

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN'S AT HAND

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“The Kingdom of Heaven's at hand”

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More surely than anything I know, God specifically called me, over 30 years ago, to preach; “**The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand**”. My instructions, in effect, were to take this message to Christians. In order for me to teach anything about it, God first had to root out and pull down a lot of my inherited, traditional understanding of scriptures, and then build and plant again. This has been a process... “Wow”, what a journey. How much more needs to be rooted out and pulled down, how much more to be revealed?

In referencing scripture I have used the King James Bible, except in those cases I have noted. Spiritual meaning in the Bible, is typically hidden in metaphors and types and some translations I have seen tend to distort these hidden messages, in spite of their well meaning intentions. Even so, other translations add clarification when the King James is not so clear. I am not a King James only advocate.

The truth is liberating, and anything less than the truth applied in a persons life may result in more wailing and gnashing of teeth this side of the grave than necessary. The truth and the plan God has for us, has fantastic potential. Gods’ truth has potential for individuals, families, nations and as a matter of fact, for the whole creation. If we think we have a corner on all of God’s truth, or God’s word, we are kidding ourselves. There is much misunderstanding to be corrected and yet much more to understand. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13: wrote; “*For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*”

So let us in humility, ask God to further root out and pull down those things that hinder us, and offend the truth. Let us further seek God for His truth, and pray that He will open the eyes of our spiritual understanding that ***we might understand the mystery of the Kingdom***. The Mystery that was hidden from Angels, and men, but now is ready to be revealed through the Spirit of God to those who are His and seek His truth through Jesus Christ.

*Mark 4:11 And He said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the **mystery of the kingdom of God**: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:*

*Romans 16::25-26 Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to **the revelation of the mystery**, which was **kept secret** since the world began, **But now is made manifest**, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:*

*1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the **wisdom of God in a mystery**, even the **hidden wisdom** which God ordained before the world unto our glory:*

*Ephesians 3:1-6 1. For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, 2. If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: 3. How that by revelation **he made known unto me the mystery**; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4. Whereby, **when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ**)*

5. Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as **it is now revealed** unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6. That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Ephesians 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, **to make known the mystery of the gospel,...**

#

From the beginning of Church history, misunderstanding the grace of God through Jesus Christ, arguably, has been one of the major roots of doctrinal division and confusion for the Church. In Paul's letter to the Galatians, we find just one example of several in the New Testament, which is an indicator of some of the early church's problems with understanding the Grace of God;

Galatians 3:1-3 "foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"

There are other New Testament accounts that indicate some Christian Jews were still mixing law and grace or encouraging others to do so, well after Pentecost. In this example, Peter argues for the law vs an audible instruction from heaven;

Act 11:7-8 And I heard a voice saying unto me, Arise, Peter; slay and eat.

But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth.

Other examples indicate arguments about Jew/Gentile association, and circumcision.

The effect of tradition is powerful. What more is the Spirit saying today, that our traditions may cause us to say "Not so, Lord!"?

Prior to the reformation, religious leadership taught that a person must work their way into God's favor by performing good deeds, fasting, and by purchasing indulgences. Even with the revelations of Augustine, Martin Luther, Calvin and other reformers, the truth of the grace of God was fragmented. Down through the years, the result of this fragmented understanding has resulted in controversy and often division into doctrinal camps, each camp with their own recipe for a mulligan of "Law and Grace".

Today, many Christians still do not have a clear understanding of grace. If grace is understood in concept, often the way in which it is misapplied is at best, a mix of law and grace in actual practice. These misunderstandings and misapplications have created great stumbling blocks to individual Christian maturity and to the maturity of the body of Christ in the earth.

Even Christians need to pray that the truth be revealed and that it not remain hidden in natural understanding or misunderstanding. Here, Paul prays for the Ephesian Church that they might better understand the mystery of God, by the Spirit of God;

Ephesians 1:17-18 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation** in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; **that ye may know** what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Without the Spirit of Christ in you, you can not see with spiritual eyes. Spiritual understanding of the scriptures and the mystery of God's Kingdom or government is not possible.

Luke 10:23-24 And He turned Him unto His disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

Matthew 13:14-16 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

The natural man can not understand the mysteries contained in the scriptures. Spiritual understanding will only come through revelation by the Spirit of God to those who are born of the Spirit of God. However, even people who are truly Christians, those who have the Spirit of God in them, may still be led astray from the truth. We must be humble and open to the Spirit of God, but be wary of our own weaknesses and those of others. Weaknesses and pitfalls which include; pride, stubbornness, rebellion, tradition, humanism, legalism, disobedience, strife, arrogance, etc.. These and like traits in us or others present stumbling blocks for those who seek to follow after the Spirit of God and avoid deception.

We gain spiritual understanding and grow spiritually as we are nourished with appropriate spiritual food and seek the help and wisdom of the Spirit. This is also a natural part of individual Christian and corporate Church growth. However, lack of spiritual maturity in the Church universal today is, in no small measure, the result of traditional leavened teaching and or flat out rejection of truth when it is presented, for whatever reason.

We must be open to learn, and progress and to have the eyes of our understanding further opened, always. Being ready to put away those things that hinder us from going on to maturity, including the propensity to root ourselves in tradition and "stay put ". Not going on to the meat of God's word and thereby to the maturity levels which God planned for us. We need to recognize that our doctrinal divisions, individual and corporate, clearly show that the mystery of the Kingdom is still dimly understood and there is much yet to learn and correctly apply in order for the body of Christ, the Church, to come to maturity, to the stature and measure of Christ.

*Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, **let us go on unto perfection**; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,.....*

1 Corinthians 13:9 -11 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

There is also pride and arrogance in some Christian leaders, who like the Jewish religious leaders of Jesus

day, rejected knowledge. “Closed minded” arrogance and pride will often result in the rejection of what the Spirit is saying today, and therefore impedes the opportunity for growth and maturity. Not only for those leaders, but for those who follow after them.

*Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no **priest** to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

Luke 11:52 Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.

Isaiah the prophet wrote of some of these. Those religious leaders who are drunk with power, heady with pride, thinking they are able to eat strong spiritual meat, while yet babes, not yet weaned from the breast. Yet, these are in leadership positions today also, eating spiritual meat and unable to digest it. Then, their undigested spiritual food is vomited all over the tables. Now, there is no place clean for others to eat of the true spiritual things of God. Spiritual maturity can only be taught and achieved by those Christians who are weaned from a diet of spiritual milk, those who are not arrogant, drunk with power or heady with pride.

