

# **THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

**And the Key of Knowledge**

Don Randolph

*For the earth will be filled with  
the knowledge of the glory of the  
Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*

**Habakkuk, Chapter 4, Verse 14.**

**Lord I pray for you to supernaturally impart understanding and wisdom as people absorb and digest the Bible. I pray that the Holy Spirit will supernaturally bring to their remembrance the truths which are found in the Word of God when they need it. I pray for those who are seeking more wisdom and understanding who are reading this book that YOU will speak to them and give them supernatural insight as they read. May their hearts be filled with joy and their eyes be continually focused on YOU.**

**All scriptures are found in the King James Bible, and the New King James Bible.**

**Copyright © 2016 Don Randolph**

# **Table of Contents**

- Chapter 1...The Knowledge of God**
- Chapter 2...The Babylon Syndrome**
- Chapter 3...The Fear of the Lord**
- Chapter 4...The Lack of Knowledge**
- Chapter 5...Two Trees in Eden**
- Chapter 6...The Knowledge of Idolatry**
- Chapter 7...Perverted and Natural Knowledge**
- Chapter 8...The Spirit of Knowledge**
- Chapter 9...Knowing God**
- Chapter 10..Knowledge and Wisdom**
- Chapter 11..The Key of Knowledge**
- Chapter 12..Knowledge is Power**
- Chapter 13..Love is Power**
- Chapter 14..Loving Yourself**
- Chapter 15..Judgement, Mercy and Faith**
- Chapter 16..The Knowledge of Judgment**
- Chapter 17..The Knowledge of Faith**
- Chapter 18..A Living Faith**
- Chapter 19..The Knowledge of Grace and Mercy**
- Chapter 20..The Knowledge of Power**
- Chapter 21..The Renewing of the Mind**
- Chapter 22..Casting Down Imaginations**
- Chapter 23..Proverbial Knowledge**
- Chapter 24..Praise and Worship**
- Chapter 25..Knowledge and Understanding**
- Chapter 26..The Knowledge of the Son**
- Chapter 27..The Knowledge of the Seed**

## **Introduction**

*My people are destroyed by the lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I 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.* Hosea, Chapter 4, Verse 6.

God tells us His people are destroyed for the lack of KNOWLEDGE. However, when quoting this verse of scripture most people leave out the part which says His people have rejected knowledge. Because they have rejected knowledge God also rejects them. The problem is not that knowledge is not available to His people, but that they reject the knowledge He has given them. The knowledge which the Bible is talking about is not just knowledge in general, but the KNOWLEDGE of God. The Bible is full of scripture concerning the knowledge of God and how we are to conduct ourselves as people of God.

God's people reject His knowledge in several different ways. Some people reject knowledge because they do not want to accept and follow the precepts and principles found in the Word of God. They are more concerned about fulfilling their own wants and desires than they are in pleasing God. Others reject the knowledge of God by failing to study His Word to find out what pleases and displeases Him. To their detriment they leave themselves vulnerable to the plans

**and schemes of the Devil and become the target of his fiery darts.**

**The Bible has many things to say regarding knowledge. One of the most important virtues we can possess is the knowledge of God and what He tells us in His Word. People reject the knowledge of God because they love darkness rather than light. When people reject the knowledge of God they are rejecting eternal life. If we are going to receive eternal life, we must accept the knowledge of how to obtain eternal life. That knowledge has been laid out in the pages of God's Word.**

**God offers us knowledge, wisdom and understanding so we will be able to live a life free from the cares of this World and the schemes of the enemy. God gives us knowledge, wisdom and understanding so we can live a life of freedom, peace and joy. When we experience the fullness of His knowledge, His love is shed abroad in our hearts. We are told to "study to show ourselves approved unto God."**

**When we reject the knowledge of God we are rejecting God. When we reject God, He in turn rejects us. He told Israel they would no longer be priests to Him because they had rejected and forgotten His law. When we reject the knowledge of God we are also leaving our children vulnerable to the plots and schemes of the enemy. Rejecting the knowledge of God has many dire consequences.**

**As Christians, the Law of God has been written upon our hearts. When we sin we are rejecting the law of God and perpetrating sin against God. However, this**

**is not to say we cannot confess our sins and find forgiveness of our sins from God. When we repent with a sincere heart God is just and merciful to forgive us of our sins.**

