead, and cast out demons. This is the Kingdom that had come upon those in Jesus' day (Matthew 12:28).

This, in fact, does not lessen it, but heightens it, as the unseen is more real than the seen (Hebrews 11:3). The whole nature of the Kingdom is that which cannot be seen without the eyes of Faith (Hebrew 3:3). To rule and to reign in this Kingdom does not change the nature and structure of the kingdom, nor does it lessen the direct and literal interpretation of what the Scripture says. Unless the Kingdom is understood as to be the Kingdom of the Heavens, the realm of the heavens, the domain of the Spirit, its very nature is missed. This also is quite capable of encompassing the "Throne of David", which is to be occupied. As Jesus is both the Root and offspring of Jesse, so to say that David's throne, as he ruled Israel is the same Kingdom, spiritually, that Jesus is ruling in now, is not out of the question by any means. Even as John the Baptist cried out, "He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me." (John 1:15). And, although it will only be for a temporal period of time, meaning it will end, it does also appear that this Kingdom will be restored to Israel as a nation at some point (Acts 1:6). Yet, again, even in this passage, the Kingdom and the nation are defined as separate things, for the disciples inquiry is to restore the one to the other. By interpretation, this is most probably the national revival of Israel prophesied by Paul in Romans 11:26.

This was Jesus' primary application of the Kingdom in His ministry. The fact that a carnal man expected an earthly rule does not change the original promise, from God, who is Spirit (John 4:24). The fact that a student of the Word who does not understand the spirit realm does not understand the Kingdom of Heaven is predicted (1 Corinthians 2:14). Again, as has been pointed out before, if by "Kingdom", what you mean is something that any sinner could see and understand, it is not it (John 3:5).

The heavenly Kingdom always has direct effect on the physical reality (at all levels!). Spirituality, for men, is linked to the physical creation, at least for now. Dominion in the Spirit precipitates breakthrough in the natural. It is the battles won in the unseen realm,

that facilitate those in the visible. It is precisely in the realm of the Spirit, where Christianity is lived, and its outflow and demonstration is immediately witnessed in the physical creation. That is to say, the miracles are not the Kingdom, but are the demonstrations of it. The Kingdom itself is like the wind, and the miracles like the things it blows away.

Consider this as you study the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), or the parables of the Kingdom. The Kingdom of the Heavens is described, and, although it is only talked about, it always evokes a reaction in the Earth. Rightly living in the Spirit yields a life that conforms to the eight "happy's" of Matthew 5:3-11. Wrong living will always, predictably and invariably deviate from God's perfect law, usually in one of the ways directly described in the Sermon on the Mount. The most simple of which is in anger. Ungodly anger is always an indicator of something wrong on the inside, and is always an indication of living out of something other than the Kingdom of God, hence, His Spirit. If we would understand that we cannot live any other way that how God planned, and that we cannot live that way through any other means other than by His Spirit, we would appropriate unto ourselves that which is fully provided for in the Gospels, which is, namely, His Kingdom. Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:16).

The pure heart is the strongest heart, and the only thing recorded in scripture as being as powerful as death itself, and as unyielding as the grave, is love (Song 8:6). This is more than simply pretty poetry. If you are looking to survive, it is truly your life line. Anything else, whether it be world-overthrow, demonic infrastructure upheaval, or world-ruler displacement (recommended reading would be Rees Howells: Intercessor), while a demonstration and an outflow of the Kingdom, depends upon this basis, this foundation, this love. Without this love, everything else is meaningless. With it, with faith working through it, it is powerful and effective in the pulling down of strongholds and destroying the works of the enemy.

The biggest mistake a study in the Kingdom is to look at the coming of the Son of Man as anything but stemming from this. While His robe is dipped in blood, it is only in divine perfection of judgment,

stemming from a perfect heart of love, that kingdoms are overthrown and wine-press of wrath pressed out. The nature of the Kingdom will never change, while the expression, the things being particularly done as visible in the Earth, are dependent upon the factors making up the current situation.

God could choose to invade at any time, throw out the serpent, and simply take over. He has the power, and probably the right. Yet, the foundation of His throne and ruler-ship is righteousness and justice. It is only by His perfect Wisdom that He administers the whole, and to separate that from any view of the Kingdom, or to assume that things are motivated out of any other place than where it all began, is in error. This was the mistake of the Pharisees, then and today.

The Interpretation of the Dream

Daniel 7:15-18

I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. I approached one of those standing there and asked him the true meaning of all this.

So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: "The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth. But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever yes, for ever and ever."

The dream is interpreted by one standing there. The beasts are kingdoms, as in Daniel 2. But, the good news, the gospel, is that the saints will receive the Kingdom and possess it forever. For, most happy are the poor in Spirit, for theirs **IS** the Kingdom of Heaven... And, most happy are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs **IS** the Kingdom of Heaven. Both present tense.

Of note, the YLT translation of "receive the kingdom and will possess it forever" reads , "and receive the kingdom do the saints of

the Most High, and they strengthen the kingdom unto the age, even unto the age of the ages." (Daniel 7:18 YLT). Here, receiving the kingdom is described, followed by its strengthening to unto the age and the age of the ages (sum of all ages). The fact that things will get better is not the issue. The question is whether in some form the Kingdom is here already, to which we MUST say yes, that it is today "set up". The Kingdom had come upon them. It's progression into maturity, to finally a full head of grain, however, come from the original seed, and not as a derivative or from other source. The entire tree is contained within the single acorn, simply add time, water, and sunlight with some good soil. We are not looking for another Kingdom, were are simply looking for the rock to be the mountain. It is still possible that "set up" could refer to a later, more complete consummation of all things, such as the resurrection, but even as that is so, it would also be expedient to note that Jesus spent His entire ministry teaching on the Kingdom, and telling us how to make it "ours" (Matthew 5:3, 10). If we neglect what we have, it will be taken from us, but if not, more will be given. While "set up" could possibly refer to a greater setting up in the future, of assurance, Jesus came and "set up" and put the saints in possession of, His one and only Kingdom.

The Fourth Beast Explained

Daniel 7:19-25

Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced

judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

He gave me this explanation: The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

The fourth beast is explained, as well as its horns and horn. It devours the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. There are 10 plus 1 kings, and they will do as written. He will be handed over for, as it is, 3.5 years. If one wants a preterist (past-fulfillment) interpretation of this horn, there are plenty that would suffice. Vespasian or Titus would do. Fitting all the details of this horn from Chapter 7 is not my specialty, whereas other people much more versed in this specific history have done so to satisfy the criteria in their eyes. Critics will always disagree, but, as always, my focus is the Kingdom. My only real question is, despite the issues in the world, and despite all the rest, is this: is the spiritual beast of Rome still devouring the whole Earth? To this question, as compared to the year, say, 50BC, or even 50AD, I would have to answer a resounding "no". It was spiritually broken some time ago, and was scattered by the wind until no place was found for it. There is no Rome or any world-ruling power in the Earth today, nor has there for some 1500 years.

We may have remnants of it here and there, and there are forms of the Babylonian, Medo/Persian, and Grecian systems prevalent throughout the world, and it is not by accident that nations, even America, adopt strong Greek typology in the founding of their nation, but, as is said, its world-wide dominion has been stripped, exactly as predicted. We might see the first three beasts still, but not as they were.

Court Judgment

Daniel 7:26-28

"But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him."

This is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself."

Finally, there is the court judgment. It isn't clear how often the court sits. Why this has to be interpreted by some as a one-time event is beyond me. I would hope that judgments are proceeding regularly from the throne, especially as its foundation is righteousness and justice. I have no fear of being overlooked, of course, even if in this life I do not see my justice, because I know that He is faithful, and He is a debtor to no one. But, why a court wouldn't sit whenever there was a trial is unknown to me.

As for the rest, the sovereignty, power, and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven being handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. The fact that Christ is reigning now, seated at the right hand of the Most High is evident. He is the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords, and there is none other. As Paul wrote, "For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death." (1 Corinthians 15:25-26). Christ is reigning. What is He reigning in? His Kingdom, of course! The YLT reads "kingdom, dominion, and greatness". While it may not be in its fullness, and under total dominance, they are under our jurisdiction, as Jesus instructed Peter, "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." (Matthew 18:18).

Growth is expected, enemies are determined to be defeated before us. The reign will continue until the last enemy, death, is defeated, and then Christ Himself will subject Himself to the One who subjected all things to Him, the Father. When a prayer-less church decides that we have no authority over sickness and disease simply because they have not seen it in their lifetime, contrary to what the Word says, they are in error and are deceived. Despite how things look to the natural eye, the Word is the standard. Despite martyrdoms, trials, and other persecutions, Jesus said that nothing would by any means harm us (Luke 10:19). Regardless of anyone's personal experience, the truth of scripture remains the Truth, and must not ever be compromised.

The truth of the matter is, that as we submit to His Spirit and faith in His name, all of the Earth responds. We are not primarily moved by the situation in the natural, but by faith. If it is true, as it is said, that we don't have any problems, all we need is faith in God, then the reason for the lack, for the blockage, and for the un-kingdom-like appearance of the Earth falls somewhere in the domain of responsibility of us. This is by no means to say that the world will be perfected through us unless God so decides, but rather that which was stated to Peter. What we bind, is bound, and what we lose is loose. Jesus said the limit was our faith, plain and simple, and any explanation of the lack of Kingdom that does not include an exposition of faith lacks the context of the Spirit that Jesus gave it for us. Lest we forget, Jesus also lived in perfect faith and got crucified, but this was both in accordance with the perfect will of the Father, and is not the end of the story. What looked like defeat turned into the greatest victory of all time!