*Isaiah 28:7-9 But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; **the priest and the prophet** have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? **them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.***

A new Christian is able to see with spiritual eyes for the first time, with their brand new spirit man, the direction that God is now laying out for their new life in Christ. As children who first learn their ABC's and begin to read; a world of natural knowledge is before them. So are we, as newly born again Christians. For the first time in life, newborn Christians have the capacity to see or understand some elementary “baby stuff” about the government of God. They then have the opportunity to grow in the Spirit as they did in the natural, from a small baby to a mature adult. With the right spiritual food and nurturing, Christians should grow in the Spirit as in the natural. A lack of proper nutrition and nurturing for a new born baby in the flesh may result in serious physical and or mental development problems. So it will be in like manner, with Spiritual nutrition and healthy Spiritual development.

There is a principle in God's economy, look at the natural, it will point to or mirror a Spiritual truth. First the natural, then the spiritual.

1 Corinthians 15:46 Howbeit, that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Hebrews 5:13-14 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

2 Peter 3:17 -18 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, **beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen**

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, **may grow up** into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

As we grow and develop in the things of the Spirit, being ever faithful with a little, God will give us more. So it is my prayer; that the information here will help to root out some error and help to bring forth some more truth. If there is error in this material, I pray that God would raise up the Spirit of revelation in you, to recognize that error or misunderstanding and that He would replace it also with truth.

Proverbs 3:3-6 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.

#

When mankind tries to understand the Bible, there is one obstacle; ***the mind of the natural man or woman***. Natural mankind can not understand spiritual things.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Now, many people do have the Spirit of God in them and thereby have the Spiritual capacity to receive the things of God. However, by now, we should all be well aware that Christians are not exempt from spiritual deception.

“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees”! Why would Jesus make such a specific point to warn his disciples? It is obvious if we analyze this; that a little yeast in a wad of flour and water will leaven the whole amount of dough. What is not quite so obvious is that Jesus was saying in effect; it would take **only a small amount** of Pharisee/Sadducee type of thinking to permeate and cause great harm to the followers of Christ. A very specific warning from Jesus about a very specific danger to his followers!

The Pharisees of 30 A.D. were legalists, believing that the disposition of the heart was less vital than the outward act. Lawyers and expositions of the law grew to be extremely important, resulting in inherited precepts and interpretations with binding force, beyond the “law of Moses”.

The Sadducees, on the other hand, had yielded more to Greek influence and had adopted the principles of the Aristotelian philosophy and refused to accept any doctrine which they could not prove by pure reason.

God promised, in the Old Testament, a Messiah would come to save His people and... He would establish a Kingdom or government through this promised Messiah. Through this promised Messiah, even the Gentiles or peoples other than the Jews were to be blessed.

It seems most Pharisees and Sadducees back then thought... “physical”. The natural man was not yet even capable of understanding the spiritual mysteries deliberately hidden by God in natural types and metaphors in the books of the law and the prophets. This was because the Spirit of God had not yet been given.

Apparently Jewish leaders in Jesus day assumed the Messiah was to come in the natural. Perhaps, coming on a white charging horse, with a physical army, to depose the existing Roman Empire and then to set up His world government or Kingdom in its place.

Jesus did not do that. He did not meet the expectations of the Jewish leadership, according to their natural and traditional understanding of scriptures. So, primarily because of their leadership, the Jews, as a whole, rejected Jesus as the promised Messiah.

Therefore...“*Jesus Wept*” and in 70 AD the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish nation as outlined in some elements of Matthew 24: was fulfilled, as many Jews **continued** to look for the promised Messiah.

Not heeding Jesus warning, some Christians allowed the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees to creep into their legitimate teaching and understanding of scriptures. These leavened teachings became traditions and were passed down, along with a lot of truth, from generation to generation.

Today, many Christians are still looking for the Messiah to come a second time to establish his Kingdom in the earth. As with Jews of old, they continue to screen **some** of their beliefs and expectations through the leavened lump of traditional, **inherited**, scriptural understanding.

Some of the rationale for this type of theology suggests that “Jesus didn’t even establish a Kingdom in Palestine”, let alone the whole earth. Therefore they erroneously conclude that; “The Kingdom” will be set up at His “second coming”. The effects of this type of erroneous theology is incalculable, and repeats the same mistake the Jewish religious leadership made some 2000 years ago.

Like many highly visible Christian theologians and leaders today, the Pharisees and Sadducees of old were considered to be the religious elite, some of the most respected religious people of the day. People looked to them for interpretation and teaching of scripture and the laws of God. Yet... Jesus taught His disciples to beware of the Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Matthew 16:6 Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees

John 3:9-12 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master (teacher) of Israel, and knowest not these things?

Melker, the Priest of the Synagogue at Bethlehem at the time of Jesus birth is credited as the writer of a report to the Sanhedrim of the Jews at Jerusalem, regarding the events surrounding Jesus birth. The following is a quotation from his report;

¹“I am fearful the Jews as a nation are as much divided, and perhaps as much mistaken, as to the nature of His works, as any other people. I find by conversing with the Romans, Greeks and others, that all their knowledge of these things of Jewish expectations of a Redeemer has been obtained from the Jews, either directly or indirectly, and it was through them Herod got the idea of His being a temporal King and to rule and reign by the might of carnal weapons...”.

Christian teachers and leaders today are also the ones to whom “*much has been given*”. What would “Herod” learn from us?

Does the Bible speak of a second appearing of Christ? **Yes!** However, we can’t get there from the middle of a doctrinal barrel of spaghetti that is already fully permeated by the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. We must first.... *root out, pull down, and then build and plant* ...from a solid foundation of truth. This is essential, in order to find the beginning and the end of what we believe, as we look forward to becoming a unified, fully functional, mature body of Christ in the earth.

Christians today are anything but universally “*united in the faith*”. The universal body of Christ embraces true spiritual understanding, mixed with the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Therefore depending on our influences and our personal responses, etc., we find ourselves falling into doctrinally divided camps and are universally disjointed.

Ezekiel’s vision of the dry scattered bones is a fair comparison to the universal body of Christ today. As a whole, the body of Christ has,... so far..., been unable to unite and agree on much of the milk of the word of God, let alone the meatier portions.

However, because of the Spirit of God, the body of Christ has been, is ...and will continue to grow in Christ. The knowledge of the glory of the Lord will ultimately fill the earth, by His Spirit, through His Church. The zeal of the Lord will insure it happens. Remember, Ezekiel’s dry bones finally came together. They were clothed with flesh and Spirit filled, before they rose up to become an exceeding great Army.

“End times” teaching seems to always stimulate Christian interests. However, the word; “**end**” is not always defined as terminal. “*End*” in the bible sometimes translates as; “***the goal or point aimed at***”. The “End” or “Goal” which God has purposed is: “*Christ in us, the hope of glory*” and creation is waiting for this full **manifestation**.

Consider; a fully mature Church, filled with His Spirit, united in the faith, working together as one body, under the direction of one Jesus Christ. This is an “end” or goal or point to be aimed at by the Church. This is a goal that has been ordained of God.

