

**Christly**

**by**

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**All Christians Should Be Like Christ**

**First Edition**

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**God is not pleased** when people who call themselves Christians, or followers of His Son, Jesus Christ, act and behave in ways that are selfish and self reliant. The Christian walk is **all about loving God**, and **loving our fellow man and woman**. We are to **lose ourselves in Christ**, and not allow our flesh, mind, or reasoning to tell us how we should live. Self reliance leads to pride, and will deceive us to think more highly of ourselves than we should. We are called to live as **yielded vessels**, ever emptying ourselves of self, and instead being filled with the wisdom and nature of God. We are not to be significant, but rather we are to lift up the Significance of Jesus Christ! **“He must increase, but I *must* decrease.”** John 3:30.

**“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”** 2 Corinthians 4:7.

All Scripture references in this writing are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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## Your Walk With Christ

Many who call themselves Christians are being deceived into thinking that by being “good people,” or by doing good, and seemingly righteous deeds, they are pleasing God and guaranteeing their entry into Heaven.

The actual doing of good works **is a good thing, and should be a natural outcropping of having a yielded, surrendered life to Jesus Christ.** Any flesh birthed works, or acts of righteousness, will do us no real good. Only those works which are accompanied with, and come from, a genuine selfless desire to love God and love our fellow man and woman will profit us (*see* 1 Corinthians 13:1-3). We need to be found **in Christ**, as He is our source of love, protection, guidance, righteousness, faithfulness, and true hope. Apart from Jesus Christ we are nothing. It is only when we identify with Him that we prosper.

If our motives are to get something from God, or from someone, then we are likely doing a good deed solely for a reward, and not out of a true heart of compassion, or out of selfless love. We are directed in God’s Word to seek after God’s Kingdom, which operates differently than this fleshly world does. *See* Matthew 6:33, Ephesians 4:17-32, and 1 Corinthians 15:50-58.

There is a type of righteousness that transcends our own reasoning and understanding. We need to have our thinking (our minds) changed and renewed. We need to take sufficient time **practicing being nearer to God**, and we must not be selfish with the precious time that we have been given by The Almighty. **Be a faithful steward, doing what God has called you to do.** God will test your faithfulness and examine your character. “...Moreover **it is required** in stewards, **that a man be found faithful.**” 1 Corinthians 4:1-2. We must be faithful in believing in Jesus Christ, having unshakable, unmovable **faith**.

The world system is one of selfish distractions, whose purpose is to get you to concentrate on selfish desires, rather than focusing on the wonderful deep spiritual promises of God that are described in God’s Holy Word. **A walk of humility is required, where we deny our flesh, and will follow Jesus Christ, being led by The Holy Spirit.** “*This* I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16.

**Losing yourself is essential in your walk with Christ.** God is not pleased when people who call themselves Christians, or followers of His Son, Jesus Christ, act and behave in ways that are selfish and self reliant. The Christian walk **is all about loving God**, and **loving our fellow man and woman.** We are to **lose ourselves in Christ**, and not allow our flesh, mind, or reasoning to tell us how we should live. Self reliance leads to pride, and will deceive us to think more highly of ourselves than we should. We are called to live as **yielded vessels**, ever emptying ourselves of self, and instead being filled with the wisdom and nature of God. We are not to be significant, but rather we are to lift up the Significance of Jesus Christ! “**He must increase, but I must decrease.**” John 3:30.

“I am nothing...He is everything.” **Apart from Him, we can do nothing** (*see* John 15:1-9). When we choose to live apart from Christ, we have only our own direction or power. **Jesus said that you will experience His power**, “**If ye abide** in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” John 15:7. **The Holy Spirit, The Promised Power From On High**, always lifts up Jesus, and reveals His Kingdom to us.

“And, **behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you:** but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, **until ye be endued with power from on high.**” Luke 24:49. “And my speech and my preaching *was not* with enticing words of man’s wisdom, **but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**” 1 Corinthians 2:4-5. “For our gospel came not unto you in word only, **but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance;** as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.” 1 Thessalonians 1:5.

We must live our life, careful to walk with the **same compassion and love** that Christ has for people, being a good servant and steward of everything that Christ has entrusted us with, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with as many as will listen, always giving God all the glory through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Just like Evan Roberts preached during the Welsh Revival (of 1904-1906), we all need to:

1. Confess all known sin
2. Deal with and get rid of anything ‘doubtful’ in your life
3. Be ready to obey the Holy Spirit instantly
4. Confess Christ publicly

### **The Power Of Belief**

The Bible says about the ways of man, “**For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...**” Proverbs 23:7. We need to be extremely careful what we think about. If we spend time allowing unhealthy thoughts, and things of the world, into our minds, we are setting ourselves up to be spiritually poisoned with pride, doubt, and unbelief.

Just as the statement “You are what you eat” is true about the upkeep and maintenance of your physical body, you likewise need to be extra careful what you are exposed to, and ingest, into your mind and your heart. For you will become what you say and believe. Some people are very critical and negative, while others exhibit love and peace to their fellow man. What is the difference? It is what they have eaten and ultimately **believe.**

The world, and other people, are vying for your attention and loyalty, to agree with them and to believe them. You may be treated like an outcast, or a leper, if you choose to disbelieve their teachings. God is longing for you to believe Him, as well as truly believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. Belief is not a one-time action, where you can live your life, behaving like you do not believe what you previously professed about **Jesus Christ.** Belief must be renewed, maintained, refreshed, and continually demonstrated by your thoughts and actions.

Allow The Holy Spirit to have **His Way.** “**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.** For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, **so are my ways higher than your ways,** and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9. “**Quench not the Spirit.**” 1 Thessalonians 5:19.

**We seriously err, when we think** our thoughts are better than His Thoughts, or when **we think** our ways are better than His Ways. God is not calling us to solve problems apart from Christ. Without Him we are nothing.

When we try to think or reason things out apart from consulting God’s Wisdom, we are not believing in Him, but rather we are trusting in our own self and in our own reasoning. We show God that we rely on Him, by asking for His Help, **trusting in Him,** and by not using our own wisdom or knowledge to figure things out.