His Kingdom is Eternal, and as I read my Bible, all authority in Heaven and Earth, so long as I am in Christ, belong to me (Matthew 28:18).

Faith is the Substance



Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

Faith in God is a real, active, and living thing. God is alive, and powerful. Faith sees Him, and the word of His power overcomes what cannot be otherwise overcome, and carries a person with it through otherwise impossible situations.

It was by faith in God that David conquered the giant, and it was by faith in God that Jonathan, his friend, along with his armor bearer, single-handedly took on an entire Philistine garrison. It was by faith that overcame their weaknesses and came to be firmly established in the land.

Consider David's cave, after he and all his father's household had gone down there to live.

1 Samuel 22:2

Everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him; and he became captain over them. Now there were about four hundred men with him.

David had the word of the Lord that He would be King, but was not yet there. And, those who gathered around him were those with problems. But faith saw him through.

In a world that is cannot see the light, there is still only one Rock. Peter saw it, and Jesus said He would build His church upon it (Matthew 16:18). Moses saw it, and it gave the community water (Exodus 17:6). Jesus spoke of it, and said it was the only place to build (Matthew 7:24).

It is the substance of the message, the anointing from the Holy One, the Presence of the Almighty that is our only safe-guard, stronghold, and supply.

It is only faith in God that can withstand any force. It is only a living, active, real faith within that can stand up to any attack of the enemy.

If the eye of faith falls upon a pearl of great price, it acquires it any price. If it finds a treasure in a field, it sells all to buy that field.

Faith in God is immovable, unshakable, because He is. When your identity, confidence, security, and everything about you are fully wrapped up in who He is, nothing can stop you.

This is the point of the Gospel, and attested to in everything ever written in the Bible.

Jesus didn't come with a message that was "on-par" with other philosophies. He didn't come with something just a little better. Like oil doesn't mix with water, it floats! So neither does gospel faith mix with human philosophies. Just as the Hebrews could not cross breed animals nor plant two plants in the same field, so, you cannot mix Gospel faith with human intuition, it will simply not work. If you find the treasure, you sell all, plain and simple.

When every human effort dies, when every human support fails, and when every other thing of this life is fully crucified, and all you have left is Him, then no threat can intimidate, no loss can stagger, no

sight can woo you, and neither success nor defeat can change you. When you have died to everything else, it is not that you are less, for what you are left with is the creator of creation, and fullness of the Spirit, and that is all we have been crying out for from the beginning. Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:16). Unless you hate...even your own life, you cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:26). He does not leave you as an orphan, left with nothing to cling to (John 14:18). We are truly in the world, but not of it (John 17:14). The things that are highly valuable among men are detestable unto God (Luke 16:15), and, as He was, so are we in this world (1 John 4:17).

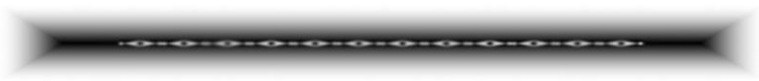
I think the silliest complaint to losing your life for Jesus would be the fear of having less than you started. Who, in all of history, had less after giving something to God? Who, in all of time, ever got short-changed by the Lord? Who, in your own mind, ever mocked God, and did not reap exactly what they sowed? For whatever a man sows, this he will also reap (Galatians 6:7).

The word of God is Eternal, and let Him be true, and everyone a liar. Better to die in faith, than live a lie, or live running from possibilities. If God's word over your life is true, then set your eyes before you, and walk on with it, for it will come to pass exactly as He has said, with nothing added nor taken away.

Even David, running for his life from his son Absalom after he had overthrown him, said of Shimei, "Let him alone and let him curse, for the LORD has told him. "Perhaps the LORD will look on my affliction and return good to me instead of his cursing this day." (2 Samuel 16:11-12). David knew his life was in the hands of the Lord. He knew his own mistakes, yet he knew the Lord was greater. He had learned the lessons of failure and forgiveness, and knew that, in everything, the Lord was just. Even in the cursing, though it was insult to injury, he submitted his soul to the Lord, in hope that even that might turn to His good.

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout
the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf
of them whose heart is perfect toward him.



If You're In It...



If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

John 14:15

If you're in it, you will live a certain way.

Most Happy are the Poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 5:3

If you're in it, you will feel a certain way.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

If you're in it, you will think a certain way.

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Philippians 3:15

If you're in it, you will believe a certain way.

But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.

John 3:21

If you're in it, you will respond a certain way.

Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.

Luke 6:22

If you're in it, others will respond a certain way.

I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

Luke 10:19

If you're in it, God will protect you a certain way.

And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.

Mark 16:17-18

If you're in it, things will follow you a certain way.

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Matthew 6:6

If you're in it, you will be rewarded a certain way.

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13

It is the life in the Kingdom of Heaven, the life in the faith of the Gospel and in the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ that life is really possible. Outside of it, there is no life.

Jesus talked about the Kingdom, but when He described it, He did it by parable. He instructed on how to live in it, but it was through simile.

Part of the issue is that of seeing the unseen. John 3:3 says that the un-reborn cannot see this Kingdom, so the Kingdom is not the church. John 3:5 says that you cannot enter it without being born of the Spirit, so it is not outside of Him.

The problem is, the human soul is quite capable of reproducing many things that look like the Kingdom, on the outside, for a little while. But, after a while, they show their true self.

In the parable of the weeds and the tares (Matthew 13:24-30), it was when the wheat sprouted, and produced heads, but the tares did not produce heads of grain, that the owner's servants indicated that weeds had been sowed. The owner indicated it was the enemy that had sown the tares, and to wait until the harvest to clean up after the mess.

There is nothing that a man can do that can make him righteous. There is no good that a human soul can do on its own that has any merit before the Lord. Yet, the life lived in the Kingdom looks a certain way.

The whole of the Sermon on the Mount describes life in the Kingdom of Heaven. It is because it is exacting down to every intent of the heart that it is prescribed.

It is only the heart completely submitted and yielded to the cross of Christ that can stand the storms. Of all the ministers of the gospel that have ever fallen, and had disgrace come to them and their profession, we must conclude, with all mercy but all firmness, that at some level, they fell because, at some point, they were not built upon the rock. That which is built upon the rock does not fall in the storm, and that which is not, does.

Yet, for everyone, it is precisely the place of stress that indicates our choosing to live another way. It is precisely our anxiety that points to the place where we are not yet completely at peace in the totality of the Kingdom. This does not have to stay that way, but, for the discerning, sincere, and honest heart, we can cry out to the Lord. Not try to work it out ourselves and make ourselves better, but fall again upon the mercy, grace, and sovereignty of the cross. To hate that which controls us outside of Christ. To fast, pray, and seek until, out of a fully happy heart, we embrace God's cleansing provision and come to know Him at a deeper level. To be freed from every level of fear, until we are made perfect in His love (1 John 4:18). And, if you fall down, to in His grace get back up again, and never give up.

But, the life in the Kingdom is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17). There are struggles, there are trials, but they do not compare with the greatness of God. Through our lives, it is when we get our eyes up, off the storm, and onto Him who is greater than the storm, and live by His Spirit, that we overcome the waves, and walk upon them.



Life



I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 10:10 (portion)

The only pure life is the life yielded to the Spirit.

If we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

When the disciples walked on the Earth, they had to stay with their master whom they could see. Yet, Jesus said it was better if He went away (John 16:7). This was because He was sending another comforter, the Holy Spirit.

Even His words, the words of the Kingdom (Matthew 13:19), or the words of Eternal Life, as Peter called them (John 6:68), they were more than words spoken by a human. The Word of the Kingdom is a living word, for He said, "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life." (John 6:63).

There was a spiritual component, an anointing, an enduement of power in the words themselves which He spoke. In the case of Jesus, the words were perfect in both concept and thought, but also in the substance of the words themselves. The very words, in the Spiritual dimension, were alive.

In the same token, when Jesus advocated Peter for naming Him the Christ of God, and Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 16:17). Because they were heavenly

words, revealed through the Father, there was a revelatory aspect to them. Because this was not of human origin, but divine, the words that Simon spoke left the realm of merely human, into that of the divine.

Even as it is written, "For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust." 2 Peter 2:14.

Jesus knew the Father, because that is where He had come from. He knew His Father, and the authority in the Spirit of His Father. He was the author of the gift of discerning of Spirits, and He knew the voice.

A voice that speaks on its own has its own authority. A voice that speaks on another's authority speaks with its authority. Everything that is good comes down from the Father above.

The Old Covenant relied upon laws and rules to govern man's behavior. It said, do this, and you will live.

But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, "WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?" (that is, to bring Christ down), or "WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THEABYSS?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."

But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART "that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved

Romans 10:6-9

This is the Word of Faith. Faith that receives, faith that believes, and faith that returns again, proceeding forth out of our mouth.

Just as we live from the ever proceeding word from the mouth of our Father (Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4), the world will live by that Spirit of power that is Christ ever proceeding, first from Him, and then out from our own mouths. We are Christ to the perishing, lost, and dying world, and it does not need man's opinion, it needs that which only Heaven can give (John 3:27).