The “Kingdom of God” is better translated as; “the government of God”. “**Kingdom**”, is a King James English word that is nothing more than a *contraction* of; “**kings-dominion**”. Therefore, we should translate “Kingdom” as; “**Kings dominion**” or “**where the King has dominion**” or “**where the King rules**”. The “Kingdom of God” is the government of God and the Kingdom or government of God is within you.

“The kingdom does not come with observation”...”The kingdom is within you.” Luke 17:21

The Kingdom or Government of God had it's beginning in the earth some 2000 years ago, with the advent of Jesus the Christ. Subsequently its growth and development has been a process up to now, not an event. This is another part of Gods great mystery.

God’s rule or Government or Kingdom in the earth began as His Son, Jesus, the promised redeemer, the promised Messiah, gave His life in payment for the sins of the world, and was raised from the dead; *being by the right hand of God exalted,seated at the right hand of God in heaven, and given by God the Father,.....all power, both in heaven and in earth.....receiving then, of the Father, the promise of the Holy Ghost, and then in turn, Christ giving the Holy Spirit to each individual down through history who would believe and receive.* (see Acts chapter 2:)

Jesus was the pattern Son. Yet, He would do a hand off to the Church. He knew that the Church, over an extended period of time, must follow the pattern he had made;

He knew the Church would have to *grow in stature and in favor with God and man*, just as He had done.

Jesus was hidden out, yet in plain sight until the time of His revealing. Jesus knew the Church must follow this pattern also.

Jesus knew that the Church would have to *learn obedience through the things it would suffer*, as He did.

Jesus knew that the Church would have to learn to *die to self*, as He had demonstrated in the Garden.

Jesus also knew that the Church would *do greater things* than he did, and that the Church would *glorify the Father again* as He had done, but only by and through His Holy Spirit in them.

Jesus knew it was God the Father's will that His government or *Kingdom* should *come* to earth in its fullness just *as it is in heaven*, and this would happen by His sacrifice and atonement and only then through His body, the Church, by His Spirit.

So the Government of God or Kingdom or God, in earth, had its very beginning with Jesus and has been increasing ever since Pentecost and the Holy Spirit was given to the church. From then on, the increase of God's government is without end.

As Jerusalem was to be the seat of God's show piece government and the place for His presence, so is the Church. This is another part of God's great mystery, *the mystery of the Kingdom*.

For about 2000 years now, God has been filling the hearts of individual believers with the government of heaven, by the Holy Spirit. This time around, He is building His "New Jerusalem" without hands, stone by living stone. Just look at that foundation,...go ahead, check it out, but put your hard hat on, it is **deep** and on solid **rock**.

Daniel 2:34-35 *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.* (New International version).

So now, with spiritual eyes and understanding, see,... that the **stone** that was cut out of **the mountain** (*Government of Heaven*) **did** come to earth as Daniel foretold. Jesus, the Christ, being that stone.... "**The rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.**"

God's government or Kingdom, starts within the hearts of believers and is designed by God to move from individuals, to neighborhoods, to nations, manifesting to the world in humble Christians, His divine nature, in every respect, until, finally....at the "**end**"...(that is... "*the goal or point aimed at*" "*the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord*".

Isaiah 9:7 *Of the increase of **His government** (His Kingdom) and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth **even for ever**. The zeal of the LORD of hosts **will** perform this.* (KJV)

Matthew 24:14 *And **this gospel of the kingdom** shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the **end** come.*

“Arise, shine; for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord shall rise upon you.”

“*The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand*”

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¹ Taken from; “the Archo Volume or the Archaeological Writings of the Sanhedrim and Talmuds of the Jews”; Keats Publishing, Inc., New Canaan, Connecticut.

SEEING THE KINGDOM VS ENTERING THE KINGDOM

If an area is dark and we need to see into that area, it is often better we not spend too much of our time discussing the darkness. We could just do what is necessary to turn on the light. The light will dispel the darkness.

Seeing and entering into the kingdom or government of God is for Christians only. People who; confess with their mouth, the Lord Jesus, and will; believe in their heart, that God has raised Him from the dead. These are the people who are born of flesh and then born again of the Spirit of God. These are the people who Jesus was describing to Nicodemus when He told him; you must be born again, **to see** the Kingdom and **to enter** the Kingdom.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

John 3:3; Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:5-6; Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water¹ and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Note that; “**seeing**” and “**entering**” are two separate issues. Jesus made a clear distinction between the two as he was teaching Nicodemus;

John 3: verse 3 Jesus talks of **seeing** the kingdom.

verse 5 Jesus talks of **entering** into the kingdom.

Not clearly understanding this distinction has created a minefield of errors in the truth of the good news about the Kingdom of Heaven, ever since the first recorded mention of it by Jesus in the gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, repent; for the KINGDOM of heaven is at hand.

¹ “Born of water”, would have been a metaphor that Nicodemus would have understood to mean; Born of flesh and blood, via the mothers womb with water breaking...In other words the entry into this world of a flesh and blood baby.

Some have erred, also, by believing that the “Kingdom of God” and the “Kingdom of Heaven” are somehow different. Others have erred, believing the Kingdom of Heaven is Heaven. The Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven **is not** Heaven. However, the “Kingdom of God” and the “Kingdom of Heaven” are synonymous terms. Let’s not get off the track and take the time to sort that out here, it is quite another project.

My four daughters were born of their mother, each a natural birth. I am their Father. They must of necessity have been born, of my seed and their Mothers egg to become a natural child of our household. That will never change, no matter how obedient or disobedient they may have been. There is a spiritual parallel here, also, with the Christian birth in the Spirit.

*1 Peter 1:23; Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of **incorruptible**, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever*

The birth of our four daughters did not automatically make them obedient to every rule of our household government (Dad & Mom’s Domain or Kingdom if you will). Their obedience to household rules would be a process, and would involve each of them making daily individual choices and reaping the fruit of those choices, good or bad. That process, we would hope, would also have involved some loving and appropriate parental instruction and discipline. Barbara & I made a lot of mistakes in that regard, God does not. Here, again, the natural principals are pointing to Spiritual principals.

So, being born of the flesh and born again of **incorruptible** seed, by the spirit, is necessary to become a child of God the Father’s household. However, being a child in God the Father’s household does not take away your free will. After you are born again of the Spirit, you now, for the first time in your natural life, can choose to **enter** in and participate in the household rules of Father God or you can choose not too. Before you were born of the Spirit, you did not have a choice. Like the Children of Israel in Egypt, you were slaves, with no choice but to do the bidding of a wicked master.

Jesus said in effect; you must be born of the spirit of God and of a woman, in order to **see** the Kingdom of God. He went on to say, in effect; you must be born of the Spirit of God and of a woman, to **enter** the Kingdom of God. (John 3:3 and 3:5)
So then, in order to **see**,**or.....** to **enter** the Kingdom of God, one must be both flesh and blood and born of the Spirit.