## The Battle For Control Of The Mind

We are commanded by God to **renew our mind in every area**, with the words and thoughts of Jesus Christ. “I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service*. **And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**” Romans 12:1-2. The thoughts of the renewed mind **will agree** with God’s Word.

**We must be on guard** to protect **what we allow** ourselves to watch, read, imagine, and focus our mind on. The devil seeks to attack, confuse, and control the lives of Christians, by injecting thoughts into their minds. That is why we need to be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of our mind. Having a renewed mind, with the mind of Christ, will protect us from the thoughts and snares of the evil one.

“**Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**” Proverbs 4:23. We must guard what comes into our heart and mind, for whatever comes in will either uplift and strengthen us, or else it will serve to pollute and tear us down. Every thought that we have **must submit** to Jesus Christ, and glorify His Name.

“**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;**” 2 Corinthians 10:5.

“My son, **attend to my words**; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. **For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.**” Proverbs 4:20-22. We are blessed and strengthened when we follow His Words, and strive to be **like Christ**.

## True Abiding Faith

True, abiding faith trusts in The Lord no matter what you see around you, or what you feel. Christians need to understand that we are not to be ruled by temporal, carnal things, but rather we are destined for spiritual and eternal things. We are to act as God’s authorized agents of change and hope here in this world, today.

Everything that does not line up with God’s Word, must bow to the Name Of Jesus, and must be confronted by us, as led by the Holy Spirit. Remember that God has final authority over every situation, and we are not to be discouraged or influenced by what our five senses tell us. Everything that we see is subject to change.

If we do not like something that is going on around us, pray. **Prayer changes things.** It is an **honor and a privilege** to have access to God through Jesus Christ, so that our petitions and prayers **will be answered**.

“**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. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.**” Proverbs 3:5-10. If we follow His instructions, God will bless us.

“**If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**” John 15:7-8.

## The Carnal Mind Fights Against The Things Of God

The unrenewed, carnal mind fights against the things of God, and is the **enemy of God**. We must have our mind transformed, by having a renewed mind (*see* Romans 12:2). We need to strive to be more like Christ.

**“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.** Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” Romans 8:6-9.

We need to train up ourselves, study, and rightly divide the Word Of God. God desires us to be vessels of His Wisdom, led by His Spirit, and by His Word. As we identify with Christ, we will take on more of His Nature. Our mind is renewed by the washing of the water of the Word Of God. *See* 2 Timothy 2:15, Ephesians 5:26.

**“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”** 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

Let us walk with a pure and contrite heart unto God, and a true love unto one another. “Let us draw near **with a true heart in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us **hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering**; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) And let us **consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:**” Hebrews 10:22-24.

We will not be selfish, if we consider one another’s needs, and will show love and good works to each other. Remember that, **“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...”** Proverbs 23:7. Your thoughts always lead you.

If we are faithful to meditate on and think on The Word Of God, eventually The Word will rule our thoughts. The enemy knows that thoughts are the keys to your mind and heart, so he will try very hard to bombard you with wrong, confusing, condemning, and sinful thoughts to keep you from receiving the true thoughts which God desires for you to have. Ask The Holy Spirit to help you receive the wonderful thoughts of Jesus Christ.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, **to give you an expected end**. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13. God wants things to go well with you. He is searching for those with a pure and contrite heart who love Him.

**“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”** Psalm 51:17. God is looking for a sacrifice of our self, where we have a pure and contrite heart before Him.

When we learn **to die to self**, and rightfully **put God first**, and demonstrate love to others properly, we are now on the correct and lovely path. We must **acknowledge Him** in all our ways, and turn our lives back to being in right relationship with Him in every area. We must fall on His Amazing Grace, provided through Jesus Christ, and ask for the help of the precious **Holy Spirit** to teach us all things we should know, so that we can properly know and serve Him, and be like Jesus Christ. *See* Isaiah 66:2, and also 2 Chronicles 16:9.

## Jesus Is Speaking Through His Words To You Today

Jesus Christ is alive today, and His Word is alive and **full of power**. Christ came, and paid the ultimate price, through His Blood sacrifice, so that **we may live, and have life more abundantly. God is always speaking to us!** He is not passive! **He is waiting to be discovered by us**, as we show Him by our actions that we fully **believe and rely on everything** that has been provided us, in and through Jesus Christ! His Words are life to them that seek and discover them. The Holy Spirit will teach us about Christ, if we humbly ask for His help.

**“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”** Jeremiah 29:13.

**“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”** John 10:9-10.

**“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”** Hebrews 11:6. Believing in Christ pleases God.

**“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”** Jeremiah 33:3. God desires to be sought, and found by us. We discover God by discovering His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus would only do what He saw His Father doing. **We must do only what Christ is doing.**

Jesus said, “...Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do:** for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, **and sheweth him all things that himself doeth:** and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.” John 5:19-20. “...Peace be unto you: **as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**” John 20:21.

**Having faith in the Word Of God** is essential to demonstrating to God that we believe in Him, and that we believe His Son, Jesus Christ. If we doubt **any of The Word**, we are calling into question our belief in Jesus Christ, for Jesus Christ is The Word made flesh. When we realize that Jesus Christ is actively speaking to us every time we read His Word, it causes a new light of revelation, power, and responsibility to shine upon us.

The Word Of God is the standard by which we measure all things. It is seed that produces good fruit, and is profitable for instruction, wisdom, and discerning truth from error. “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.” 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22. Everything we need is contained in it.

As we **truly believe** that Jesus Christ is speaking to us today, **through His Word**, we can begin to properly **renew our mind**, washed with His Word, as led by the Precious Holy Spirit. God speaks through His Spirit and His Word (which is Jesus Christ speaking). You must believe that He is speaking to you today, and have the required demonstration of faith to act on what He says, and be fully persuaded that His Words are TRUE.

God’s Words are life, health, and strength to them that discover, find, and treasure them. **“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”** Proverbs 4:20-23. **“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, ... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”** Hebrews 4:12.