The world doesn't need our compromise, or our attempting to help them fit in. It needs, as a matter of death and life, the fruit of a renewed tongue, speaking the pure word of Faith, to be engrafted word, able to save their souls (James 1:21).

This is Eternal Life, that they may

"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

John 17:3

He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

1 John 5:12



Eyes on the Sky



Seek first the Kingdom of God, and his Righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33

The Kingdom is invisible, in the heavens (John 3:3). It is the unseen dominion, greater and more sufficient than the natural, which, from its excess, overflows into what we can see.

What we can see, feel, and experience is not the Spirit. What we can see is not the Kingdom. What we touch with the soul and body is but our response to God.

To see the Kingdom is to seek that which is Beyond. We are not looking just for a revival, although revival will be a part of it. We are not looking directly for miracles, however, they are the signs that should accompany what we find.

To only look at the material effect of what the Kingdom can produce is to admit that you are blind, lame, poor, and naked (Revelation 3:17).

It is only when you can see Beyond, to the Kingdom, that you are living right. It is only when you can actually, according to Luke 14:26, hate your natural life for the higher, spiritual life, that you are truly free.

This is the point of the Gospel, to bring us to know God (John 17:3). And, not from the teaching of a man, but to be taught by God! John 16:13, John 6:45, 1 Thessalonians 4:9.

The gospel is about power, not words. There is right doctrine, and there is demonstration, but the Kingdom is real in and of itself today. Jesus is a real person, not a doctrinal statement. It is His primarily job to teach us (Matthew 23:8).

If it is your job to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12), then it is requirement to expect others to do the same. If it was the word that brought you your faith (Romans 10:17), it is your responsibility to bring others not to your faith, but to what brings it to them, that same word.

This world will pass away. This life of ministry will pass. It is the word of God that stands forever, and it faith, hope, and love that remain. There is still a place today for apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, and evangelists, to the equipping to the maturity of the faith to the full statue of Christ, and there will never be a shortage of "work", but it is the wrong focus to lead people to yourself.

We must not be interested in only revival. We must not be interested only in miracles. We must not be interested only in habitation. We **MUST** be about the Kingdom. We **MUST** see that which cannot be seen. We must know the love that surpasses knowledge!

If we miss the Kingdom, we miss out on reward. 1 Corinthians 3:13 explains how each mans work will be tested with fire. It explains how the fire, the burning, reveals the quality of the work, and that only what lasts through the fire, the gold, silver, and precious stones, is rewarded.

If we miss the Eternality of what Jesus brought, if we miss the depth of Pentecost, if we miss the global, eternal, indwelling of the living Christ, we have missed the substance for which we were born again. If we do not catch sight of the vision of Heaven, requiring the attendance at three of the feasts of the Lord of every Israelite

(Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles), we have departed from the pattern.

If we live for any other purpose, with any other vision, we add unbearable loads to ourselves and others. We may not see its strain if we do not choose to build high in the Spirit, but then, despite how big our ministry looks in the natural, we will have accomplished very little for God.

The church at Laodicia thought they had it all. But, Jesus said they were wretched, poor, pitiful, and blind. He counseled them to come to Him for the truth, for the real substance.

When revival does come to America, we can expect to see a swell of devotion, but what makes it last? It is the word of Faith, it is consecration. It is wonderful to feel God's glory, but if we experience the freedom and life that comes from it, and then immediately go out to our own lifestyle, we will lose what we gained, and the ensuing results from not still being in the shelter that God just provided (the glory), the storm that will come afterwards, will be far worse than when we started.

We must cry out for the repentance of old. We must cry out to be changed at a very deep heart level. There is a genuine work of the Spirit, but the spirit of the age is strong, and unless we abandon all, we will not long hold onto the part of the Kingdom we touch. We may be saved, but as one with the smell of smoke, with little or no reward.

People volunteer willingly in the day of His power (Psalm 110:3), but will we be also willing to go on from there to "it is no longer I that live, but it is Christ within me. The life I live, I live by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who loved me, and gave Himself up for me." (Galatians 2:20).

If we aim for revival, it is all we'll get, and it will be gone in a few months. If we aim for miracles, we might maintain something for a while, but there will be no need for it in Eternity. If we aim for a ministry, some day, all this age will turn to dust.

Unless we set our vision, or goal, for what truly lasts, The Kingdom of God, Today, Now, Here on the Planet now, the Domain of the Living Christ, both in our hearts, manifested through us onto the Earth in accordance with Matthew 6:10, the actual, tangible, spiritual, and POWERFUL dynamic movement of the spirit realm of heaven, the majesty of the King, the wonder of IMMANUEL, God with us, not God will be with us, not we will be with God, but THE ETERNAL living within men, now, as a present reality, that sees all, knows all, fathoms all. That knowable now reality of who God is, what He wants, what makes Him happy. Unless we set our eyes on that, we will MISS the reward God in wants us. And, if we end up last in this life because of it, rejoice, for you will be first in that one.

But, if we let revival touch us. If we let it destroy our lives, our agendas, our materialistic way of thinking, even if the circus of revival passes with the season, the touch will not, the faith will not, the love will not. Even if we lose the showiness of the meetings, we will not lose the most precious thing, the priceless pearl, hidden treasure, the Son of Man.

But, there is only One Thing that is needed, and, if we choose it, it will not be taken away from us. Luke 10:42



Daniel 9



Daniel 9:24

Seventy "sevens" are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

Daniel had learned from the book of Jeremiah that Israel was to have gone into captivity for seventy years (Jeremiah 25:1-11; Jeremiah 29:10). Having understood the time in which he was, he prayed to the Lord, petitioning for the servitude to be done. As Daniel prayed and confessed (Daniel 9:4), he asked for mercy.

A messenger from God came, namely Gabriel, to deliver the message. Seventy seven-year periods of time were decreed. A total of 490 was decided, and Jerusalem would be rebuilt.

The time was determined for Daniel's people and his holy city. Six things were indicated to be done at the end of this time period:

1. Finish (shut up) Transgression
2. Put an end to (seal up) sin
3. Atone for wickedness (cover wickedness)
4. Bring in everlasting righteousness
5. Seal up vision and prophecy (prophet)
6. Anoint the most holy

The Rebuilding

Daniel 9:25

Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven "sevens," and sixty-two "sevens." It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

The time from the "going forth of the word" until the time that the Messiah, the king would come would be $7 * 7 + 62 * 7$ years, or $49 + 434 = 483$ years. Of the original 490 years from v24, this leaves one week, or seven years, remaining. The first 49 years indicate the rebuilding period of Jerusalem, and the 434 years indicate the time between that and the coming of the Messiah, or Christ (both meaning "Anointed One"). This would be the time in which Jerusalem was built already, and people lived in it.

After the Sixty-Two

Daniel 9:26

After the sixty-two "sevens," the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

There is little controversy regarding most of Daniel 9, except for verse 27. Depending on your translation, the above being NIV, a people did come and destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end came like a flood, and wars continued until the end, and desolations were decreed. While not part of the 70 weeks proper by many people's timeline, the city was destroyed around 70AD under the Roman emperor Titus.

The Last Seven

Daniel 9:27

He will confirm a covenant with many for one "seven." In the middle of the "seven" he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

If seventy sevens were determined, and 69 have passed up through v26, then Daniel 9:27 is the Seventieth Seven, the final "week" of Daniel 9, and for many, the final seven years of history.

If believed that the 70th week is the last 7 years of history, and that it is still outstanding, then phrases like "the people of the ruler who will come" would strongly indicate that Rome must be revived in some way, that we are still, somehow, in the time of the legs and feet of iron, and of the fourth beast.

Interpreted this way, it is necessary to assume a "gap" between the 69th seven and the 70th.

There is contention over who the "He" of v27 is. Some say it is the "ruler who is to come", whose people destroyed the city (the Romans), and some say it still refers to the Messiah. There are many, quite different translations of v27, which does not help to clarify the text, but adds alternatives.

Daniel 9:26-27 YLT

And after the sixty and two weeks, cut off is Messiah, and the city and the holy place are not his, the Leader who hath come doth destroy the people; and its end is with a flood, and till the end is war, determined are desolations. And he hath strengthened a covenant with many -- one week, and in the midst of the week he causeth sacrifice and present to cease, and by the wing of abominations he

is making desolate, even till the consummation, and that which is determined is poured on the desolate one.'

Even in the Young's Literal Translation, the exact meaning could be shifted some, depending on the interpretation of a few key phrases. This is not a short-coming in the text, but, rather, the glory of God to conceal.

The word about the covenant is to strength or confirm, not necessarily "make a new one", but could be to ratify an existing one, which would seem to make sense as it does not take an entire seven years to make a covenant.

For those looking for a future fulfillment, it necessitates not a revived Rome, but a revived Israel with a new, third temple, with sacrifices, so that sacrifice can cease.

Many object to a past fulfillment of v27 because of v24, the six things listed. However, standard preterist interpretations provide fulfillments for all of these. Even as only 8 people made it into the ark including Noah, just because Israel missed its opportunity, missed its day of visitation, does not mean God missed it. If promises remain yet to be fulfilled, then, they remain to be fulfilled by the church. This, of course, is a far cry from "Replacement Theology", which says that the church replaced Israel. Rather, as Paul wrote, we were grafted into the root, while some parts of the original tree were broken off. To forget the root is not good! As Paul wrote, out of the two, God has created One New Man! (Ephesians 2:15).

The six items listed in v24 aptly describe the work of God through Jesus and the preparation of John the Baptist.