**Sometimes our biggest problem is not the sin problem, but the lack of wisdom, knowledge and understanding of how to deal with and overcome sin. Many Christians have a sin problem because they do not KNOW how to get free of the sins which so easily besets them. KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. Through KNOWLEDGE we can obtain a greater understanding of who God is, how we can KNOW Christ in the power of His resurrection and what Christ did for us at the cross. To KNOW God is to love Him. The more we KNOW about God and the great love He has for us, the more we will understand how to walk in the freedom and joy of the Holy Spirit. For those who have a problem with sin, the principles of knowledge, wisdom and understanding will set them free from the bondage of sin.**

**Knowledge is important. What is equally important is that we understand how to apply the knowledge of God's Word to our life. The Bible gives us the information of what we are to do in order to become Christ-like. Through the knowledge of God, we will find the true character of Christ. Through the knowledge of God we will find how the true character of Christ in us becomes the hope of glory for us.**

**The Bible is a book which is filled with knowledge. It takes years of studying the Bible to find all the treasures which are hidden in God's Word. The Word of God cannot be discerned or understood just by**

**reading. We must study the Word to “show ourselves approved.” With wisdom and understanding we can “dig up” the treasures of knowledge which are buried in the Word of God.**

**The Bible is the best-selling Book of all time. More books have been written ABOUT biblical history, precepts, perceptions and principles than any other book in history. If we tried to interpret and explain what the Bible says in one book, the book would probably be over ten stories high and fifty feet in width. The Bible is full of the KNOWLEDGE, wisdom and understanding of God. The books of the Bible have been interpreted and misinterpreted for millennia.**

**This book will attempt to explain the most important issues the Bible addresses. While all scripture is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness, Jesus said there are some issues that were more important than others. There are not enough pages in any book which can expound on all the Bible teaches.**

# **Chapter 1**

+++++

## **The Knowledge of God**

*And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn to righteousness like the stars for ever and ever. But you Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase. Daniel, Chapter 12, Verses 3-4.*

The Book of Daniel states that in the last days “those who are wise” will shine like the brightness of the firmament and “the righteous like the stars” for eternity. He went on to say that “knowledge would increase.” In the last half century, knowledge has increased at an alarming rate. There is more knowledge available to us today than any other time in history. The knowledge of God’s Word is also increasing and accelerating at an amazing pace. Today God is revealing His Word to those who are seeking to KNOW the truth.

The knowledge and mysteries of God are being revealed today at an alarming rate in the Church. God’s people are being transformed into the image of Christ by denying themselves and picking up their cross daily as they draw closer to God. The “knowledge of God” is transforming the Church into a glorious



**Church as she purposely and earnestly seeks to become without spot or wrinkle in the eyes of God. The “knowledge of God” will lead us to wondrous places in Christ we never knew or dreamed existed.**

**With the knowledge of God increasing daily, it would be reasonable to assume that false information (knowledge) regarding the Word of God would also increase. Many people are running to and fro seeking knowledge about the Bible, but not seeking Christ. Unfortunately, they are finding a “different gospel” because they are seeking spiritual knowledge in all the wrong places. Many cults have risen mixing the Word of God with fables and false interpretations of the Word of God. Many ungodly men and women prey upon those who are spiritually ignorant and unlearned leading them into gross error and delusion.**

**In the last two decades, many of God’s people have fallen into the same traps the spiritually ignorant and unlearned have fallen into. New Age doctrines have been subtly planted into many churches and have taken root in the hearts and minds of many Christians. False doctrines have darkened the sanctuaries of hearts and minds which were once enthroned by the Light of the Holy Spirit. Jesus has been given a back seat in churches while congregations worship the doctrinal gods they have created. Others promote and worship the creation rather than their Creator.**

**Ministers of the Gospel are responsible for what they teach their congregations and those God has placed in their care. If we are leading our congregations down the path of idolatry by teaching false doctrines which**

are demonically inspired, our judgment and subsequent punishment will be harsh and severe.

*Come, and let us return to the Lord: For He has torn, but He will heal us: He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight. Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord.* Hosea, Chapter 6, Verses 1-3.

Hosea was admonishing Israel to “repent and return to the Lord” so He would raise them up and restore them in His sight. He admonished Israel to pursue, or diligently seek, the **KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD**. Israel had forgotten the Lord, and in doing so they did not **KNOW** much about the Lord and the precepts and principles which govern His Kingdom.