## Financial Blessings

The Gospel is spread through a combination of sweat, time invested, and money. Many Christians, and many ministers, get into trouble, and off-balance when it comes to priorities of time and of money. You can work at advancing the Kingdom Of God and winning souls, but without the proper balance that is necessary, you will be working hard in your flesh but will produce poor results. Works of the flesh will profit nothing, apart from the leading of The Spirit! Many work hard and have good intentions, but they are not being led by The Spirit.

Imagine a vegetable garden, where you toil and work in it every day. The vegetables start to grow and will be ready to eat in a few days, then you wake up one morning to find that animals came in and ate up the harvest. Now you have almost no fruit for your labor, you are hungry, and may become discouraged, and get angry at God for allowing the fruits of your work to be stolen. Why me? Did you seek God's Perfect Will and pray for His Peace and His Direction **before** you began this gardening project? **Was it your garden or His Garden?**

Often we try to figure out and reason things without consulting God for His Wisdom. **Apart from Him we are nothing.** The same goes for our time, work, and our money. Everything belongs to Him. So why are so many people convinced that material possessions, including money, are theirs? We need His Divine Wisdom!

Having a proper balance is the key to everything. There is perfect balance in the Godhead, and in everything that God creates. For if anything is unbalanced, it will spin out of control, and eventually will **self destruct**.

When we think solely of our self, and ignore others, including God, we are embarking on a dangerous spiral, that if unchecked, will spin out of control, and lead only to destruction. We need God and one another in life.

Finances involve the stewardship of money and other things of value, that can be sold, traded, or exchanged for the products, services, or work of other people. **Money is currency**, and has **the ability to flow**, just like electrical current. People respond to money, and will often exchange their time, and their energy, to obtain it. Money can be stored up, given away, stolen, or used to buy things. Money is not bad, but is rather a tool that is to be used wisely in good stewardship, to best accomplish God's plan for both your life and for the world.

**"...but money answereth all things."** Ecclesiastes 10:19. Money is a useful tool that God wants to be used wisely and properly. There is nothing wrong with having money, but money can become an idol, as many other people and things can be, and **God warns us not to love money**, but to use it to **advance The Gospel**.

**"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith,** and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. **But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith,** lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." 1 Timothy 6:10-12. Do not let money or people control you, but rather **hold fast** to your profession **of faith**.

God provides the essential things that we need in life. It is required of us to always acknowledge God as our source, and to seek His Wisdom for how to properly use things in a wise manner, showing good stewardship. "And thou say in thine heart, **My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.** But thou shalt remember the **LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth,** that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day." Deuteronomy 8:17-18. *See* Romans 11:36.

## What Is The Biblical Church?

The church as defined by Jesus, is not a specific building, but rather the people, who follow and truly believe upon Him. It means those “called out ones,” who desire to walk according to His Ways. In fact, Jesus states that whenever 2 or more of His Followers gather together, that He will be there in their midst. Just like Jesus, we are called to go forth to make disciples, or followers, of Jesus Christ, teaching them to observe His Ways.

In Matthew 18:15-17, Jesus gives instruction for how people, and the church, should properly correct others. If a person sins against you, you are first to go to that person privately to tell them their fault. It is important to give them the opportunity **to know that a problem exists and explain their side**. If the person refuses to hear you, then bring 1 or 2 more Believers to them to serve as witnesses. If the person refuses to hear them, then tell it to the church, and if the person does not hear the church, treat them as a heathen and an outsider.

In early church times, the Christians in a city or region would come together at a designated meeting place, and there you would have the church (the people) assembled. The church’s meeting place did not have to be a specific building that never changed, but could be in people’s homes or businesses, or outside. The church (the people) had leadership placed by God, whose responsibility was to maintain Biblical order. The people clearly needed to rely on one another for strength, as they were often ridiculed and persecuted for their faith.

Today, people can get easily offended at churches, and hop from one church to another, or watch preachers on television, instead of attending church meetings. **There is no Christian accountability**, no one to go to with questions, for instruction, or help. We need to have other Christians **who can agree with us in prayer**.

Jesus knew we needed these things, so He created the church, to be our support system, to help us with the many needs that we would face in life, including being disciplined in the teachings of God, and Jesus Christ.

“Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, **That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching** any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. **For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**” Matthew 18:18-20.

The church (fellow Believers in Christ) **is placed here to help you grow** in your Christian walk, and in faith. God has placed many different people, with different gifts, in the church, to edify, care for, and shepherd you.

Churches need to stop limiting people, but rather should allow people to receive instruction and flow in their spiritual gifts, to accomplish the work of The Great Commission, so that The Gospel is spread **to all people**.

**Unity is required for God and His Presence to move.** Smaller, home based churches are ideal, for there to be both unity and participation. When your group, meeting as the church, gets too large, it is hard to maintain unity and personal accountability. If a church has thousands of members, could you possibly know them all? A smaller church is often more personal, as long as the people, meeting as the church, avoid error and gossip.

“...they lifted up their voice to God with one accord,...” “**And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.**” Acts 4:24,31. Power is released where there is unity and purity.

## Have Faith In God

We, as Christians, are called to continually have faith in God, no matter what we hear, see, think, or imagine. We are to shake off those things which are temporal and fleshly, and instead hold onto eternal things by faith. We are bombarded today with a stream of doubts, unbelief, lies, distractions, and thoughts of self-sufficiency, which serve to divide us, and distance ourselves, from the **purity and power of Christ** that He has provided.

“And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God**. For verily I say unto you, **That whosoever shall say** unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; **and shall not doubt** in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. **And when ye stand praying, forgive**, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.” Mark 11:22-26. Believing must be demonstrated with unbroken, unshakable faith.

“**Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.**” Mark 9:23.

**Unbelief** prevents us from receiving things from God. “And Jesus said unto them, Because of your **unbelief**: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and **nothing shall be impossible unto you.**” Matthew 17:20.

Fear and doubt will always try to rob you of your faith in God. Be on the lookout for the things that come to steal, kill, abort, and destroy your faith. You must not permit anything that erodes or steals your faith in God.

### The Spiritual Priority (Everything Else Must Bow)

“**For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.**” Romans 8:2. If we walk and believe in the Spirit of life in Christ, we are free from the law of sin and death. Everything must bow **to the name of Jesus**. No sin, poverty, sickness, disease, lack, evil thing, or plague can come near you, if you truly have faith and believe in the promises of God that you have through Jesus Christ.