1. Repent, Finish transgression
2. Do Good, Put an end to sin
3. Jesus was the Passover lamb and covered our sins with His blood, to atone for wickedness
4. He was brought in at the triumphal entry, bringing in everlasting righteousness

5. The law and the prophets were until John (Luke 16:16), and sealed up vision and prophet
6. Jesus was anointed by Mary of Bethany, Anoint the most holy

Clearly, whether specifics are brought out for different points, a case can be soundly made that these six things were done, and the fact that some of the Jews did not enter into them is not a failure in the Word, but in those hearing it.

Yet, this was not even unforeseen in the original text. Daniel 9:26 itself plainly signifies that the end of Jerusalem would come. This certainly would make me tend to see the 490 years as completely fulfilled, whether or not you connect the last week of Daniel's 70 7's to any other passage in scripture or not. Daniel is praying about the rebuilding and resettlement of natural Jerusalem, and he is promised from God that it will be established for a period 490 years. The only thing in question in my mind, then, would be what is the meaning of the additional 33-40 years (depending on when exactly you count the end of the 69th 'seven') from 70AD when Jerusalem was physically destroyed. While still mysterious, one scenario would be likened to the door on the ark. After the 70th seven, if contiguous, the fate of the city was sealed, and the desolations (already prophesied 500 years prior by Daniel, mind you) were fully determined and set into motion. Just because it took a few days for the rain to flood the Earth, once the ark door was closed, the fate of the world was already sealed at the conclusion of the seventy sevens when the Gospel went over to the Gentiles.

The notion of a period of seven years is not unique to end times study. The Jewish cycle of years was always in sevens, or weeks, with the 7th year always being a sabbath year with no sowing or reaping. After seven weeks, or 49 years, there was a jubilee year, or 50th year, rounding out the entire set, which was even a greater rest. All slaves would go free, land would return to its rightful owners, and there was no working in the fields because God had provided provision to last.

So, while another passage may reference a seven-year period, I see no direct need to correlate the two.

Instead, I see a different pattern for that of Daniel 9, a missed opportunity of the Jews, described by Paul as a partial hardening of the nation of Israel, temporary, so that the Gentiles could come in. After which, as Romans puts it, "All Israel will be saved." Romans 11:26.

Many consider the decree to rebuild the temple that to be the 4th Biblical decree regarding the Jews returning to Israel, that of rebuilding the city. By some accounts, this aligns **TO THE DAY** that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey.

On schedule, keeping an over 500 year old appointment, Jesus arrived, on-time, for the first time openly allowing Himself to be recognized as the King, with shouts of "Hosanna!" or "Save!". A week later, he was killed, or, after the 62 weeks.

Yet, by most translations, the scriptures had already prophesied the destruction of the city, not its salvation. 490 years had been determined for Jerusalem and Daniel's people.

The YLT indicates the ruler that was to come would destroy the people, implying that the city connects with the previous phrase.

Again, understand the timing for Daniel. Israel has been dispossessed from the land for nigh on 70 years, and Daniel is making intercessions, saying, that Israel had been very unfaithful. In response to his prayers, a messenger is sent, and it is disclosed that 490 years are decreed for the city and the people. It is to begin with a decree, and end with the king, with the final 'week' of confirmation of the new covenant.

After the 62nd week, it would appear the wars and desolations were determined for Jerusalem and the people. People still wrestle over whether the one to end the sacrifices and oblations was Jesus or the ruler of the people who destroyed the city (the Romans), and there is

no direct consensus, without involving the rest of eschatological viewpoints.

What must be pointed out is that, at the end of the 490 years, would have been somewhere in the timeframe of 35AD to 40AD, depending on how you count the years, and which crucifixion date you agree with, and whether the 62nd week came at the baptism or entry into Jerusalem. Jerusalem was destroyed in 70AD, and then destroyed finally, with all Jews being banished in 135AD after a failed Jewish revolt.

I see no plausible argument for why the last week did not simply follow immediately on the heels of the first 69. All of v24 had been accounted for, the desolations were determined, as declared by Jesus' own mouth in Luke 19:41-44 as He wept over it, saying, "they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."

The end, later would come like a flood, with various wars until its end, and its desolation had been determined.

For the next several years, the Christians, as they were to become known, stayed in Jerusalem, and met daily both in the temple and house to house. God added to their number, but despite the signs, despite the outpouring of the Spirit and the manifestation of the Kingdom of God among them (Acts 3:1-10), the leaders of the Jews did not repent, they did not believe, they did not come to the Gospel.

The hardest verse is verse 27. When exactly was the sacrifice and present (oblation) ceased? Some make this out to be the crucifixion itself, dating the end of the 62nd week at the baptism, and the cross 3 1/2 years later.

For a space of several years, the gospel did go out boldly, and the covenant was confirmed with signs and wonders in Jerusalem (not that they stopped after that). The KJV has "and for the overspreading of abominations", for the wide-spread, and growing abominations, it was made desolate, even until the very end, and that

which was determined was poured out on the one already made desolate.

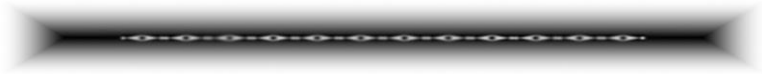
That is, when they missed Jesus, and the abominations began to spread over out and overshadow the land, it was made desolate, possibly by 70AD. Until the very end, the very end of Israel and the city, before they were thoroughly dispersed throughout the nations, and that which was determined, the sentence for the city and the people, was poured out on those who were already desolate, with the final crushing of their rebellion and dispersion in 135AD.

It certainly is possible that the 70th week could either refer to an upcoming time period, or that, in light of "missing it the first time", that God will give them ANOTHER CHANCE, so to speak, with another parallel seven year period. However, the original 490 years were concerning the people, and the city, regarding their restoration from Babylon in their first exile.

It would simply seem to me that, in light of them being dispersed, so completely broken, and so completely scattered, after having been restored for the time set forth by the angel from God, it would make sense that the seven year period would be concluded. The purpose for the 490 years was completed with Jesus' ministry, and the failure of certain individuals to grasp it does not serve to negate nor delay the prophecy, but rather would simply help to further confirm it. Its ambiguity, on the other hand, may in fact have been God's grace in receiving the Jew's humility and acceptance of Christ. While the destruction seemed immanent even to Daniel, perhaps the language was left open in the chance of better choices, not to say by any means God didn't know which way they would choose.

Ultimately, the loss of Daniel 9:27, and even that of Daniel 2 and 7 would not deal any 'death blow' to end times prophecy study, or even necessitate a further preterist viewpoint, but the remaining scriptures would still say what they say. Fulfilled scriptures are still fulfilled, open scriptures are still open, and there really is little change. The scriptures that say man will become rare on the Earth, in my understanding, still have not happened. But, certain other interpretations may change as well.

It certainly could be that the 70th week remains outstanding, but it also appears that there is little it would add other than the part about confirming a covenant for seven years, and ending sacrifice and oblation. But, if these have already occurred, while prophecy does work in patterns quite often, we do not need to assume it will happen again. Rather, these events were the glorious revelation of Jesus Christ to Daniel in window of time of 490 years after their return to exile, after which, through the hardening of some, the time of the Gentiles has been upon us, yet appears to draw to a close with the Jews in Israel, and in much of Jerusalem.



Lose Your Life



If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

Luke 14:26

The way of discipleship is the way to follow the cross. The requirement of discipleship is to never look back.

Jesus said that the Kingdom was like a precious pearl, that, when found, a man sold all he had and bought it. There is something about finding something that is worth it. If you can see it, if you can recognize what you see, and correctly appraise it, it is not a hard choice to lose everything else to obtain the best.

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

Mark 8:35

If you want to save your earthly life, you will lose it, both your natural and your heavenly life. If, however, you lose everything to do with your earthly life, not only will you gain your heavenly one, but you will, when all is said and done, live this earthly one to the full as well.

The aim of the Kingdom is never worldly wealth. To use spiritual truths, spiritual principles, and spiritual anointing with a primary emphasis and goal to be that of procuring physical ends, is both

perverted and worldly. Material things do come (Luke 18:30), but is it our focus? Is it not rather something by which we can continue to do what we have been doing, only on a greater scale, namely seeking first His Kingdom and His Righteousness? (Matthew 6:33).

The TRUE END we are looking for MUST be Faith, Hope, and Love (1 Corinthians 13:13), which are Eternal. If you seek for anything else, you WILL find it.

The weight of ministry alone, the weight of the anointing and the pressures of life will themselves guarantee your decision will be forced to the full. At one point, push will come to shove, pressures will mount, and choices will be made, one way or another.

Jesus said you would hate one or love the other. If you fall down, get back up again, but the choice is always right there.

I believe Jesus came and gave us the easiest, lightest yoke, burden, and way of living in His Presence and in His anointing. The issues of the prophetic, gifted life range and vary, but they all include the basic pressures of provision (Matthew 6:33), stress (Matthew 6:34), anger (Matthew 5:22), sin (Matthew 5:19), obedience (Matthew 7:24), and the like.

Unless you lose you life, unless you are willing to separate yourself from everything, it will have a pull on you. You might be able to handle that stress for a year or two, and suppress and manage the anxiety that comes simply with good decision making skills, but there will come a day, an evil day, when all of your strength will be required. That is, if you're fixing to go anywhere notable in the Spirit.