Remember,... **the Kingdom of God is not in heaven**, so don’t look for it here or there, it is the government or rule of God within you.

*Luke 17:20-21 And when He was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, He answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you.***

Remember; the “Kingdom of God” and the “Kingdom of Heaven” are synonymous terms and the “Kingdom of God” is not heaven.

This Kingdom or government of God, is inside of born again Christians. However, His government, in us, can function at its best only when we Christians will give room and choose to submit to the work of the Holy Spirit in us. We can not do the clean up and renovation ourselves, anymore than we can effect our new birth in the Spirit. Only the work of the Holy Spirit can affect a new birth in the Spirit and only the Holy Spirit is able to change the desires of our hearts to coincide with Gods will.

We **enter** into or participate in the Kingdom of God by first **seeing** and knowing the will of God through our new relationship, once we are born again. If this relationship is properly nourished, the Holy Spirit will do His work to change the desires of our hearts. We will then, **from the heart**, want to choose to die to the lusts of the flesh and further **seek** and rely on the Holy Spirit by faith, to change our hearts even more, to further conform to the will of God (the Kingdom of God).

Romans 6:17 *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed **from the heart** that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

Notice, the Holy Spirit does all the work, we just make the choices. This is the rest the scripture speaks of. You may agonize over your daily decisions to die to self, to one degree or another but you are in good company. Remember, Jesus in the garden? He agonized over his decision to submit to Fathers will, which was to allow the Romans to crucify him. Aren't we glad he said....." *Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: **nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.***

Hebrews 4:10 *For he that is entered into his rest, he also **hath ceased from his own works**, as God did from his.*

Mt 6:33 *But **seek** ye first the kingdom of God and **his** righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

Matthew 12:35 *A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things.....*

Matthew 5:16 ***Let** your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Phil. 2:13 *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

A key word in Matthew 5:16, above, is; "LET", indicating Christian choice or option in this regard. God's Will or Government will not be manifest to the world through Christians, as it could be, unless these choices or options are affected by us. Jesus, the pattern son, made choices regarding the will of the flesh or the will of God, and so must we.

For those who do not have the Spirit of God, there is **no possibility of seeing or entering** into the rule of God in this life or ever. They are doomed to continue to sin and to an eternity without God, except they turn to Him through Jesus Christ.

For “born again Christians”, however, we are in the household or family of God. That will never change for all eternity. God will not allow you to return to Egypt. You may die in the wilderness of testing. However, you will always be a child of God, and your eternal destiny is assured. There is more about this in a later chapter.

All true Christians have the capability, through the Spirit of God in them, to **see** and understand the rules of Father God’s household. Yet, not all Christians will **enter in** to full obedience. All Christians are born of incorruptible seed, yet, they may not always choose to humble themselves and seek to **enter** into or come under the rule of God.

*1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of **Incorruptible**, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

Incorruptible means; it is impossible to corrupt. Therefore, as a born again Christian, humble and seeking the rule of God or to the Christian, not very humble, not seeking the rule of God, your new spirit man, the new creation in Christ, is eternally secure. Does that give all Christians the license to be disobedient (sin) without consequences? Paul said no way!

Romans 6:14-16 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Hebrews 10:26-31 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know Him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

For the Christian who can now **see** the Kingdom of God or in other words, knows the will of God and chooses not to enter in, is like a man who builds his house upon the sand;

*Matthew 7:26-27 And **every one** that **heareth** these sayings of mine, and **doeth them not**, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

The born again Christian may now **see** the Kingdom or rule of God, yet, in their immaturity, they may choose not to **enter** into or come under the rule of God. Take a look at some of the immature Christians who made poor choices in the early church;

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for

hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

1 Corinthians 5:1-5 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 5:9 -10 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

1 Corinthians 11:30-32 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

These are a few examples of immature Christians, who choose to engage in disobedient acts, which resulted in consequences in life, even to include physical death. In one case we read that the destruction of the flesh was in order that the disobedient Christians spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. In 1 Corinthians 11:30, this is reinforced, with indication that Christians should judge themselves, and if not, sickness and even death could be a chastening from the Lord, in order that this Christian not be condemned with the world.

1 John 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

Now, we can better understand that a Christian, seeing (knowing) the will of God, or the Kingdom or rule of God and failing to do the will of God, will not shut themselves off from eternal life in Christ. However, they may become like the man who built his house upon the sand, and in due time, when the storm came, his house fell, and was no longer able to perform it's intended function of service as God intended.

1 Corinthians 6: 19-20; What? Know ye not that your body is the temple (abode, dwelling, house) of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

A Christian might see (know) the will of God in a given situation, but deliberately choose not to obey or not seek the aid of the Holy Spirit to overcome the flesh. That is called; disobedience. The result of willful disobedience is always the same.

Paul wrote to Christians in Ephesians in chapter 5 and exhorted them to be God like, as beloved children, to walk in love and not let things like immorality, uncleanness, covetousness, cursing, foolish words, flattery, be heard among them. He went on to say; no one guilty of fornication, no unclean person, no covetous man who serves idols, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God. Keep in mind Paul is writing this to Christians, Gods children, not to unregenerate (non-Christian) people.

*Ephesians 5:6-7 Let no man deceive you with vain words; for because of these things the anger of God comes on the children of disobedience. Therefore, do not be partakers in them.
(Peshitta text)*

1 Corinthians 6:8-10 Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren .Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortionist, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

A Christian may see the way to do what is good, to obey God, to inherit or come under His government (Kingdom of God). However, it is no more possible for any Christian to enter into and participate in doing the will of God than it is for non-Christians, unless it is the work of the Spirit God in them. Trying to obey Gods laws without seeking by faith the work of the Holy Spirit to change the desires of the heart is futile. This is nothing more than a work of the flesh. This is a leavened mixture of law and grace, which some Christians have tried to do from almost the beginning. Christians that do this, frustrate the true grace of God.

Galatians 3: 1. O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? 2. This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

The Children of Israel, before Christ, could not keep the law and we Christians can not keep it either, without the work of Christ through the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

In chapter 3 we will look at the true definition of grace and more of the “good news” about the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

#

I believe that understanding the information in this chapter would help flip the light switch on for a lot of Christians and help them to live life more abundantly. This is the foundation stuff that you can use to help people who are really hurting.

Grace, is truly the unmerited favor of God, but the true definition of grace concerns “**the divine influence on the heart**”.

GRACE: The Greek word used in the New Testament is defined by Strong’s exhaustive concordance;

“Graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act.....especially

THE DIVINE INFLUENCE UPON THE HEART AND IT’S REFLECTIONS IN THE LIFE;”....

The grace of God through Jesus Christ is the Spirit of God working in us to change our motivation, to change our “want to”, to conform to the will of God. **The grace of God is ; “The divine influence on the heart....”** .