Knowledge is information, facts and skills which people obtain by reading, hearing, and studying as well as through personal experience. The knowledge of God is obtained the same way we gain any other types of knowledge. The only difference, however, is the source from which that knowledge comes. We gain the knowledge of God by reading and studying the Bible, and or hearing (understanding) what we are taught in an educational setting.

It is imperative that we build a strong foundation based upon the “Word of God.” If we want

**to know how God thinks and how we can please Him, we must possess the “knowledge of God.” God imparts knowledge to us so we can understand how to walk in freedom, faith, love and power.**

**For Israel, the purpose of the “knowledge of God” was to bring reconciliation, revival and renewal to them. The knowledge of God would bring Israel new peace, hope, faith and power into their lives. Because they were rebellious they were in bondage in many areas of their lives. Knowledge would bring them into a greater understanding of God’s plan and purpose for their lives.**

**The Bible is referred to as the “Word of God.” It is a book of information and facts which are based upon the TRUTH. There are many books we can read which will give us the basic information we need to live and thrive in this World. However, the Bible gives us ALL the information we need regarding God and reveals to us how we can live prosperously in this World, as well as in the Kingdom of God.**

**The Bible tells us to “grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter, 3:18). It is God’s will and desire for us to grow in His grace and knowledge. If we are going to be free from bondage, we MUST diligently seek to grow in God’s grace and knowledge. If we fail to seek wisdom, we will remain in the same condition we were in before we came to the SAVING KNOWLEDGE of the Lord Jesus Christ. We can be born again by the Spirit, however, if we do not have a good understanding of the Word of God, we will remain in bondage to carnal thoughts. If we fail to rightly divide the Word of truth, it will be easy for**

**Satan to corrupt the foundation upon which our faith is built.**

**Being “born again” is just the beginning of our relationship with God. We MUST pursue that relationship if we are going to grow in the “knowledge OF God.” As we seek to know more about God our relationship with Him will grow and prosper.**

**The Apostle Paul said he desired to “know Christ and the power of His resurrection.” (Philippians, 3:10). If we are going to KNOW Christ in His fullness, we must know Him IN the power of His resurrection. We learn more about Christ by obtaining facts and information which are written in the Bible about Him. However, our personal relationship with Christ will only grow when and if we seek Him through prayer, praise and worship.**

## **PURSuing KNOWLEDGE**

**We are pursuing God when we are pursuing the “knowledge of God.” Several years ago, the Lord spoke to me and said, “My children are not pursuing me enough.” To “pursue” mean to “chase after.” The Bible tells us to draw nigh unto God and He will draw nigh to us. God is not trying to play hide and seek with us. He is not hiding in the shadows waiting to enlighten us to His whereabouts. God’s presence is always with us whether we acknowledge Him or not.**

**Jesus said. “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” (Matthew, 5:6). Hungering and thirsting for more of God and His righteousness is the key to receiving the**

**“knowledge of God” and dwelling safely and harmoniously in His presence.**

**People pursue a college education because they wish to be educated in the field they want to work in. They study to gain all the information they can which pertains to the profession which they are seeking to follow. Their “major” studies will help them to reach their aspirations and goals in life. The other information which they gain from studying in college is not as important to them as what they desire most to become in life.**

**A student once asked Albert Einstein “how many feet were in a mile?” Einstein responded by saying, “I do not know.” The student thought Professor Einstein was joking, but he was not. The student asked Einstein why he did not know such a simple fact as how many feet were in a mile. Einstein responded, “I make it a rule not to clutter my mind with simple information that I can find in a book in a few minutes.”**

**Einstein was not interested in trivial information. He had a passion to study the “hidden mysteries of the universe.” He had a passion for science which allowed him to make a great contribution to the World through his many theories and experiments. His focus was upon the hidden mysteries mankind had not yet uncovered.**

**When we have a deep “passion” to seek and learn more about God we will find a greater understanding of God and how the Kingdom of God operates. When we hunger and thirst after God and seek HIS righteousness, WE WILL be filled with the**

fullness of Christ. When we seek the more important things in life such as love, grace, mercy and faith, we will discover all the treasures of Heaven and the “hidden mysteries of God.”