Half-hearted attempts are a dime a dozen. If you're just looking to have a few goose bumps and see a couple people with a headache get healed, enjoy that, but don't step out to see the Kingdom advance by force until you are willing to come in line with the cost (Luke 14:28). If you begin and are unable to finish, you will face ridicule, and you will probably suffer loss and shame.

The cost, of course, is extremely high. Actually, it costs everything, every day, all the time. The wonderful thing about this cost is, anyone can pay it. Any one at all. But, the problem is, few do. Perhaps it takes a level of revelation to even get started, but after that, the instructions were clear from the beginning.

Whatever portion of the Kingdom you find, whatever facet, whatever gift, or whatever truth, in order to champion it, in order to redeem and restore it, you must die to everything else. You must lose every other focus. You keep the main thing the main thing, being Christ and Him crucified, but name what prophetic minister, attempting to restore the prophetic to the body, who did not lose quite a bit of reputation, pride, and self along the way. Name one true, notable revivalist who wasn't called demon-possessed? It's easy to go half-way, but are you willing to give it all for the King?

But considering the focus, with the eyes of faith, however, the choice is made. It is made the moment we catch a glimpse of it. The eyes of faith know the Eternality of the Kingdom. The eyes of the heart know it's worth. The only motivation to stay where you are is fear. The only thing that you can do to stay where you are, once your spirit has captured a glimpse of something, is to draw back, run and hide, and chicken out. The faith itself, the very love of God and His Kingdom, for the born again, spirit-filled believer, compels them, governs them, dictates to them, to pursue (2 Corinthians 5:14).

When we catch a glimpse of what is there, and it fills the fullness of the gaze of our eyes, knowing both the worth and the cost, you'll never be happy until you pursue. Many can (and will) attempt to dissuade you from it, only keep your eyes of faith firmly fixed on your target, keep it securely set on the Eternal realm of the heavens, keep that feeling of what it means to you, and don't ever, ever, ever, ever give up.

What If



What if you had your eyes focused on just one thing? What would it be like if you could just run after the Lord with total abandon, and seek Him with all that you are, continually?

What if you could live with your eyes fixed on the heavenly realm, and live out of the substance of faith? What would that look like? Where would you end up?

Brushing aside fantasy, take a step deeper... What is it that distracts? What is it that pulls you away?

There are two things absolutely for certain, God will ask more of you than you want to give, AND, He can never ask you for more than you have. So long as we keep in mind that it only, apparently, takes two loaves, five fishes, and a mustard seed of faith to feed a multitude, He will never ask you to do more than what you have, when you consider everything.

When you really get down to it, you have only about two options. When anxiety or fear or anger come up, you simply can't react to it. Even the religious world has got that one figured out, although fleshly control is what the law proved was insufficient anyway. Instead, you must process it one way or another. You can either suppress it or face it.

Unfortunately, many people do the first, and deny to themselves that they are feeling it. If you push it out far enough, you will get on for a while, but it will eventually come back. Or, in that day when you've used up all your strength inside for something else, you won't have quite as much strength to push away the anxiety.

Jesus said that when the eye was single, the whole body was full of light (Luke 11:34). It is in the place of singularity of vision, singularity of purpose, singularity of focus, when that is focused on Jesus, that we cannot be stopped by anything.

In fact, while many people think of anger as primarily evil, anger has the characteristic that it causes you to focus on only one thing. When this is the wrong thing, as the verse above indicates, that is a very dark thing. When, however, the anger is focused on something good, such as when Jesus cleansed the temple (Psalm 69:9), it was used by God for the purification of His house.

But, it is precisely what distracts you and why it does so, that is the inner workings of our hearts. While our faith can grow, it is precisely the doubts, fears, and inconsistencies that we live with on a day-to-day basis, without observation, that make up the sand in our hearts, keeping us from that firm a foundation.

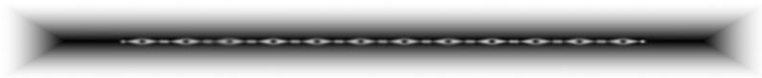
We both know ourselves too well, and not well enough. What we see, we hide from day-to-day life, because it is painful. What we are afraid of, we hide, in dark corners, until, one day, we trigger something, and out comes something from within. It does not mean that it is the whole thought and motive of our heart, but it's in there, and, short of Jesus, it makes it clean.

The way of faith, the way of discipleship, the way of the cross, loses that entire life. It does not counsel it away, although some counsel may be used. Rather, it grows in faith in God. That He is a good Father, that He is able, it keeps the eyes above the soul, above the warfare, and knows that God will be there on the other side.

The greatest breakthroughs you will ever have is having done all else to stand, to stand fast in the gospel. To not lose your confidence, nor back down, and to keep on going through. The greatest victory you can ever have in the midst of it, simply, is Matthew 5. To look at the storm, and to know that it's too much for you, and to know that when you run out, God will show directly. Promised. And, when you realize that, in the midst of your warfare, you become happy. You become fixed in faith, rooted and grounded in love.

Everything else takes too much effort, and requires too much labor to maintain. Even the youths grow tired and weary, and choice young men stumble and fall, but those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:30-31). When you receive the Kingdom, you receive a part of Him that never goes away. You receive a glimpse that can never be stolen. When you see Him, you are willing to lose it all again, just for that glimpse. For joy.

What if we could run on without wavering, without looking around, without any other hope of succor or comfort other than Him. Then, in all honesty, we would be completely free.



Freedom



It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

God wants us free. He wants you free, He wants me free. He wants me to point you to His freedom, and you to point me there. He wants each of us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12).

A methodology that does not leave each individual person responsible for their own growth, pursuit, and desire will always fall short. Even looking at it from a Faith perspective, considering Matthew 13:44, if you can only have faith for the treasures you have seen, the words you have heard, you want as many people listening as you can. If an entire church or body or organization depends only upon the leader hearing, it will be much less apt to hear every proceeding word from above.

God desires us all to come to the fullness of the knowledge of Him, and that only comes through pursuit. He is a rewarder of those that diligently pursue Him (Hebrews 11:6).

Freedom is the mark of the Kingdom, and hence, the church. Jesus said, "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall." (Luke 11:17 portion). Deliverance is a Kingdom act, because it is distinctly a work of Jesus.

As Jesus spoke, concerning Himself and those of the Kingdom. "But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils."

Luke 11:22 Not only are we called to live free from the dominion of darkness, He designated each person to make their own decisions to follow Him. The church can make bylaw after bylaw, and write training manual after training manual, but it only by hearing of the Word that faith comes (Romans 10:17). Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. A training manual, a sermon, a bylaw is useful, so long as it brings the word. So long as it is man's word, and not God's, it is worthless.

We are not looking for another legal code or a new liturgical structure by which to approach God. God gave one, for all time, that was absolutely perfect, and He gave it to Moses. And, it is absolute bondage to the flesh to pick up even the smallest portion and attempt to derive any righteousness or merit from it. It is condemnation and death. Do not let yourself be brought into a yoke of bondage again.

The tabernacle, the mosaic law, the feasts, all of these were a shadow of the real, of Christ. They were a fleshly working out of a Spiritual reality, namely Jesus. The problem is when, out of unbelief, we turn back to these structures. You cannot mix faith and the old way. As you look up on Jesus, more and more, the reality of what those structures intended becomes more and more clear. It becomes evident that they were merely simple pictures of who He is. To turn back to the weak and poor elements of the tabernacle becomes such a base and ignorant thing, it becomes sad that anyone would ever turn to them.

God provided them for a season, but the reality is found in Christ. You COULD find salvation, outside of Jesus mind you, in the feasts, so long as you kept them, and the rest of the Mosaic law perfectly. Or, if you had. For most people, we have already sinned, already failed, and fallen short of our true goal, His Glory. The law was, do these things and you will live.

But, now, we have a new a better covenant, and to attempt to live by the old simply reveals the lack of complete faith in the other. It is for Freedom that Christ has set us free, and none other.

We are free from sin, sickness, disease, death, poverty. We are freed from liturgies, structures of worship, schedules and disciplines of man, and from man's legal codes. Our source is the Bible, our teacher is the Lord Himself. It is good to be shepherded and guided as Christ is formed in us. It is good to have iron sharpen iron, but, ultimately, we stand before God alone in that day anyway.

While all of man-instituted religion may have a form of godliness, it denies the power thereof and substitutes the power of God for a lie. It replaces true worship from a pure and undefiled heart with an empty form which neither moves the heart of man nor, for the most part, God.

Faith moves God. Prayer moves God. Love is what He is after, Truth is His standard.

A freedom that pursues God, that perfects holiness out of reverence for God (2 Corinthians 7:1), and that seeks to be like Him out of a sincere love is the pure walk. And, a love that lays its own life down for its friend is our goal.



Treasure



Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.

Matthew 13:52 (portion)

The product of knowing about the Kingdom is to bring forth treasures. These treasures are New, created now. We refer back to the word.

Isaiah 48:6-8

You have heard; look at all this. And you, will you not declare it? I proclaim to you new things from this time, even hidden things which you have not known.

They are created now and not long ago; And before today you have not heard them, So that you will not say, "Behold, I knew them."

You have not heard, you have not known. Even from long ago your ear has not been open, Because I knew that you would deal very treacherously; And you have been called a rebel from birth.

God created new things. Things created just then, and not some other time. This is what Jesus is saying.