However, God will never change our “want to” without our permission. For our free will is never to be violated. We must choose to die to self and seek His righteousness. He alone, can work resurrection life in us.

To do what is good, to obey God, to come under His government (Kingdom) is no more possible for Christians without the grace of God working in us than it is for the unregenerate. Therefore, the grace of God works in us, as we seek His righteousness and submit to Him, this is His work! This is the rest we seek to enter into. This is the Kingdom of God or Government of God within us that Jesus spoke about;

Luke 17:20-21 And when He was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, He answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Matthew 12:34 –35 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

As we submit our old thoughts and imaginations to Christ, He will do the work of changing our mind, our will and our emotions to conform to His government within us, His Kingdom. Then, as the inner life is changed, by the Spirit of God, our outward actions will reflect the new nature that Christ has wrought in us. No longer will our outward action be the result of our work, but of His work. We have at this point, entered into His rest, his Sabbath.

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

Hebrews 4:9-11 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Isaiah 58:13 -14 If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honorable; and shalt honor Him not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

See now, with spiritual eyes; **the Sabbath, His Holy day, His rest.** This is a type or metaphor, a spiritual mystery, which speaks of resting in Him, trusting in Him, not in ourselves. It is His work. We can not and must not try to do it.

Hebrews 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

Man could not keep the law before Christ, how can we obey God's rules without His help now. The very reason God needed to send a savior to the world was because man was totally unable to keep the law and therefore was unable to save themselves from the consequences of disobedience to begin with. What Christian is so foolish, having begun in the Spirit, by faith, being born again of His Spirit and now will attempt to return to the old days before Christ and attempt to perfect themselves from the inside out, by the works of the flesh... their own efforts, without the Spirit.

Galatians 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

So, as we willingly choose Christ's life in us and then, do not frustrate the subsequent grace He provides; **He will do the work** in us required to eventually manifest His righteousness in and through us. "**Working out your own salvation**", as stated in **Philippians 2:12**, does not mean you do the work. You work out your salvation by laying down your old life, your old nature and your own desires. You then are to humbly submit every thought to the obedience of Christ (*bring every thought captive*) and seek His righteousness. Then the Spirit of Christ in you, can and will do God's work of changing your intellect, your will and your emotions. However, for the most part, this is a process, not an event, and requires your faith in God, that He can and will bring to manifestation, that which you commit to him.

There is a natural law that points to a parallel spiritual law; "**You reap what you sow, and it takes time from planting to harvest**". **Sow to the flesh....reap to the flesh. Sow to the Spirit...reap to the Spirit**".

Mark 4:26-27 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure

*Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of **things hoped for**, the evidence of things not seen.*

As a Christian, have you ever been wronged and known in your Spirit that you need to forgive the person who wronged you? However, **you** do not yet feel like forgiving. **Your** intellect, will and emotions being contrary (anti-Christ) to your Spirit, **you** still feel resentment, hurt, and betrayal. So, **you** try with all **your** might to do the right thing and to somehow display the right outward actions and attitude that **you** should. Yet **you** fail, for inside (your deceitful fleshly heart) **you** still feel the resentment, hurt, betrayal and unforgiveness. It is in this state, we frustrate the grace of God, unless we humble ourselves and turn to God for help in this time of our trouble.

To fully take advantage of the grace of God, we must come to God the Father in prayer, admitting our resentment, hurt and betrayal, laying it down as it were at the cross, humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God. Asking God to mortify or put to death the deceitful fleshly feelings of our body (our carnal mind, will and emotions). And then look forward, in faith, to receiving, in us, a new life, a new nature.

Then, in time, we will see our hearts cleansed and renewed by the Spirit of God working in us. Then from the heart, will come the manifestations of our clean heart, in fact. Now our responses are truly born of the Spirit of Christ and His work in us, not ours. That would be, “**His righteousness**”.

Our confidence is in Him to perfect us in that area of commitment; **in fact**. Our confidence must not ever be in our own ability to comply with God’s government.

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

I believe, to walk after the flesh has at least two pitfalls. First; if we walk after the flesh, by knowingly yielding ourselves to the lusts of the flesh, either in thought or deed. “*Just go ahead and think it and or do it, what the heck.*”

Second; (and I think the biggest trap for most Christians) is to walk after the flesh by trying, in our own strength, to control our thought life and ultimately the manifest acts of our flesh. We try, try, try, to do, do, do what is right, right, right, and do not turn in humility to God for help when the Holy Spirit has pointed out a problem He now wants to correct.

*Isaiah 28:12-14 “This is the resting place, let the weary rest”; and, “This is the place of repose”- **but they would not listen**. So then, the word of the Lord to them will become: **Do, and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule; a little here, a little there- So that they will go and fall backward, be injured and snared and captured**” (New International Version)*

Trying to deal with the lusts of our flesh in our own strength, by the works of our flesh, frustrates you and the grace of God. In the end, **you** won’t change your “want to” and the Word of God will only become to you; **rule after rule after rule**, which you can't keep, and for which you can not escape the earthly consequences, even as a Christian.

If disobedience (sin) is not dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner, it will in time, result in unpleasant consequences for Christians in this life. Disobedient thoughts or imaginations and or those resulting manifestations must be **submitted to the grace of God.**

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

1 Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

Revelation 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

James 1:14-15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

To walk after the Spirit is to yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit, examining ourselves, and quickly surrendering to the Grace of God. There is no condemnation to those who walk after the leading of the Spirit of God. Even though the manifestation or righteous fruits, in fact, may take time, we are righteous during this process, **by faith**, if we are walking after the Spirit.

We can be confident that the results of His work in us will ultimately produce **His manifest righteousness**, in us. **His righteousness**, is the ultimate manifestation in us and through us, of something previously hoped for (**by faith, you are saved through grace**). This is a daily process with the ultimate goal of Christ's nature being fully wrought in and through us; maturity, manifest Sons of God.

Grace is the divine influence on the heart to effect the life. *By faith....you are saved.....through Grace and faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

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

Hebrews 4:9-10 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into His rest, he also Hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His

Know this, that God, having begun a good work in you, is able, to do **that which you have committed unto him.** However God has given you the freedom to choose, and he will not violate this privilege.

2 Timothy 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Peter, Speaking of Jesus, wrote these words;

1 Peter 2:23 Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously:

Jude 1:24 Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.___

Quickly turning over our disobedient thoughts and imaginations to Christ is contrary to the practice of many Christians today. We know we must obey God's laws, we certainly see that by reading the scripture and by the leading of the Holy Spirit. A couple of examples;

1 Joh 3:24 And he that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us.

Matthew 5:19-20 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

All too often, we **assume we must do the work** of changing our old sin nature in order to facilitate the keeping of His commandments and "gut it out" until we manifest the required results, all the time. This is a sure recipe for failure. The things we sometimes do, we wish we would not do, yet we do them anyway, our spiritual desires conflicting with our old nature, the lusts of our flesh.