Everything of the flesh must bow to the things that we have in the Spirit through Jesus Christ. God wants to bless us, not steal or take from us. All the blessings of His Kingdom, and The Blessings of Abraham are ours:

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; **and all these things** shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33. “**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.” Proverbs 3:5,6. **Desire Christ’s righteousness.** “Blessed *are* they which do **hunger and thirst after righteousness**: for they **shall be filled.**” Matthew 5:6.

“For bodily exercise profiteth little: **but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life** that now is, and of that which is to come.” 1 Timothy 4:8. “**Christ hath redeemed us from the curse** of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree: **That the blessing** of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” “**And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.**” Galatians 3:13,14,29. Christ has **redeemed us** from the Law’s penalty: poverty, sickness, and spiritual death.

## **We Need To Walk By Faith, And Not By Sight**

**“(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)” 2 Corinthians 5:7.**

If we need to see, hear, or feel something, it is not spiritual faith, but rather fleshly, sensory faith. We believe in something, and have faith in it, because we can detect it with our senses. We then have the proof, the real and tangible evidence, concerning the thing we have faith in. This is not the faith we are to walk by.

Our senses can be deceived or tricked into believing in something that is false. We can not rely on our senses. Jesus commended people for their faith, when they had the faith to believe in something that they did not see.

We know that **faith is the evidence of things not seen, the substance of things hope for** (Hebrews 11:1).

We back up our faith, by expressing and demonstrating what we believe, **through our words and actions**.

**Our words are powerful. They reinforce either our faith or our doubt.** They bring life or death, blessings or judgment. “But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” Matthew 12:36-37. **“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: ...”** Proverbs 18:21. Learn God’s Word.

**God wants you to know and truly believe that He backs up every word that He has spoken.** Every word in The Bible is True. God personally watches over His Word, including every word that Jesus Christ has ever spoken, to faithfully perform it. **“Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.”** Jeremiah 1:12. “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but **my words** shall not pass away.” Matthew 24:35. “But he answered and said, **It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**” Matthew 4:4. **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”** Romans 10:17. We must know The Word, understand It, and have faith in It.

We know that it is impossible for God to lie, so we must stand on His Word, and be fully persuaded that His Word is Truth. Everything that He says must be unshakable and true. We show faith by believing His Word.

Remember Thomas, who doubted, and needed to see the scars of Jesus before he believed. Do not make the same mistake concerning the promises of God that are contained in His Word! God will perform His Word, and do great exploits for those who truly believe in Him, His Son, and His Word. Jesus is Faithful And True.

God says, in Hosea 4:6, that His People are **destroyed for lack of knowledge**. This is not sense knowledge, but a lack of spiritual knowledge and spiritual faith. If we reject God’s knowledge, He will ultimately reject us **for replacing His Thoughts And Ways** with our own thoughts and reasoning, a type of spiritual adultery.

The enemy will come in and steal whatever truth has been presented to us, if we are not careful to believe it. Learn this important principle: **What you do not understand, believe, or acknowledge, the enemy steals.** “When **any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not**, then cometh the wicked *one*, **and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart**. This is he which received seed by the way side.” Matthew 13:19. To thwart this, we must continually maintain **an abiding faith, trust, and acknowledgment of Christ’s Ways at all times**: **“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.”** Proverbs 3:5-6.

## Follow Through Having Fear Of The Lord

Many people today, including those who call themselves Christians, or followers of Christ, are missing out on a tremendous opportunity to be empowered by and be close to God's Manifest Presence. Many desire an intimate relationship with God through Jesus Christ, yet few are willing to do what is required to have this wonderful relationship. Contrary to popular belief, God is not hard to find. **God desires to be found by us.**

**"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."** Proverbs 8:17. **"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."** Jeremiah 29:13. **"For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death."** Proverbs 8:35-36. **"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."** Proverbs 9:10. **"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."** Proverbs 1:7. **"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."** Proverbs 8:13.

**Fear Of The Lord, means to have a profound reverence and awe of God, to venerate God, and to have proper fear and respect for Him. We should all tremble before Him.** This is especially true of all those who **sin or rebel against Him**, those who **practice evil**, or those **who disbelieve** in God, or His Son, Jesus Christ.

God wants to manifest His Presence to us. The problem comes when we treat God, Jesus, or His Kingdom with anything less than the proper respect and reverence. We may find that we have disqualified ourselves from experiencing His Presence. True worship is not possible without having a fear and reverence for God.

Jesus really emphasized this concept: *"Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, **This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**"* Matthew 15:7-9.

*"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and **to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.**"* Psalm 89:7. God demands an atmosphere of utmost respect for His Presence to be with people. The protocol for experiencing deeper things of God, including His Presence, requires you show the proper reverence and respect He is Worthy of. **Many Christians say they love God, but they do not Fear Him.**

Properly Fearing God will prevent sin. *"And Moses said unto the people, **Fear not:** for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not."* Exodus 20:20. God wants us to sanctify and fear Him at all times, to regard Him as Holy. While God is to be feared, we, like Moses, must not be afraid to approach Him. See 1 John 4:18 and Hebrews 12:18-29.

*"...I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me...before all the people I will be glorified..."* Leviticus 10:3.

**"The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant."** Psalms 25:14. **"Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him."** Deuteronomy 10:4. You shall revere and follow God.

*"He that hath my commandments, **and keepeth them,** he it is **that loveth me:** and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and **I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.**"* John 14:21.

## As Little Children

After we come to a believing **faith in Jesus Christ** as both our Lord and our Savior, we must then walk in an abiding, constant, unbroken faith with Him forever. Since we plan to be spending eternity serving Christ, we should make the most out of this life **showing Jesus Christ that we truly believe Him**. If we say we believe Him, yet our fruits do not bear this out, we are liars and not fit for His Kingdom. No one wants a spouse who is unfaithful, a liar, and untrustworthy. Even so, we must prepare ourselves, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to be part of the bride of Christ, always glorifying Jesus and The Heavenly Father, in everything we do, say, and think. Our thoughts should continually be on Jesus Christ. We should desire Him and hunger after Him.