In the Old Covenant, of which the teachers of the law were experts, were old treasure. The law, the tabernacle, the things of the Old Covenant are great treasures. They are true words, tried seven times, refined in the fire, and perfect words. After Heaven and Earth have passed away, they will still remain.

But, when Jesus told a man with a withered hand to stretch it forth, the hand that opened up was not the old, withered hand, but a new one. When he spoke to spoke to the storm, that was not the old, stormy sea, but a new calm. When He told the man with the mat that his sins were forgiven, the man's freedom was not his old bondage to sin, but a new freedom.

Jesus spoke with the authority of heaven, and did what He saw His Father doing. He spoke once in time past, and the worlds were created. He spoke again, and eyes were re-created where they were not before.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

We never leave the word. As we study and teach the Word, we will bring forth treasures from of Old. We will bring forth truths about who God is, how He showed himself strong on behalf of those who have gone before. Yet, as we learn the truths of the Kingdom, the Spirit of Prophecy comes upon us (Revelation 19:11), we come to know God, and are taught by Him! We do not need anyone to teach us, for we have an anointing from the Holy one, and we know all things.

These in no wise contradict, but enhance each other. If one person has a song, hymn, or revelation, let him share it, and edify the body, allowing everything to be tested. If someone else receives something while the first person is speaking, have the first person sit down and let the second go. There is room for us all to share, and to prophesy.

As we open to the Lord, and as our faith grows, we learn to hear from Him. We never contradict the Word, and it is always our final standard, but even as Jesus said, even his apostles couldn't bear what He wanted to share. He would send the Comforter, and the Comforter, the Living Holy Spirit dwelling within would guide them into all truth (John 16:13). If they could not bear it then, with the Christ with them, it is quite plausible that many of us have not grown to the full level of faith to receive some of the very same things that Jesus wanted to share to them then.

But, Peter obviously learned something. In Acts 5:15, Peter had so been changed in the Presence of the Lord that his shadow passing over the sick healed them. If He found something in the Father that caused those around him to be healed, and God is no respecter of persons, all we must do is imitate the faith of this man, and live thus.

Jesus said that where your treasure is, there your heart is also. To Abraham, the Lord said that He Himself was his shield and his exceedingly great reward.

There is nothing else that can ever compare to the excellency found in Christ. There is nothing else that can ever compare to Him. As we learn the secrets of the Kingdom, as we learn faith and go from glory to glory, we find we truly are crucified to this world, and this world is crucified to us. We must not become entangled in it. God wants you fully in Himself, and wants the totality of your heart. The Kingdom must be allowed to take precedence, and to rule over all.

It will not have free reign to rule over all the nations of the Earth, until it rules over all the nations of your heart, of your "earth", that is your soul. Where your treasure is, there your heart is also.

How far can you go?



Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11:11

Somewhere, we have picked up some really heinous ideas and called them wisdom. Take John... He lived in the wilderness his whole life, fasting and praying, and preparing for Messiah. He was to be the messenger, and he was to prepare the way for Jesus, so through him, all the world might be saved. This was his mission, his job, and he knew it. He knew it so well, that when Jesus' "ministry" started to outshine his own, he didn't even care.

Matthew 3:26-30

And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him. John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. "You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, "I am not the Christ," but, "I have been sent ahead of Him. He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. "He must increase, but I must decrease.

He was the faithful servant. When his job was done, he knew the bride wasn't his, but Jesus'. He had fulfilled his assignment, and he was content.

And, what did Jesus call this man who spent his whole life fasting and praying and living away from people and everything that makes life "enjoyable" in a fleshly sense? The greatest short of those in the Kingdom. And today we call him, the church today would call him, a freak. Again, as the Word calls it, they were people that the world was not worthy of.

Hebrews 11:36-38 (emphasis mine)

Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated **the world was not worthy of them**. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

If God considers them people that "the world was not worthy of", and we consider them of "no earthly good", being too spiritual to come amongst us, all we really are is a Pharisee, building the tombs of the prophets that our forefathers killed.

What are the things that distract you from this walk? Say it's a sin. What pleasure, what relief, what benefit do you gain from participating in that sin? What is the feeling that that produces within you that makes you want? Whatever that is, hate it. Hate the feeling and the relief you get from it, hate the soulish benefit you receive from the evil thing. It's harder to hate that than the act. It is not really you. Romans 6:11 says for us to reckon ourselves dead to sin. Colossians 3:15 instructs us to "Put to death therefore", to put it to death by the Spirit.

What distracts you and why is precisely what is important, and is exactly what is holding you back. When you no longer need anything from someone, or even when you don't think you do, they

have no control over you. When you throw away the societal rules that imply shame and ignorance upon those who do not conform to fit a certain portrayed image, and you live and die upon a different system, a system rooted in an Eternal man, the earth has no more hold on you.

The world, and even segments of the church, can make a great deal of noise about the basic elements of this earth. But Jesus came and demonstrated The Way, a way above them.

Be careful that you don't let anyone rob you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the elements of the world, and not after Christ.

Colossians 2:8

Where the world is limited to the rules of this world, we are not. Where the world must take a boat, Jesus walked on water. Where the world must pay for all their bread, Jesus multiplied it. Where the world cannot make up for a lack of wine, Jesus created it. Where the all world must die, Jesus overcame it!

Do NOT let anyone rob you through the basic principles of this world. Through the elemental spirits. Through the rudimentary things of this earth. One word of Faith. One word of truth. One word, saying, "Peace be still", calmed a storm. And one word, "Come Forth!" brought up Lazarus from the grave.

Don't LET anyone rob you. Don't let circumstances rob you. Don't let anything rob you from first place.

John was the greatest outside of the Kingdom, but the least in it is greater than he. What would happen if you combined the diligence of John, with the right heart and Spirit, with the ability, supremacy, dominion, and grace of the Kingdom? The results will be out of this world...

Blindness



Blind Pharisee!

Matthew 23:26 (first two words)

It is one of the saddest thing not to be able to see. In the natural, it means you cannot see the natural creation. Blindness in the spirit, of course, means you cannot see the spiritual creation, the heavens.

There is something about seeing in the spirit. John was there, when he wrote his apocalypse. Ezekiel was there when he saw his visions by the river Chebar.

You don't need to be a prophet to see in the spirit these days. Since the day of Pentecost, when all the disciples were gathered in one place together, and God poured forth His Spirit, it is available to every believer to dream dreams and see visions.

But, when you start to see in the spirit, you are met with some pretty drastic choices. For the sincere Christian, this is alright, because all our choices are found in Jesus Christ.

You see, today, many people want a form of Christianity, a form of religion, that has very little to do with God Himself. It has nothing to do with prayer, it has nothing to do with prophecy. It has nothing to do with miracles. They want to live a lie to let themselves feel better.

Some people are sincere in it, but the system is wrong. The institution is wicked.

For most modern Christians, the words of Paul "Live by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16) have little or no meaning. How do we know for sure? Because, as the rest of the verse indicates, if you were doing that, you would not gratify the desires of the flesh. If you are walking by the Spirit, you do not gratify them. If you are gratifying the desires of your flesh, you are not walking by the Spirit. It's that simple.

But, people don't want simple. People want excuses.

They want to say, and they do, over and over on YouTube, say to the seers, "You must not see *visions*"; And to the prophets, "You must not prophesy to us what is right." (Isaiah 30:10). Further, many go on to fill out the rest of the verse, "Speak to us pleasant words, prophecy illusions."

When you see in the Spirit, with the light of the gospel, you do not walk in darkness, but you have the light of life, as Jesus said (John 8:12).

You see, God appointed for some to be teachers (1 Corinthians 12:28). Yet, He still wants to be our ultimate teacher. We submit one to another, but we come together to be brothers, not a hierarchy.

We have one Father, even God. We have one teacher, even the Spirit. We have one master, even the Lord Himself.

When we teach others who God is, without a primary component of that being how to find out for themselves, we say that God is not capable of doing a good enough job to teach others like He has taught us.

If the purpose of the five-fold ministry of Ephesians 4:11-12 was to equip and bring to maturity, then, being mature, we should be stable, and able to be instructed by the Lord in all good things.

Every revival breakthrough ever has always come from someone hearing from God. Every revival will always stop when people look more to a man who has heard from God, and do not transition into

hearing from God themselves. God wants to be their teacher, and He will not share his office as King. Your job is to get them there, and to help provide a proper framework where faith can arise and Kingdom priorities are maintained. Anything else is beyond the charter of the New Testament. There will always be a job for pastoral gifts, and there will always be a need for teachers, evangelists, and the rest, but if the focus isn't equipping, we have fallen short.

Man's words are not sufficient to produce faith, breath, or life. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds forth from God's lips (Matthew 4:4).

These words written here are not sufficient. It is the Word, the Bible, that produces faith. It is the scriptures where are useful for teaching, correcting, and rebuking.

The goal of ministry is to assist people to Christ. The effect of ministry today, too often, is to bind people to ones self. With a fair bit of understanding why, and all the mercy required. Working with people is hard at times. People are demanding of time, energy, focus. When you finally get that all worked out, if you still have time to spend with your family, you still have to pay the bills. But, ministry without a living, active faith, that energizes and releases people into freedom in their relationship with Jesus through His Spirit is meaningless.

Unless we help people to see Jesus, to hear from Him, instead of us, we have missed the mark.