When we have a passion to “know Christ and the power of His resurrection” we will be “filled” with Christ and the power of His resurrection. In the pursuit of knowledge, we will find God and the power within us to fulfill His plan and purpose for our life. God is waiting patiently for us to pursue Him and the knowledge which will lead us to a greater understanding of how His Kingdom operates.

## **UNDERSTANDING**

*Through your precepts I get understanding;  
Therefore, I hate every false way.* Psalms, 119,  
104.

Without understanding, knowledge will be useless to us. Someone may be a walking encyclopedia, however, without understanding their knowledge will be unfruitful. A person without understanding is a person who will easily be overcome with fear and fall into temptation. Having godly knowledge without the understanding of how to use that knowledge will always lead to confusion. When a situation arises where the knowledge of God is needed, and we fail to or cannot not understand what we are supposed to do, we will continue to remain confused.

Knowledge without understanding is like a man who owns a gun but does not understand how to use the gun. If, and when he is confronted in his home by

intruders he will be in grave danger because he does not understand how to use the gun.

If we fail to understand what God is saying to us in His Word we will either cast it aside, misinterpret it, or seek to understand it better. We need to have a good, sound understanding of what the scripture is telling us. When we are sharing the Word with others, we must **KNOW** the **TRUTH**, not just what we assume the truth to be.

Many misrepresentations of scripture are causing many conflicts and divisions in our churches today. Misinformation regarding scripture will always lead to confusion and division. When you know the Truth (Jesus), the truth will set you free. If we are not free in every area of our lives, it is because we do not have the “knowledge and understanding of the truth” we need in every area of our lives.

## **SOUND DOCTRINE**

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap unto themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 2 Peter, Chapter 3, Verses 3-4.*

Sound doctrine eludes many in the Church. Many people with itching ears are running “to and fro” being tossed about with every wind of doctrine.

**Fictitious fables are sending a blight of false information into many churches today. Sound doctrine has been replaced with doctrines of devils, as well as “man-made, superficial fabrications.”**

**A church cannot expect to grow and prosper without the truth, and nothing but the truth. As a church, we must learn to seek and cherish the truth as a treasure when we have found it. We must know the truth before we can help set others free from spiritual bondage and subjugation. Freedom from bondage will always leave us free to share the TRUTH with others.**

**The First Amendment of the Constitution promises us the “freedom of speech.” Many men and women died during the American Revolution securing our freedom of speech. Freedom of speech in a natural setting is imperative if people are going to be able to offer their opinions regardless of what they may be. In the Church, however, we do not have the right to offer our own opinions regarding the truth. Opinions may or may not be based on facts. What WE believe the Bible teaches may have nothing to do with what the Bible actually says. Many people interpret the Bible the way they think it should be, or want it to be interpreted without seeking God for understanding.**

**False doctrines will always lead to confusion, sedition and division in the Church. When we do not understand, or have the knowledge of the truth, confusion will rule and reign in place of the truth. The result is rebellion and division in the rank and file of Church members. Satan does his greatest work among those in the Church who are confused, misinformed and lack spiritual understanding. Educating and training**



**people in the five-fold ministry is the only way we can change the minds of those who have been falsely indoctrinated with cunning fables and doctrines of devils. The “knowledge of the truth” will always lead us down the path to spiritual freedom in Christ.**

**FOR GOD, WHO COMMANDED THE LIGHT TO SHINE OUT OF THE DARKNESS, HATH SHINED IN OUR HEARTS, TO GIVE THE LIGHT OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY IN THE FACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. 2 Corinthians, Chapter 4, Verse 6.**

## **Chapter 2**

+++++

### **The Babylon Syndrome**

*And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come let us go down there and confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." Genesis, Chapter 11, Verses 6-7.*

We all know the story of the Tower of Babel and how God confused (confounded) the language of the people when they attempted to build a "tower to heaven." After God confounded their language, the people became unable to communicate with each other because they were "confused." The Word "babel" means "confusion." The City of Babylon was later built where the attempt to build the Tower of Babel was located. "Babylon" means the "City of Babel" or the "City of Confusion." A lack of understanding will always result in confusion. The City of Babylon later became the nation of Babylon. The nation of Babylon ruled the known World at one time.