Serving and loving Jesus should be simple, and not complex. Too many people get wrapped up in many rules that make Christianity much harder than it should be. God wants us to have a simple, childlike faith in Jesus.

“And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments *is*, **Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.** And the second *is* like, *namely* this, Thou shalt **love thy neighbour as thyself**. There is none other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:29-31.

“Beloved, **let us love one another**: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, **that we might live through him.**” 1 John 4:7-9.

“But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, **Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.**” Luke 18:16-17. We must have childlike faith in Jesus.

“**All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**” John 6:37. We are to come to Christ as dear children, having true faith and trust in Him, enduring to the end.

“**But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.** 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.” Matthew 24:13-14.

We need to be innocent and wise. We must avoid entanglements and cares of this world, so as **not to become distracted** from our High Calling in 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.” Philippians 3:13-14.

“**BE ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love,** as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.” Ephesians 5:1-2.

“**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**” Matthew 6:33. “Blessed *are* they which **do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.**” Matthew 5:6. “For every one that asketh receiveth; **and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.**” Luke 11:10. “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.” Proverbs 3:5-6.

## Intimidation Can Be Deadly

“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as a chaste virgin* to Christ. **But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**” 2 Corinthians 11:2-3.

We need to hold fast to the simplicity of The Gospel of Jesus Christ, and not allow people to intimidate us, steal from us, waylay us, lie to us, or in any way prevent us from maintaining a true, abiding faith in Jesus.

The enemy of your soul would like, if he can not outright kill you, to abort or destroy the perfect plan of God for your life. He often uses the **weapon of intimidation**, many times coming at you through **other people**, to make your God given gifts **dormant**, keeping your gifts from being stirred up, and used, for God’s Kingdom.

**Determine to let no one interfere or tamper with your relationship with Christ!** Be careful to not permit any **fear or intimidation**, to steal from or poison your faith. The enemy will try to confuse what you believe. Do not allow your faith to be shaken! Remain steadfast and unshakable in the freedom that Christ purchased.

“But without faith *it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” Hebrews 11:6. **We must believe in God** with the purity of the unspoiled faith of a child, **which is no longer self seeking**, but rather selflessly admires, loves, trusts in, and wants to please his parents. “LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. **Surely I have behaved and quieted myself**, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul *is even as a weaned child.*” Psalm 131:1-2. **Our allegiance must remain firmly placed** in God, in Jesus Christ, and in The Holy Spirit. We need to honor, respect, and show Them the proper reverence. Let no rebellion, disrespect, mutiny, or compromise ever be found in you.

The enemy wants to intimidate and entice us to sin, rebel, and dishonor God. **We must not listen to people who try to control and intimidate us with words.** We must remain holy, and always listen to God’s Word. “**For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.** Because thou hast **rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.** And Saul said unto Samuel, **I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.**” 1 Samuel 15:23-24. When we rebel, we listen to **someone else’s truth** rather than obeying **God’s Truth**. Just as Eve was deceived in The Garden to believe a lie as the truth instead of what God had said, we must always be on guard against deception or intimidation causing us to deny God.

People who use **intimidation** will likely challenge God’s Truth, calling it into question, by interjecting things like envy, bitterness, and doubt. The enemy challenges God’s Truth, “...Ye shall not surely die:” Genesis 3:4.

It is only when we die to self that we can truly be used of The Lord. For flesh fights to preserve its life, but if our flesh is truly dead, it can not be intimidated by the threats of others, for how can people harm dead flesh? If we see that our flesh tries to serve itself, such as by demonstrating selfish acts, it is not yet fully crucified.

Jesus came, and died for us, **so that we may be free** from the clutches of sin and of death. “**STAND fast therefore** in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and **be not entangled again** with the yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1. “**If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**” John 8:36.

**“O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”** 1 Corinthians 15:55-58.

**“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”** Romans 8:2. **God wants us to be free** of all pride, sin, evil, and every selfish thing. Hunger for humility.

**We must yield every part of ourselves to God**, determining to be put under the authority, rule, and reign of Jesus Christ in all areas. **“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.”** Galatians 2:20. He died that we may have life, and freedom from sin and damnation. **“...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.”** John 10:10.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: **but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me;** and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour.” John 12:24-26.

**Death** to reasoning and all selfish desires is absolutely required, if we want to have a **proper, complete, and fulfilled relationship with Jesus Christ. We must not seek to preserve our life, or advance our own self.** We must live steadfast lives, always walking in faith in Christ, and in God’s Truth. See *The Power Of Truth*.

Never let anyone deceive or intimidate you, or take from you the promises that God has entrusted you with. Do not compromise, be intimidated, or persuaded, to accept a lie for the truth. Remember the lesson of Eve. God wants us to be faithful to Him, and to freely serve Him and believe Him, without ever doubting in Him.

**“Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: **but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”** 1 John 2:15-17. We need to be imitators of Christ as dear children.

We are commanded to love not the world, neither the things in the world. God alone is worthy of our pursuit, reverence, and worship. People may try to intimidate you, by encouraging you to love them, and follow after them and their ways. We must be careful, who and what we allow ourselves to listen to and be influenced by.

Adam and Eve, gave up their God-given power and authority to the devil, by giving in to his deceitful words. Elijah ran from Jezebel, and **allowed her threatening words to intimidate him**, right after Elijah had boldly proclaimed the destruction of the prophets of Baal. Elijah then asked God to take his life. See 1 Kings 19:1-4.

The Bible is full of accounts of godly men and women who allowed the enemy to use a person, or a group of people, to speak to them, and intimidate them, by their words, so that they were deceived into disobeying the instructions of The Lord. We see that many of God’s plans were aborted, due to intimidation and fear of men. We should be wise, and learn from these examples, not permitting anyone, or anything, from intimidating us, or keeping us from **successfully running and finishing** the race that is set before us. See Hebrews 12:1.

## Freedom

**“Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”** John 8:34. **“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”** Romans 6:23. Jesus lived, died, and was resurrected **so that you may have eternal life with Him** in His Kingdom. He broke the bonds of death and sin, and gives you the opportunity to accept and believe Him.