Romans 7:25So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

We can't mortify the deeds of the body without the help of the Spirit, yet in practice, often, we somehow insist, this is what a good Christian must do. This is a mixing of law and grace, a misunderstanding or certainly a misapplication in actual practice, thereby frustrating the grace of God.

*Romans 8:13-14 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.
For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are **the sons of God.***

Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

V25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.....

“Saved” or salvation, is more than just being born again of God’s Spirit and having eternal life. “Saved” is more than saved from Hell and eternal damnation. “Saved” is all of that, but it is also the salvation of our souls (our intellect, our will and our emotions), it is a process of daily surrender to Him (dying to self) and His resurrection life in turn, working in us, daily.

We are “saved” first by the new birth in the Spirit, to know God, to be a part of his household forever. However, as a child of God, we are also “saved” daily, from the unpleasant consequences of our potential disobedience to God’s laws in this life. “Saved” from sins consequences in this life, by His life in us, which changes and regenerates our heart, in order that we willingly manifest from the heart, obedience to God and reap the fruit of righteousness in lieu of the fruit of Sin.

We learn obedience to the rules of God the Fathers household, (His Kingdom or Government) in much the same way that our children learn obedience to the rules of our household. As our obedience and subsequent maturity in the natural are related, in like manner is our obedience to the rules of God the Fathers household. This, in order that we may grow “Spiritually”, becoming trustworthy, mature Sons of God and rule and reign in life with Christ Jesus. We follow the pattern of the Son.

Hebrews 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

What good natural parents, would grant power of attorney to their continually rebellious, disobedient child? What child, who continues to be rebellious and disobedient to their good parents, does not diminish the quality of their own lives and the lives of others around them? Remember the principle; first the natural, then the Spiritual.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

The cleansing of our hearts, the seat of our intellect, will and emotions, is His work, not ours. We can not do this, any more than we can cause the new Spiritual birth in ourselves. We therefore must be cleansed in our hearts by the grace of God, through faith in what Jesus Christ will do, until from the cleansed heart will come forth manifest righteousness through the body. Thereby are we justified, first by faith and then in fact.

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Galatians 2:20-21 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

To become a Christian, we must believe Jesus, by faith, for our “new-born” life in the Spirit, our beginning. As Christians, we then must progressively believe and trust Him to change us day by day from the righteousness which comes by faith to His manifest righteousness in us . His righteousness is righteousness in fact, or manifest perfection and maturity. When His righteousness is perfected in us, we then will be mature Sons of God without need for further rebuke or correction. Otherwise, as Christians, we will be as foolish as the Galatians who Paul admonished;

Galatians 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

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

John 15:5 4. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Psalms 37:4-7 Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him:...

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

#

Egypt represents, in type, the spiritual place where all Christians were before they came to Christ, before their born again experience. True born again Christians can not return to Egypt. God will not allow this. When Christians are born again, they will journey out of Egypt into the wilderness of testing, but they will never be permitted to return to Egypt, the place of **forced** slavery to the master of Sin. However, a Christian may die in the wilderness of testing. Die a physical death, in the wilderness, because of unbelief, a hard heart and or disobedience.

It is God's will that you come out of the wilderness of testing and proceed or press toward the goal of maturity and perfection under His government to take the land of promise. Ruling and reigning in this life, serving Him in all things. Joint heirs with Jesus as you travel this earth. The goal is to be a manifest and fully mature Son of God with power and authority, carefully entrusted to you to do the work of His service, in the earth, all to the Glory of God.

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

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

Christians can not reign in this life without "**His righteousness**". His righteousness is; "God working in us, both to will and to do his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13). If we attempt to control our lives (reign in life) without the **manifest** life and nature of Christ (His righteousness), **we can do nothing**.

*John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for **without me ye can do nothing**.*

"His righteousness", is first ours by faith, and not by works of righteousness which we try to do. However, as we seek his rule and lay down our lives to Him daily, He will work His grace in our hearts and "His righteousness", will ultimately be manifest in us, **in fact**. This is a process, a journey; out of Egypt, through the wilderness of testing and then we journey on toward the promise. The promise is perfection, Christ fully manifest in us, the hope of Glory.

Colossians 1:26-27 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

*Philippians 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already **perfect**: but I follow after, if **that I may apprehend** that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

*Philippians 3:14 **I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.***

Our “promised land”, is within us. There are Spiritual Jebusites, and Cannanites, etc., who have been controlling this territory. By choosing daily to come under God’s rule, He will tell you when and where to pick a fight with these spiritual enemies. His will is that He should then command every aspect of those battles. Christ, liberating us, day at a time, displacing the strongholds of dark motivations with His very nature. Then, progressively, as the daylight displaces the night, we will reign in life, where spiritual darkness once ruled. The results will be **peace and joy and right relationship with God and man.**

*Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but **righteousness, and peace, and joy** in the Holy Ghost.*

Journey on...narrow is the way. Remember; the suffering of this present time is not worthy to be compared to the glory to be revealed in you. The glory of His righteousness, manifest through you in the earth.

The suffering involves the daily dying to our fleshly nature and desires, which are the fortifications or strongholds of the enemy. The battle is within us, and the Kingdom is within us. Yet, it is not our battle but His, it is not our strength but His, not our works of righteousness but Christ working in us. Ours is but to choose to die daily to self. The battle for dominion within us is the spiritual realm, which will ultimately manifest itself in the physical realm; righteousness or unrighteousness.

*Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that **we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.***

2 Corinthians 10:4 -5 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

As previously stated, seeing the government of God or the Kingdom of God is not the same as entering it. Moses saw the “promised land” from the other side of the river while on a mountain top, but because of unbelief and disobedience, did not enter in. Because of his unbelief and disobedience he was not allowed to enter in to the land of promise and go on to participate in the manifestation of God’s glory through him, as was the case with Joshua and Caleb. However, after Moses died a natural death, we see him later with Elijah at the mount of transfiguration, **in the spirit**, conferring with Jesus about Jesus’ departure from earth. Moses’ unbelief and disobedience did not change his faith in the promises of God.

His unbelief and disobedience did not change his eternal destiny after his physical death. However, Moses' unbelief and disobedience did effect his earthly ability to serve and **glorify God** in the earth, in his natural life.

*Numbers 20:12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye **believed me not**, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, **therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.***

*Deuteronomy 34:4 And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee **to see it** with thine eyes, **but thou shalt not go over thither.** (To see, but not to enter.)*

Christians must understand, the Kingdom or Government of God or Kingdom of Heaven is not heaven. God's Kingdom is a spiritual realm where God the Father has control or dominion. In heaven certainly, God the Father has absolute dominion. In earth, it is a process introduced again on the day of Pentecost, beginning in the hearts of Christians, and manifesting ultimately to the world. The final results of this process is not yet apparent, but by faith, we know the scriptures prophesy that **"there will be no end to the increase of His Government"** and **"the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord"**. Romans chapter 8: tells us in effect that all of creation is waiting for the Kingdom or Government of God to be fully perfected in his Saints.