After God confounded their language, the people building the Tower were unable to UNDERSTAND each other. This caused great confusion among them. The Tower of Babel was to become a" place of worship"

**for them. However, they were not intending to worship the true God once they finished building the Tower. They planned to worship a god of their own choice—a god which they had created themselves. After God confounded their language, they could no longer build the Tower of Babel because they could not understand each other. Thus, they became scattered abroad.**

**The story of the Tower of Babel is today being replayed over, and over again in our society. Today the entire World is known as the Babylonian System. Confusion rules and reigns in the hearts and minds of people everywhere. Confusion in the World always causes division and rebellion against governments and authorities. Confusion will continue to rule and reign on this Earth until Christ returns and sets up His government and Kingdom on this Earth.**

**Satan is the god of the Babylonian System. He is the master of deceit and spiritual confusion. Jehovah is the God of “peace.” Satan is the god of “confusion.” Confusion is the opposite of peace. Wherever we find confusion, there will be no peace. Confusion will always inhabit the hearts and minds of men and women who do not KNOW the truth.**

**Confusion works in the Church the same way confusion in the World works. When we are not all speaking the same spiritual language, the Church “languishes” and many times falls into confusion and rebellion. Where confusion and rebellion rules, every evil work is present, and “peace” becomes absent. (James, 3:16). When truth has been misrepresented or adulterated, it always causes confusion. Confusion**

always disqualifies and precludes people from being set free from bondage and freedom in Christ.

Satan has always used the strategy of “confusing and manipulating” the minds of individuals by misrepresenting the truth for millennia. He saw what confusion did in the ranks of those who were attempting to “build a tower” to the heavens when God confounded their language. Satan has not changed his strategy to this day because his strategy has worked very well for him.

*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!* Isaiah, Chapter 5, Verse 20.

Today the Spirit of Babylon is creating a new language to confuse the multitudes. The truth is being turned into fables in every area of society. Many of our governmental leaders are now saying that Christianity is using “hate speech” and Christian values should no longer be tolerated. Our government has become intolerant to human decency and morality. What is moral has now become immoral to them. The shedding of innocent blood is normal and assisted suicide has been legalized in some states.

Today the Spirit of Confusion has infiltrated and is in control of our schools and our government. Political Correctness has taken the place of common sense in our schools, our government, and in every area of our lives. Common Core, which lacks common sense, has replaced the teaching of moral values with

**“common debauchery and corruption” in many schools today. Their plan is to place this ungodly curriculum in every school in the United States to surreptitiously circumvent the truth and corrupt the minds of our children and grandchildren.**

**The First Amendment gives us the “freedom of religion.” Today, however, Christians are being deprived of their freedom to pursue religion in many parts of the country. Prayer has been taken out of the schools. In many places our young people cannot pray before or after ballgames, on school property or at commencement services. Nativity scenes and any reference to Christ has been outlawed in front of and inside government facilities. The Ten Commandments have been taken out of court houses and out of public view. People do not want to be reminded they are living in sin.**

**While many ministers are adulterating and perverting the Gospel, the government is trying to undermine and subvert the Church. Their goal is to suppress, subvert and censor the knowledge of God. Holiness is despised, and sin has become sacred and virtuous to many ungodly people.**

**The agenda of the Marxists who have taken control of this nation is to eradicate Christianity. According to Homeland Security, Christians have been labeled as terrorists. This strategy is just part of the “end time persecution” which is being and will continue to be unleashed upon the Church. We are terrorists, but not in the way they proclaim. It is not our intention to terrorize anybody or group of individuals. However,**

**we do intend to terrorize Satan and the Forces of Darkness as we become unified in the faith.**

**As the Church grows stronger and more effective, Satan becomes more enraged. As the Church becomes more powerful, he realizes his time is getting shorter. Therefore, he has begun to persecute the Church even more. As the Church becomes more unified, we become a greater threat to him and his agenda for mankind. His attacks against the Church have become more intense and threatening, and will continue to increase as the return of the Lord grows nearer. Until now Satan did not have much fear of the Church because the Church has never been as unified as it is becoming today. As the Church becomes the Church which God ordained it to be, Satan will do everything in his power to try and destroy it.**

**In the United States, as well as in many other countries around the World, immorality is now being taught as the “norm” while morality is taught as being abnormal. History books have been rewritten, and the truth has been replaced with lies. Lying has become a “virtue” and “truth” has become evil. Good has become BAD, and bad has now become GOOD. (Isaiah, 5:20).**