**“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”** John 8:36. He that the Lord sets free is free indeed. We must **know Jesus**, through the reading of The Word Of God, and **believe Him**, to be set free.

We must also **be known of Jesus**, to be set free from sin. Our fruits should be evidence of our faith in Christ.

**“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? **And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man,** which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 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.” Matthew 7:20-27.

**“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** John 8:31-32.

**“STAND fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”** Galatians 5:1. Do not return back to sin, after Christ **has set you free** from sin!

**“For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:** Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God. **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? 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. **Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”** Romans 6:7-18.

**“For this is the love of God,** that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our **faith**. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” 1 John 5:3-5.

## The Power Of Restoration

There exists an unlimited power that most people can only dream about. That power rests solely with God, and He enables it to flow into His obedient servants who truly believe in and follow Him. This type of power is Supernatural, as it is “above natural” or “above nature.” This is the power that can **set a soul free** from the bondage of sin. This type of power makes the seemingly impossible things really possible. **We must believe.**

**Having belief without doubt** is the key to receiving anything from God. Assurance is knowing that God will back up His Word with the fullness of tangible evidence, in His time. Too many people give up and lose their benefits from God because they waver in their faith, not holding on to promises He Has Spoken in His Word.

**God is in the restoration** business. He restores souls, lives, marriages, and also material and physical things. Whatever has been broken, or is beyond repair, be that your body or mind, God can **restore** and make it new. God has called all Christians to spread His Gospel, of Good News and **restoration**, to the whole wide world.

“Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, **all things are possible to him that believeth.**” Mark 9:23. “**For with God nothing shall be impossible.**” Luke 1:37. “...for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee.” Exodus 15:26.

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30. **Believe in The Lord** and seek **His Forgiveness** for your sins.

“**Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.** For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:6-9.

“Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:” “Fear not, O land; **be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things.**” “**And I will restore to you** the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.” “**And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:** And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. **And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth,** blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.” Joel 2:15,21,25,28-30.

The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy our lives. But we have a victorious King and Lord named Jesus who has overcome and openly defeated our enemy! Walk in the fullness of everything in which Jesus has so greatly paid the full price for you to experience. **You have victory over all the works** of the evil one!

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the **victory** that overcometh the world, **even our faith.** Who is he that overcometh the world, but **he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**” 1 John 5:4-5. “**I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved,** and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to **steal,** and to **kill,** and to **destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**” John 10:9-10.

## Having A Form Of Godliness, But Denying The Power

“THIS know also, **that in the last days perilous times shall come.** For men **shall be lovers of their own selves**, covetous, boasters, **proud**, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, **despisers of those that are good**, Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.**” 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Many people today are focused on themselves, and are not giving the proper time and attention to the things of God. They like to portray a form of godliness on the outside, but their hearts and thoughts are often far from pleasing God. “**This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.**” Matthew 15:8-9. *See also* Isaiah 29:13.

We must be extra careful not to try to worship and serve God in our own strength, and with our own wisdom, understanding, and reasoning abilities. Without His Wisdom, Direction, Strength, and Power, we are nothing!

Some people choose to deny Jesus Christ, and His Ways, and end up the worse for doing so. “And the LORD said, **My spirit shall not always strive with man**, for that he also *is* flesh:...” Genesis 6:3. We are now under a Dispensation of Grace from God, but this will not always be so. Some people today may think that they are getting away with sinful thoughts, acts, and behavior, but God will ultimately judge, and the Holy Spirit has been sent to convict us of our sinful ways. “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. **And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.**” John 16:7-11. We must walk in humility at all times!

**We can not have mixture or compromise in any area of our lives.** “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: **for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?**” 2 Corinthians 6:14. People will often justify their evil acts, calling them good, without consulting The Truth in God’s Word. “**Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!**” Isaiah 5:20.

When people “do their own things” and then expect God to bless them, they will often become disillusioned with God, Jesus Christ, and His Church. Things will **rarely work out well** for people who try to manipulate God and tell Him what to do. **We need to approach God with reverence, always seeking His Perfect Will.**

**Do not be deceived by opportunities to compromise** your belief, faith, trust, testimony, and reverence for God. These are traps from the evil one, looking for you to fall into them, so that your relationship and walk with the Lord can be compromised and damaged. Be careful who you choose to follow. You will serve them!

“**Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods** which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; **and serve ye the LORD.** And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose you this day whom ye will serve;** whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.** And the people answered and said, **God forbid** that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods;” Joshua 24:14-16. Always guard your relationship with God!

## Imitation or Real

We all learn by imitation. We imitate what we see our parents do, then our teachers, and those in a position of trust in our lives. Our reality becomes based on what we have learned is right or wrong. That is why we need to: “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6.

Every day you are surrounded with choices. Who we surround ourselves with matters! Allowing the wrong people around us will affect us negatively. As we grow older, we are required to make choices to remove the wrong people from our lives and hold onto the good, godly role models and mentors. You will either choose to be around evil people and their ways, or else to be around people who love God and are sold out to Him.

Your job in life is to please the **Holy Spirit**, and to seek after knowing and having a relationship with **God**, through His Son, **Jesus Christ**. As we learn more of **Christ**, and His Ways, we will learn more about **God**.

We need **to be imitators of Christ**, as dear children, having a child-like faith, belief and trust in Jesus Christ.

“**BE ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love,**...” Ephesians 5:1-2.

“He that saith he abideth in him **ought himself also so to walk, even as he (Jesus) walked.**” 1 John 2:6.

Avoid every attempt by any person or thing to keep you from following after and imitating Jesus Christ, for He is the **true source** of everything we have need of. Apart from Him, we are nothing. Everything else apart from Jesus Christ is counterfeit, false, and will profit us nothing. We imitate Christ because He Is Real, but **not everything the world says is real is of God**. There are many imitations out there pretending to be real.

## Glorify

We as Christians are called to **glorify God** with everything that we are and with everything that we do! There are no exceptions to us continually glorifying God. To do anything other than glorify Him, we compromise!