Balaamism



Now watch this doctrine of Balaam most carefully. Notice above all, that it is the deliberate maneuver of a corrupt clergy to bind the people to them, by leading the people deliberately into the sin of unbelief. The Nicolaitane doctrine was the corruption of the clergy as they sought political power amongst themselves, while Balaamism is the subjection of the people to their system of creed and worship in order to hold them. Now watch this carefully. What was it that bound the people to the nominal church and thereby destroyed them? It was the creeds and dogmas formed into church tenets. It was the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. They were not given the true food, the Word. They were given the food that came from idol worship, Babylonian paganism wrapped up in Christian terminology. And that very same spirit and doctrine is right amongst all Protestants and it is called DENOMINATION. Nicolaitanism is organization, humanizing the leadership of the church, and thereby deposing the Spirit. Balaamism is denominationalism which takes the church manual instead of the Bible. And right to this hour, many of God's people are caught in the snare of denominationalism and God is crying to them, "Come out of her My people, lest ye be partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not her plagues." You see they are ignorant. But if the rapture should take place at this moment, ignorance would be no court of appeal from the judgment of God for being in the wrong ranks.

William M. Branham, a prophet from 40's and 50's, wrote the above words towards the end of his book on the seven church ages.

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

John 18:36

Jesus said His Kingdom was not of this world, nor of this realm. It was the Kingdom of the Heavens. John 3:3-5 indicates that the Kingdom cannot be seen nor entered unless one is born again, born of the water and the Spirit.

Whether a reign on the Earth is a physical one or not, the Kingdom will never change. It will never be of this realm, it will never be primarily Earthly, it will never be anything but what it is. It is Eternal, and while heaven AND Earth **will** pass away, it remains forever. It is ever increasing.

If there is to be a physical outworking of the Kingdom, even as our prayer is, "Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven", the manifestation of the Kingdom in the physical universe is witnessed, but the Kingdom itself is not, except to those born again.

When we consider the words of William Branham compared to the church today, the results are stunning.

The Word says we will all be taught by God, but now we people who teach us. The Word says the law will be written on our hearts, yet lawlessness is increasing in the organized church. The Word says that they will know that we are Christians by our love, and yet, when was that the thing that struck you the most about a group of Christians?

On top of this, how often do you hear someone preach a sermon such as the Sermon on the Mount back to back with a miracle meeting?

Jesus did, and said that He was The Way. Tradition is a powerful force, and often not for good.

Until we understand Gospel faith, we will understand nothing. Until we see the Kingdom, not the miracles, and not the church, we are useless for bringing about God's righteousness in the Earth.

It is only when we sell all and buy the treasure, the pearl (Matthew 13:44), that we have something of real value! Until then, we are in the same boat as John the Baptist, only not as disciplined...

Until we see the Kingdom as the higher road, the truly spiritual one, and not the false religions of this world, not even comparable, we do not walk in deep, Kingdom life, with power, love, authority, and His authority.

William Branham, in his own simple way, identified some of the primary ways in which we lose the anointing. The moment we organize, and rely upon our own institutions, we have begun to buy into the anti-christ system. The moment we begin to bind people to ourselves, our organization, or anything other than the Word Himself, we have stepped into the doctrine of Balaamism, and the path is getting darker.

The fires of revival die when we organize. Why? Because, most happy are those who are poor in Spirit, for theirs in the Kingdom. The power of the Kingdom flows most freely on the edge, where you're not sure if you're going to make it. If you're not on the edge, you're taking up too much room! Why? Because, when you're dependent upon Him, you get the most done. You know every move matters. Yet, when things are running smoother, they matter more, even when we cannot see!

Organization is the strong arm of the flesh attempting to balance the ark upon the ox-cart we are illegally transporting the glory upon (the name Uzzah, the man who died touching the ark of the Covenant in 2 Samuel 6:8, means "strong arm of the flesh"). If God killed that man for improperly handling His Holy things, let us take caution to know how the Spirit wants us to handle them.

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. This is the only Biblical way that Faith comes. Books can be helpful, but when it comes to healing, why do we need another handbook on how to do it? If you didn't believe the first one, the Gospels, why will you believe another? There can still be a place for testimonies, experience, and the like, but nothing will bring Faith but the Word itself.

The point of Christianity is to get to know God.

This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

John 17:3

Anything that looks like the Old Covenant of ritual and formulas is a broken shadow, and is a yoke of bondage according to the book of Galatians. Anything else, done in any type of hope that it will bring you to know Him, or bring you into right standing, other than faith in the grace through the cross of Christ, is also witchcraft. And, as William Branham pointed out, any attempt by the church to bring people's focus to anything other than God through His Word and Spirit, is not only vain, but is training the people into the sin of unbelief and binding them to themselves and their organization.

We must come to see the Kingdom. We must come into it more and more. We must, fully, bring it to Earth as in Heaven, as Jesus demonstrated each time He destroyed a work of the enemy.

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

If what we are doing does not lead us into a deeper relationship with Him, and get to know Him, and fall more in love with Him, we must STOP IT, repent from that dead work (Hebrews 6:1-2, dead, because it does not lead us to the life of God that is found in Christ), and rely upon the one and only source of our life, the one and only source of our Spirituality, the one and only source of truth, our Lord.

Failure to do this, actually scatters. Those with a bent towards power, seeing a dead church, will gravitate to the new age and the occult. Those with a bent towards religion will settle in and, so long as things LOOK nice, but don't threaten them personally, will overrun the place and make sure nothing ever grows, and will kill everyone who tries.

But, the life in Christ, that receives His word, and allows a place for it to grow, separating themselves from the concerns of this life by fully identifying with the crucifixion of Christ, produce a harvest. It is an Eternal Harvest, it is of the Spirit, although there is a manifestation of that which is in the Spirit in the Natural, and it is Christ.

Is your way getting to know Him as a person? Do you find yourself growing in love, and brotherly kindness, and who He is? If not, get out of organization, fall on your face in desperation, cry out with all of your heart, and when you seek Him with all of your heart, you will find Him... But, probably not before.



Forever



The cry of a generation, to cleave wholly to the Lord.

They are sick of compromise, and a church that is irrelevant. They are confused over a teaching that on one side talks about power, but on the other hand, can't get out of its own politics and powerlessness.

Jesus said that would know us by our love, and yet they know us by our cliches.

We have traded faith for doctrinal statements. We have traded true understanding for a listening to sermons we really don't believe down in the depths of our heart--not enough to be changed.

Some are sincere, but they lack tools to apply. Many want to teach and help others out of the mire, but they fail to understand how to reach in.

But, there is a way. There is a perfect way. There is a total and complete way.

It's faster than you think, deeper, strong.

Song of Solomon talks about it, it says that it is stronger than death (Song 8:6).

Jesus presented it (Matthew 5-7).

Jesus said if you followed Him, you would not walk in darkness.

Jesus said, he would give you power.

Jesus said, you would know the truth, and the truth would set you free.

There is one way that is Eternal, it is Him.

If you follow His leading, it will take you above ever other road.

If you follow His guidance, it will take you above yourself.

If you listen to His voice, and sell everything to buy it, success will mean that you serve everyone, and, at the end of the day, say, I have nothing but what I have received at your hand, I have nothing of my own, only what is yours, I am only your servant, and the servant of all. And, I bow at your feet.

I only want to break my self upon His feet, as that bottle of nard. I only want every part of my soul rubbed so deep within those pierced feet, until I soak into those cracked, worn feet.

There is nothing else that matters, but to love Him. There is no degree of warfare that is worth it. There is no level of revelation that matters. There is no gift you did not receive, but only His love.

I give all I am to the Master, and pour out my self upon Him.

Lavishing again, and again, though my soul is worn raw, I come again, and lie down at His feet, hoping for one drop.

I live by the Spirit, I love by the way of the Spirit. I do not listen to the complaints of the flesh, and this life, for I hate them. I must love one and hate the other, and I must follow Him.

Jesus spoke to Moses from the bush that was on fire. It burned and was not consumed. People say that you cannot keep up the pace, you cannot keep going, you'll burn out. Not if Jesus is in you. Not if it's His fire. You just keep burning, without blackening. It's only the fire

of the flesh that must consume its subject. It is the spirits of the world and the enemy that defile and defame and main and strain. His Spirit is perfect, His life is clean. It is the light of life.

I want to be His forever. I want to be drained upon His feet. If I waste myself in worship, He fills me until I overflow. I pour out with His life, undefiled, and clean. Because I am satisfied in the deep places of my own heart, I am not distracted by the offers of the world. As I ascend the Hill of then Lord, Mount Zion, my hands are clean and my heart is pure, because He alone can satisfy. As I gaze into His pure light, I see more and more light. What I thought was light before must not have been complete light, for, in His light we see light (Psalm 36:9).

It is the perfect bliss. It works in perfect concert with the heart. There is no strain to do the things of God, for, when I am weak, He is strong. There is no other life, no other offer that could ever compare. All I can do is crack down a little deeper, lose my soul a little longer, further, and pour.....

In Mark 14:5, the disciples themselves, the twelve, rebuked Mary harshly. Not just rebuke, but harshly. Leave the Master alone. You're wrong. You shouldn't be here. Get out! What are you doing.

Love finds a way. Love dies to the voices. Love is broken, and breaks.

I don't care what you say, I'm staying here forever. There is no other lover, there is no other friend. Your life is a lie, and, unless you lay it aside, you will burn with it. Only if you lose your life, will you find it, and only in His eye, in His glance, and His open hand to your heart, is there really life.