So, we should expect to see God's domain in the earth, which is within Christians, move from the hearts of yielded Christians to families, to neighborhoods, and to nations and to ultimately have the same effect in earth, as His dominion in Heaven. **"His will be done, in earth, as it is in Heaven."** However, this is a process and it does not yet appear in earth, what it shall be when the goal is reached.

The Government of God, or Kingdom of God or Kingdom of Heaven is within you, the grace of God, working in you to affect this life for his service and glory. Christ in us, kicking out our spiritual enemies, replacing those enemies with his own nature. Working in us, in order that; from our heart will come forth, manifest good works.

His righteousness is to be manifest through us for the world to see and thereby that God might be glorified in us, **in the midst** of a crooked and perverse generation. *"God working in us, both to will and to do His good pleasure."* (Philippians|2:13)

*Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and **glorify your Father** which is in heaven.*

*2 Thessalonians 1:10 When he shall come **to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe** (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.*

Jesus the pattern son, the first born of many brethren, who glorified God as He manifested the nature and power of God through Him during His earthly ministry to the Jewish nation. Not speaking His own words or doing His own work but being a servant, obedient, never with His own agenda, never self serving. God was at that time glorified in Christ Jesus.

God was to be glorified again. Only this time he would be glorified; “**in His saints**”, in His spiritual Kingdom come in the earth. **Christ in you, the church, the hope of Glory.** This time He is to be glorified by His Church, in like manner as Jesus glorified Him.

*John 12:28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I **have** both glorified it, and **will glorify it again.***

2 Thessalonians 1:10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power;

*2 Thessalonians 1:12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be **glorified in** you, and ye in him, according to **the grace** of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

#

As the sun rises from the predawn darkness to high noon and full light with no shadow, so is our righteousness, **in fact**, rising progressively and is manifest as light or the divine nature of God to the world at the appearing or manifestation of Christ in us. Through the work of the Spirit of God in us, we are transformed, no longer righteous by faith, **but righteous indeed**. Manifest sons of God, mature, perfect.

Psalms 37: speaks of our righteousness arising “**AS THE LIGHT**”. The rising of the sun in the East in the morning is the natural analogy to the spiritual truth of the nature of Christ arising or appearing or being made manifest in us. As the sun rises, the darkness must be displaced.

*1 John 1:5-7 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, **that God is light**, and in Him is no darkness at all.*

As the sun at high noon, Christ in us will be **fully manifest** with no shadow of ourselves. For when He appears or is apparent fully in us, we shall be like Him

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

1 John 3:2 -3 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, (be manifest) we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.

We have hope for our purification, our perfection, the hope of becoming mature Sons of God. But **our hope is IN HIM**, not in our own strength.

For when that which is perfect is come in truth, then the need for tongues and such things, to help our current weaknesses, misunderstandings and immaturity, (“our infirmities”) shall be done away with.

*Romans 8:26 Likewise the **Spirit also helpeth our infirmities**: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

*1 Corinthians 13:8-10 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. **But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.***

We truly know in part and prophesy in part. Yet, as we seek, knock and ask, I believe God will reveal more to us.

Being born again of the spirit of God, not only creates a new spirit man inside of you, it begins a transformation process for your intellect, will and emotions..

I said... **“process”**. That is; the death and resurrection process, working in you through the Spirit of God. This process is the salvation of your soul (intellect, will and emotions). The Bible variously describes this process as; “the death of your old nature”, “losing your (old) life” in order to gain a new life or new nature”, “dying to self”, “coming to the cross”, “dying daily”. All are familiar terms to most Christians. Again, this is not instantly accomplished at the new Spirit birth, it is a “process” requiring your cooperation, **but it is God who does the work in you.** *God working in you to both will and to do of His good pleasure.*

By the work of God’s Spirit in you, you are partakers of His divine nature. As you humbly submit your old nature to Christ, it is Christ in you who will be working to change your heart and bring forth new life. The life of Christ, **will replace** the old life that was put to death. Death of the old nature daily, then new life or resurrection life in its place, all the work of Christ in you.

As the sun rises in the East, darkness is dispelled, until, at its highest point, there is no more shadow. Just as the light of Christ rises in us progressively, until the Day of Christ. Then He will be fully manifest in us. This is another of Gods great mysteries, hidden from the world, revealed only by His Spirit.

Our new birth in the Spirit, or “being born again” creates in us a new Spirit. We are a new creation immediately, however **it is the down payment only;** the redemption of our souls and bodies are a process. Born again Christians, **by faith** are now complete in Him, body, soul and Spirit but what we hope for is not yet manifest, otherwise why is it hoped for.

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

Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

*Romans 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the **first fruits of the Spirit,** even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.***

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

Romans 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

*Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were **sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,***

*Ephesians 1:14 Which is **the earnest of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory*

*2 Corinthians 4:10-12 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made **manifest** in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made **manifest** in **our mortal flesh**. So then death worketh in us, but life in you.*

The word “**manifest**” in the above scripture is rendered from the Greek concordance as “Appearing, disclosure, coming, lighten, be revealed, revelation.”, and is the same Greek word which is translated in 1John 3:2 as “Appear”;

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet **appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.**

Christ Jesus ministered in the earth, having the Spirit without measure!

John 3:34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him.

We Christians, on the other hand, minister in the earth being sealed with the Holy Spirit, which is **only the down payment (Ephesians 1:13-14) on the full promise**. The promise is; Christ, fully **manifest** in us. Fully mature, **perfected** Sons of God without rebuke. That is the hope of our calling, our destiny in Christ, the Goal, the High Calling of Christ Jesus. This is the revelation of the mystery of all ages;

Paul prayed for the Ephesian church that they might understand this mystery;

Ephesians 1:18The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Paul then explains this mystery to the Colossian Church;

*Colossians 1::26-28 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory:** Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; **that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:***

We, like Jesus, must learn obedience through the things we suffer. This is the suffering which results from the death of self will. Paul said, ***“I die daily...”***

*Hebrews 5:8-9 Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered;
And being made perfect He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him;*

I can only think of Jesus as He suffered in prayer in the garden, pleading with God the Father to take away the cup that was before Him. The cup He spoke of was the agonizing death on the cross to come the following day, which was the will of God for Him.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Luke 22:44 And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

His agony in the garden was His mental and emotional suffering which was so intense; He “*sweat as it were*” great drops of blood.” As agonizing as His death on the cross must have been, I believe there was as much suffering for Jesus in the garden as on the cross, as He brought His flesh and His mind into subjection to His Spirit and to the will of God the Father. In any event, He surely suffered much in the garden. He laid down his desires, His will, His intellect and emotions, to the will of God. **So shall we suffer likewise**, as we seek to bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ and give our old lives up in submission to the will of God. This is necessary in order to have Him effect the mortification of our flesh through the power of the Spirit and then to resurrect in us the life and nature of Christ.