Compromise leads to sin, which is being separated from God. **Hell** is a place of **eternal** separation from God. Our thoughts, words, and actions must **always glorify God**, or else we become rebellious lawbreakers in sin.

We are called to glorify, honor and respect God, in all His Fullness: Father, Jesus Christ, and The Holy Spirit. We are to never treat as common what God has called holy. **Jesus** is the **King Of Kings** and **Lord Of Lords**. Christ alone is worthy of the praise of men and of angels. **When we unwisely choose to glorify** anything or anyone else, other than God, we are reverencing a created thing and **lifting it up as an idol** in place of God.

**What or whom do you glorify?** Movie stars, celebrities, TV personalities, sports stars, and famous people are not to be glorified or worshipped. Who do you give your time, energy, money, and adoration to? God alone is worthy of our praise, worship, and adoration. The Ten Commandments serve to warn us against idols and worshipping or serving other gods. “**Then saith Jesus unto him**, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, **Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**” Matthew 4:10. *See also* Luke 4:8. “**Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him,**... **Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you;**” Deuteronomy 6:13-14. **We are to be separate from the world.**

**We are to be in the world, but not to become of it.** We are to rub off on the world, not let the world and its systems and ways rub off on us. We must avoid becoming compromised and polluted by things in this world.

We are to follow and imitate Christ, and to “...**Be ye holy; for I am holy.**” 1 Peter 1:16. God examines both our heart and our character. Our actions and thoughts must demonstrate our continual desire to glorify God.

“1. What is the chief end of man? Answer: **Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him for ever.**” Westminster Shorter Catechism, 1647.

“**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 extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.** And such were some of you: **but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.** All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body *is* not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make *them* the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. **Flee fornication.** Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? **know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you,** which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? **For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit,** which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6:9-20. Glorify God with your whole being!

“If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: **that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ,** to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:11.

Many Christian Believers today are suffering from **a lack of passion for the Glory of God.** They may try to glorify Him with their mouth and lips, but their hearts are far from Him. *See* Matthew 15:8-9. There is a true saying that “actions speak louder than words.” People can talk a good game, and have good intentions, but a person’s intentions are no substitute for a true demonstration by their actions. The Scripture says “Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know them.**” Matthew 7:20. Our fruit and actions demonstrate that we truly **believe God and His Son, Jesus Christ.** Obedience to God **is required** to truly have faith in God, and faith in Jesus.

**We do not earn Salvation** by works: “**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.” Ephesians 2:8-10. It is a free gift that is received by faith in Jesus Christ once we have truly repented of our sins. “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the **faith of Jesus Christ,** even we have **believed** in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” “**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.” Galatians 2:16, 20. Our fruit and our works must back up our faith in Jesus Christ.

Faith and works must both be present and active. You can not profess Christ and ignore His Requirements for how you are supposed to live and conduct yourself. “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, **and do not the things which I say?**” Luke 6:46. God and Jesus require that we back up our words, and our faith, with our actions. For “Even so **faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.**” “Ye see then how **that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.**” “**For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**” James 2:17,24,26. We must continually maintain our faith in Jesus Christ, without wavering, as evidenced by our obedience to His commands and instructions. Our works do not earn Salvation, but rather they **serve as the tangible evidence that we truly believe** in God, and in His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ.

**We glorify God when we obey both Him and His Son, Jesus Christ.** “**Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you:** depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, **and doeth them,** I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:” Matthew 7:21-24.

How can we glorify God and Jesus, if we do not act like Jesus acted when He was here on earth? Jesus **only did** what He saw the Father do (John 5:19-20). Likewise, we need to imitate Christ by our words and actions.

Too many Christians today, falsely believe, that they can do whatever they desire to do in life, because they are covered by the Grace of God, and are forgiven of their sins. Grace to them is a “get out of sin” card that can be relied upon at any time to justify their worldly thoughts and actions. They ignore God’s requirement to come out from the world: living a life of holiness, not partaking in sin, being free from all fleshly desires.

“**And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God;** as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,** And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” 2 Corinthians 6:16-18. Too many Believers are compromising their faith with the world.

“*This is* a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou **affirm constantly,** that they which have believed in God might be careful to **maintain good works.** These things are good and profitable unto men.” Titus 3:8.

“**And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him** which died for them, and rose again.” 2 Corinthians 5:15. God please “...**shew me thy glory.**” Exodus 33:18.

“Was not **Abraham our father justified by works,** when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? **Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?** And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, **Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness:** and he was called the Friend of God.” James 2:21-23. “**For the grace of God that bringeth salvation** hath appeared to all men, **Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**” Titus 2:11-12. **We need to stop having a lukewarm lifestyle and faith.**

“**HAVING** therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**” 2 Corinthians 7:1. We must reverence and glorify God.

## Character Matters

Many people want the **power and presence of God, and desire the blessings and benefits** that come from following God. Rarely are they willing to examine their **character** and ask God to reveal what they must do to change into the person that He wants them to be to meet His Requirements of holiness. We want to see the blessings and demonstration of the miracles, but we often forget that He has standards that we must abide by.

There is a **highway of holiness** that is available, but only if we are willing to receive The Lord's **correction**. We must **pursue holiness**, "without which no man shall see the Lord:" *See* Hebrews 12:5-9,14-15. "And an highway shall be there, **and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.**" Isaiah 35:8.

The Lord discerns the thoughts and intents of your heart. He will examine and weigh your life on His Scales, discerning the truth behind your motivations, thoughts, and works. Truth will prevail. A righteous life will be rewarded, and those who have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof, will be judged very severely. Life is not a party. It is serious business. All of eternity hangs in the balance. It is based on your performance. Jesus is examining our works, just as He said, "**I know thy works,**" to each of the **7 churches in Revelation**.

"For the **word of God** *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a **discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart**. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: **but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do**. Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, **Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.**" Hebrews 4:12-14.

"...know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever." 1 Chronicles 28:9.

"...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. But I say unto you, **That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.** For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matthew 12:34-37.

**Jesus Christ is preparing you for Himself to be part of the Bride of Christ without spot or wrinkle.** He is coming for His Spotless Church. "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.**" Ephesians 5:27. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, **and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**" James 1:27. We must have purity and holiness.