This world is a vapor, and this life a cloud... In a moment, it will be by...

And these three remain, faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13



The Seer Realm



(Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he used to say, "Come, and let us go to the seer"; for he who is called a prophet now was formerly called a seer.)

1 Samuel 9:9

A seer is a prophet. A seer is one who sees; a "see"-er. Particularly, they see into the realm of the Spirit. While some people in the Kingdom of Heaven may never see angels, demons, and the other things of the Kingdom, a seer sees these things, depending on their level of ability, as subject to the will of God.

When seeing in the Spirit, we always see in part, as we know and prophesy in part, according to 1 Corinthians 13. Yet, Jesus indicated a few things about seeing that seem true throughout the whole of scripture.

Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

John 1:50-51

Nathanael was a man without guile. He didn't have duplicity, falsehood, hidden motives. He was straightforward. And, he believed. When Jesus commended Him for this quality by way of a word of knowledge and insight, Nathanael believed with the delivery of only one word. Jesus, in response, said that he would see angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man, Himself.

I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?

John 3:12

In contrast, when Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, Nicodemus had trouble believing when Jesus talked about being born again. Jesus' response was, if you have trouble with this, how could you believe in the other?

Nathanael had an uncomplicated heart, and believed at a single word. Nicodemus also believed that Jesus was a teacher from God (John 3:2), but struggled to understand about being born again.

To see in the Spirit is the right of every believer who is in the Spirit of Christ. Yet, just as it is the pure in heart that will see God, it takes a heart submitted to the Lord, and willing to believe for God to begin to reveal His mysteries.

Seeing in the Spirit is wonderful, yet it is not an end in itself. As with any revelation, it often must be correctly received, understood, and interpreted. Even some well known, reputable prophets report that they do not understand a sizable portion of what they receive. Yet, you can be sure they treasure every part, even the hidden things. God's mysteries are still precious, even if we do not understand them yet.

When John was on the Isle of Patmos, he had a vision. This is also the seer realm. John saw visions, saw angels and doors, scrolls and thrones. He saw the Lamb, and he saw a dragon. He was a man like us, equipped with the same Spirit as us, and of the same body as us.

The only major difference is, that, according to Isaiah 9:7, there is more government and peace of the Kingdom now than there was then for Him, so the potential for seeing is **GREATER!**

Yet, without a pure heart, without a right heart, and a heart that desires to know the source of the revelation more than the revelation, it is all in vain. It is a heart satisfied in the love of God, in the Kingdom of Heaven, that can properly steward revelation. When we see Him, we worship Him. When we lose sight of Him, we could wander through all the heavens ever created, and they would be empty, vain, and worthless, both now, and eternally.

It is only His love that makes anything worth it. It is only His love that is our reward. If, in the course of our walk, we steward His wonders, because we are His servants, they are fun, and they help us see who He is more. We truly become partakers of His divine nature by His precious and magnificent promises (2 Peter 1:4).

For many people, trained to see only the things of this world, to get one's eyes off the material, onto that which is invisible, is to give them a freedom, and a perspective over this world that they have never before known. Like going from a black and white existence to full color.

It is our inheritance to see, in whatever level and capacity that He allows. But, as Paul wrote, earnestly desires the greater gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

Union



Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not

believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

Mark 16:15-18

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Matthew 7:13-14

Each of these scriptures is a part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each one of these passages was spoke by Jesus, given to the Apostles written for the disciples, and is absolutely relevant to us today. If it was not, there would be no reason for the book. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.

Today is the day of union, of unifying the word and the Spirit. Today, in the Church, is the day to bring together all things, even under one head, Jesus Christ.

No longer are the days of one part of the body embracing a message of a call to love, yet is powerless in its perfection and demonstration. No longer are we going to live in a day where power at all cost is even remotely attractive.

We have come to the place of transition from the place of putting up with whatever comes in the name of love while throwing out any notion of real holiness, as well as the circus and show mentality of the 40's and 50's tent revivals.

Any demonstration of power, no matter how it presents itself, that does not come with a spirit that lays down its life for its friends, demonstrates by its fruit its failure to ascend the hill of the Lord, to stand in His council, and speak what He wants them to speak.

"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

Matthew 7:22

He will say to them, "I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS." (v23).

Yet, neither will we adopt a stance that is anti-power, anti-word, anti-demonstration, anti-signs and wonders, anti-Christ, Christ, who was filled with the Spirit, went around doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil.

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

2 Timothy 3:5

We are in a day where neither ditch on either side of the road seems attractive anymore. When all the while there is a nice, level, flat piece of pavement running down the middle. Why not keep the main things the main things, and walk right down the middle, with a sword of the spirit in one hand, and a shield of faith in the other?

As the pressures mount, and they will, because Jesus said it was so (see Matthew 7:24-27), it is the foundation that matters.

Song of Songs 8:6 says, "Love is as strong as death, and its jealousy is as unyielding as the grave."

John wrote, in 1 John 4:4 (portion), "[G]reater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

It is the overcoming love of Jesus, defeating fear, and standing in the midst of the opposition of the world and the anti-christ spirits of this age in which we stand, and the only way to do it is to stand in a greater Spirit.

As faith arises, and hearts fall more deeply in love with Jesus, a transformation happens. We love because He first loved us. We have heart souls purified in obeying His truth (1 Peter 1:22), and we learn to love (1 John 4:7-8).

When the heart cry of the signs and wonders movement becomes unified with the desire to be like Jesus, on a mountainside or on a cross, in the storms of sea, or glorified on a mount of transfiguration, when we are truly no longer living for ourselves, the revival will be at full swing.

And, the only thing that can kill it is our attempts at organization, our attempt to contain, quantify, and define it, to suit our own lusts, pride, and egos. The only thing that would stop it would be doing anything other than what started it.

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Mark 8:35

Go ahead, stick your neck out and try it... Just, when you get a taste of success, don't decide you deserve it, or that you earned it. Just go ahead, and stick it out some more, and win again. One way leads to life, and the other, always, leads to death.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:16-26

Good News



Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

Matthew 8:20

What does it take to dissuade someone from pursuit? A little hardship, a little persecution? Lack of a comfortable home?

Jesus said,

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life.

Matthew 19:29

What you lose is only temporary, what you gain is worth it. It is Good News.

Luke 16:1-13 is a parable about a shrewd manager.

Knowing he would lose his position, he used what he had available to be sure that he would have a stable place after he left.

John the Baptist's whole message was about Eternity. "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field." (Isaiah 40:6, portion). What we have today, we cannot keep.

Like the shrewd manager, we are stewards in this life of what we cannot keep. The news has already hit the owner, and we have been unfaithful.

For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

At the end of the day, the owner will come, take the possessions entrusted, the book of accounting, prove the unfaithfulness, and turn the unfaithful stewards (mankind) out of His House. That is, if we do not know Christ.

What was it that Jesus said the shrewd manager would do?

Since he couldn't keep the things, as they would be taken away at days end, he started giving them away. Here's the reason why. So that the people where he was going would receive Him.

The lesson is this. The worldly and the wicked know how to provide for themselves bounty when going somewhere else. Why can't a believer have the same wisdom?

As Jesus said it,

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

Matthew 6:19

This is exactly what this man was doing. He was laying up treasures, via "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours", using what he couldn't keep anyway.

Jesus said the same thing regarding the Kingdom.

You have all this stuff that doesn't matter. Why not make something lasting with it? Why spend labor on what doesn't satisfy? Why store up in barns and heap an pile it up?

If you would simply take what you have today, and use it to store up heavenly wealth, you would not be disappointed. Jesus said that whatever we left for the Kingdom, we would receive one hundred times as much, both in this life, and the next, and with them, persecutions. We will not be liked for this, but, if you really looked at it through the eyes of God, since he who gives to the poor lends to God, what you lose is not worth comparing to what you will gain.

God will not be mocked, you will reap what you sow.

The issue is not the cost, when it comes to the Matthew 13:44 treasure in the field, it is rather, the worth of the Kingdom. The best way to have the fullness of the Kingdom is to have absolutely nothing else, even as Matthew 5:3 says. It is when there is no other yeast in the dough, that the yeast of the Kingdom through the Holy Spirit has full measure.

If we would maximize our investment, and keep on giving, trusting through Matthew 6:33 for God to meet our needs, we would not have lack.

We might sleep under a tree sometimes, but we would never be alone, for we would always be doing what pleases Him.

It's simple. Use what you have more when you get there. This world is going to end. It's Good News!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND THE BOOK

This project was born out of prayer and much waiting upon the Lord. It is a summation of nearly ten years of pursuing the prophetic and revelatory flow, and even longer of seeking to understand the church as Jesus wants us to. We all know in part, and prophecy in part, and when we do not express something well enough, usually, it is because we have not understood it well enough. Yet, there comes a critical-mass where revelation compounds upon revelation, and precept adds upon precept, until something takes shape. If you build the heart, you have the entire man. In the same way, if you have the seed that produced the tree you're trying to grow, all you need is water.

Benjamin has been a student of the Spirit for over ten years. While saved while he was young, it wasn't until a young adult that he met the only thing that made church and Christianity start to make sense, the baptism in the Holy Spirit. What had seemed like black and white before began to become color, and instead of a few splashes of water, and entire aquatic life began to take shape.

It is his sincere hope that those who read these writings might hear the Word, and that through it, faith might come.

As it is written, "However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the Earth?" (Luke 18:8, portion).

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