*2 Peter 1:2-4 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,
According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious **promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature***

2 Corinthians 10:5 -6 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Romans 8:17 -19 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him that we may be also glorified together.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

I, like D.L. Moody, also think it is nearly impossible for us to comprehend the impact that one man or woman would have on mankind, who would fully seek and allow Christ in them to mature them and then manifest Himself completely through them. Manifesting to their families, their communities, their nation and finally to the world a fully mature, “Christ in them”.

You can, as a Christian, choose to humble your old mind, will and intellect to God’s Spirit and journey on towards perfection, to a transformed mind, will and intellect. **The Journey is from righteousness by faith, to righteousness in fact, or in deed, from immaturity, to perfection.**

Alternatively, as a Christian, you can choose to follow all or some of your old unregenerate thought processes and imaginations to their conclusions or try to work the changes needed yourself. Either of these alternatives will cause you to weep and gnash your teeth this side of physical death and impede the degree of your success.

Have Christians given up on the idea that it is even possible to actually reach the high calling of God in Christ Jesus in this life? To attain perfection, maturity, to become Son’s of God without rebuke? Is perfection what God had in mind for his Church?

Matthew 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Ephesians 4:11 -13 And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:***

Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it;

That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the

washing of water by the word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

As a Christian we have the earnest or down payment of our inheritance which is the Spirit. This is our eternal life. No man can know God the Father and Jesus Christ without the Spirit of God in him. No man can have the Spirit of God birthed in him unless he believes in Jesus Christ.

*John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the **only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.***

John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

*1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of **incorruptible**, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever*

So the Spirit of a born again Christian is eternally secure, **incorruptible**. The Spirit is also the **down payment** on what God has purposed to become the fully manifest Christ in us, perfection, maturity, Sons of God without rebuke. If we press on toward the mark, the goal, of this high calling of God.

Paul said of this Goal;

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul knew that God has purposed to have a Church, perfect and without blemish. That those Old Testament Saints of faith, (before Christ) who had gone before, all having a good report through faith, did not receive the promise. (Heb 11:38-40)

Hebrews 11:40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

So the promise is perfection in Christ, which the Old Testament Saints have not yet received without us. However, they, the Spirits of those Saints, have been justified by their faith, as Christians today are justified by faith.

*Hebrews 12:22-23 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, **and to the spirits of just men made perfect,***

For we Christians who live, however, our Spirits are also perfected. It's our bodies and souls, that need to be saved, day by day. Because the salvation of our bodies and souls, "in fact", is a process, the fully manifest, completed work, must be received by faith until it becomes a fact, whenever and however that might happen.

*1 Thessalonians 5:22-23 Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless** unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Ephesians 1:9-10 Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one, all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him:

So in Paul's day, the church or Body of Christ, which God has purposed will be manifest perfect, had not yet attained that goal. Yet Paul said; even though he himself had not yet attained this goal, he would forget those things behind him and press on toward that goal of perfection, which is the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin

which doth so easily beset us and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

Jesus started this project in us, and He will finish it.

Philippians 3:12-14 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

To be the faithful servant of God, in life, glorifying the Father in all that we do, only doing His will from the heart, is to have Christ fully manifest in us. It is not about us. It is the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

*1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet **appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is***

To manifest the nature of Christ from our hearts is impossible without the work of the Spirit in us. However we have the Spirit, which is the down payment on the fully manifest Christ in us. Like Paul, we can forget those things behind us and press toward the mark, the goal, which is the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

We who are now alive, are somewhere between the new birth in the Spirit and mature Sonship. Paul insisted that he had not attained to perfection, but he also said he would forget everything behind him, and press toward the goal of perfection, which he states is the high calling of God, in Christ Jesus. Can we do anything less? Unless we have a goal, a vision, we will never attain it.

*Proverbs 29:18 **Where there is no vision, the people perish:** but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*

In the meanwhile, rough as we still appear, we must see the possibility, the mark, the goal, the vision of perfection. We must do more than see ourselves by faith as mature Sons of God with Christ fully manifest in us, waiting for a physical death or a "rapture" to steal us away. We must walk after the spirit and trust in Christ to make the true vision come to pass **in fact**. Without a vision of the true will of God in this regard, we, like generations of Christians and Old Testament Saints before us, will perish in death and must wait among that great cloud of witnesses, for another generation to catch the vision, before we can all attain the promise of perfection in fact.

*Hebrews 4:5-6 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth **that some must enter therein**, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief.*

“**Some must enter in**”. **Some** must enter into His rest and allow Christ in them to do His full work of perfection. Not working out their own righteousness, not speaking their own words, not seeking their own pleasures.

“*Some must enter in*” to the rest of God and allow Christ in them to fully manifest his life and nature to the world, it is His plan that the Church follow the pattern of His Son.

Christ first came unexpectedly, unassumingly, hidden as it were, in the earth. Jesus, having been born of flesh and of the Spirit, then grew in grace, stature and in favor with God and man; until “that day” of his appearing to Israel. So is the Church in the earth, to manifest the glory of God in the earth again as Jesus did before. This Church in the earth, will be; without spot, wrinkle or any such thing. The Church of Jesus Christ that is fully mature, even unto the stature and measure of Christ. Sons of God without need of further correction in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, ready to revenge all disobedience when their obedience is fulfilled.

2 Corinthians 10:5-6 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Psalms 2:6-9 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

*Revelation 2:26-27 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works **unto the END**, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

However, “**THE END IS NOT ALWAYS TERMINAL**” !!!

The word “**end**” in Revelations 2:26 (and in other scriptures) is translated from the New Testament Greek word; “**telos**”, which means; “**to set out for a definite point or goal; properly; “the point aimed at, as a limit”**”.

“**The end**” is the goal, or point aimed at. That Goal is “**the perfection of the Saints**” and the **Kingdom of God fully manifest and operational in the earth**.

*Matthew 24:14 And **this gospel** of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the **end** come.*

*Revelation 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be **finished**, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.*

*Colossians 1:26-27 Even **the mystery** which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of **this mystery** among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**;*

*Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord**, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

*Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for **the manifestation of the sons of God**.*

*Romans 8:22-23 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, **the redemption of our body**.*

Creation is groaning, waiting in expectation for the full manifestation of the Sons of God **in the earth**. Creation is waiting, for His church, to manifest the glory of God through a fully functioning government of God, operating in the middle of a crooked and perverse generation. Creation is waiting for the will of God to move outwardly from the hearts of God's people, in order to manifest His love and His works to families, to communities and to Nations. Creation is waiting for the earth to be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

What are we waiting for? **“The Kingdom of Heaven’s at hand”!**