The Bride must be **purified, clothed** with white garments, and have nothing clouding the vision of her eyes. She **must not be selfish**, or self serving, but rather be clothed with **righteous acts**, desiring to **serve people**.

"**Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.**" Isaiah 48:10. "**That the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, **might be found unto praise and honour and glory** at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" 1 Peter 1:7.

**God is looking for those with a pure and contrite heart.** We must **repent of our sins**, and be willing and ready to let The Lord purify us as gold, **through various trials, testings, and tribulations**. Too many people have a **hard heart** toward God and others. Our hearts need to be softened and purified, like gold, so that we are flexible, transparent, and suitable for The Master's use, so we properly reflect what is inside our vessels.

**“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.** But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; **and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**” 2 Timothy 2:19-21.

“I counsel thee to **buy of me gold tried in the fire**, that thou mayest be rich; and **white raiment**, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and **anoint thine eyes with eyesalve**, that thou mayest see.” Revelation 3:18. We are called to endure to the end, being faithful to God in all areas.

“They profess that they know God; **but in works they deny him,**...” Titus 1:16. **“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief**, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; **lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;** While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, **harden not your hearts**, as in the provocation.” Hebrews 3:12-15.

We must be always on guard in these 3 important areas of life. We should ask The Lord to **purify us**, by Him doing whatever is necessary, including using trials, tests, and tribulations to refine all sin and hardness out of our hearts, so that we can reflect His Glory in our hearts and lives. We must have evidence of not loving self, but rather be constantly doing **righteous works** serving other people, being clothed with white garments that show His Righteousness through our selfless acts. We must have our eyes opened up to **His Truth**, revealed by His Word, carefully obeying His commands, walking with a walk of humility rather than walking in pride.

We are to **prepare ourselves to spend eternity** with God, and Jesus Christ. We do our part, and God does His. We then move closer toward becoming the blessed marriage partners that we were destined to be.

God is looking for people that will respect and reverence Him, who will believe in Him and in Jesus Christ.

**We need to walk like Jesus walked**, having His Character, Humility, Purity, and Love. **“He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”** “He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.” 1 John 2:6,9. **We need to walk in love, hating no one.**

**“Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it,** and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that **feared the LORD**, and that **thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts**, in that day when I make up my jewels; and **I will spare them**, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.” Malachi 3:16-18.

**“It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:”** 2 Timothy 2:11-12. We are called to be overcomers.

## Intimacy With God

**God is inviting us to draw near to Him.** “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.” James 4:8. Will we truly **respond to His Call?** “**And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.**” Jeremiah 29:13.

God desires intimacy with us. We have this intimacy and access to Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” John 6:37.

**We pursue what we desire.** Lack of pursuit shows a lack of desire for a relationship. It also shows dishonor, and a lack of appreciation and interest. We were separated by sin from this beautiful, eternal relationship. If we **are to be a part of The Bride Of Christ**, to eternally glorify Jesus Christ, and our Heavenly Father, we must preeminently give respect, love, honor, and faithfulness to our Beloved at all times, especially since we are betrothed (engaged) to be married. We demonstrate our commitment to The Lord by **not being ashamed of Him, and by openly showing our faith.**

“**But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**” Hebrews 11:6. God responds to, and rewards faith.

Many Christians respond to His Call, and profess Jesus Christ as their Lord, and Savior, but many tragically stop there, and wrongfully believe that they can live their life in the world, as they like, without making any changes. If you really believe something (or someone), you will **demonstrate your belief by your actions.** “*This is* a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou **affirm constantly**, that they which have believed in God might be careful to **maintain good works.** These things are good and profitable unto men.” Titus 3:8.

No bride in her right mind will want to be seen by her beloved cheating, swearing, lying, or dishonoring him. We, as Christian Believers, must be careful, how we treat our bodies, and in everything we say, do, and think, to always **glorify God:** The Father, Jesus Christ, and The Precious Holy Spirit. They are worthy of all honor!

“I BESEECH you...**that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world:** but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:1-2.

We come to God by faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, by His grace, which is a gift from God. Once accepted in His Kingdom, we must live by **the rules of His Kingdom**, and continually glorify, honor, and worship Him. **Fear God and keep His commands.** Failure to do so will have consequences that will affect you and others.

Desire intimacy with God and Jesus. He who **hungers and thirsts** after Christ’s righteousness shall be filled. “**Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.**” Matthew 5:6.

We need to diligently seek God, and His Wisdom. “**I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.**” Proverbs 8:17. “With my soul **have I desired thee** in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early:...” Isaiah 26:9. We must hunger after, trust, and truly commit all our ways to The Lord. “**Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.**” “The highway of the upright **is to depart from evil:** he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.” Proverbs 16:3,17. Keep on the right track.

**“Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and **the lust thereof:** but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” 1 John 2:15-17. We need to **flee the lusts** of this world and live holy.

We are to rid ourselves of fleshly, carnal, unprofitable things of the world, and instead put on Jesus Christ, and walk like He walked, and live our lives as He lived. We need to purify our lives and **seek only Christ.**

“IF ye then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are above,** where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. **Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.** When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. **Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth;** fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;” Colossians 3:1-9.

“Yea doubtless, and **I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:** for whom I have suffered **the loss of all things,** and do count them *but* dung, **that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness,** which is of the law, but **that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;** If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. **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. Let us therefore, **as many as be perfect, be thus minded:** and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, **God shall reveal even this unto you.”** Philippians 3:8-15.

**Do not neglect the gifts that God has put in you, but rather stir them up to do the work of the ministry.** See 2 Timothy 1:6, 1 Timothy 4:14. “For the Son of man is come **to seek and to save that which was lost... Occupy till I come.”** Luke 19:10-13. We must be careful **to always be found doing the Master’s business.**

Jesus said, “Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. **Father, glorify thy name.** Then came there a voice from heaven, *saying*, **I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.”** John 12:27-28. Read John Chapters 14-17, and note John 17:24-25, “Father, I will that they also, **whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me:** for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.”

“And the **peace of God,** which passeth all understanding, **shall keep your hearts and minds** through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, **think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”** Philippians 4:7-9.