**As Christians, we MUST take a stand against these evils which are taking over our schools, our government and our society. Nefarious, perverted politicians are attempting to take over and control every area of our lives and society. Our government is now trying to remove all references to Christianity in public places.**

**A few days ago, I was searching for a synonym for the word “good” on my Internet Thesaurus. I typed in the word “good,” and four rows of synonyms appeared. As I looked at the first row, I was stunned when I saw that the second word listed as a synonym for “GOOD” was “BAD.”**

**Today it is legal for an unborn child to be murdered when it is ready to come out of the womb. Baby parts are sold for profit, and baby parts which cannot be used are incinerated or thrown in garbage dumps. Mainstream society is on the path to becoming more wicked than Sodom and Gomorrah. Crosses are forbidden to be placed anywhere in sight on military bases. Many Veterans hospitals are not allowed to keep Bibles anywhere in their facilities.**

**Society is changing the perception people have of the World through Political Perversion and Political Correctness. Human rights are only for the inhumane. Males desire to become females and females desire to become males. Same sex marriage is lawful and marriage between a man and a woman is now scorned by many. Ungodly laws have been passed and are being passed into law in Washington which promotes a Sodom and Gomorrah fueled society. Restrooms in public places are no longer safe from perverted people who wish to prey on our women and children. If you dare make a stand against these atrocities, you are labeled a “bigot.”**

**The Spirit of Babylon is making great headway in influencing the lives of every man, woman, and child on this planet with lies and deception. Those who do not possess the wisdom of God will be easily deceived.**

**The truth is now being turned into fables to confuse the hearts and minds of people everywhere.**

**Many people in churches around the World have been affected by, and infected with, doctrines of demons and what I call “principles and precepts for profit.” The Word of God is being adulterated and prostituted for money in many ministries. The CALL of God on the lives of many people has become a CALL for riches. We must not fail to resist the devil when he shows up offering us the World and its riches, or we too will surely fall into his trap of lustful pleasures.**

**If we are failing in our relationship with Christ we MUST find a solution to our problem. Our relationship with Christ will never prosper if we are continually seeking worldly pleasures and earthly treasures. If we follow the World into deep depravity by falling into the trap of political correctness and spiritual perversion, we will end up being condemned along with the rest of the World.**

**Christians will be unable to make it safely through these coming years without using godly wisdom and understanding. As Christians, if we fail to seek the knowledge of God and use the wisdom He has offered to us, we will find ourselves being deceived along with the rest of the World. Seeking and obtaining the knowledge of God will assure us victory in every area of our lives. We will find wisdom and understanding when and if we search the scriptures for TRUTH.**

## **THE DEEP THINGS**

*Can you search out the deep things of God?*



*Can you find out the limits of the Almighty?  
They are higher than heaven--what can you  
do? Deeper than Sheol—what can you know?  
Their measure is longer than the earth and  
broader than the sea. Job, Chapter 11, Verses 7-8.*

The knowledge of God is infinite. There is no limit to the knowledge, understanding wisdom and mysteries of God. If we had an opportunity to delve into ALL the knowledge, wisdom and mysteries of God, our finite minds could never understand them. However, God has given us ALL we need to know for us to prosper while we are here on this Earth.

Over the years I was taken to “heavenly places” on many occasions. Like the Apostle Paul who was caught up to the “Third Heaven,” I do not know if I was in my body or out of my body. Most of the times when I was taken up to heavenly places I was awake. It would happen at times when I was praying or just after I had laid down in bed at night. I would feel myself rising from where I was praying or from my bed. Then I would find

myself quickly passing through the ceiling, then the roof, and into the sky. I travelled through the sky and into outer space at great speeds. As I went through outer space, I saw many demon spirits, stars and planets along my journey.

On one occasion, I was taken to a great City which I assumed was the New Jerusalem. The buildings I saw could not be described with any words I have in

**my limited vocabulary. The architecture was unlike anything I had or have ever seen on Earth to this day. The City I saw was aglow with a beautiful, soft, brilliant, bright white light. On other occasions the light was a light bluish color.**

**Another time I was taken to a place where I received great wisdom, knowledge and understanding. I seemed to supernaturally know and understand mysteries concerning things which have been hidden from mankind since the beginning of creation. I heard and understood things which went far beyond anything I had ever heard before. The soft Light that surrounded me seemed to be engulfing me with all this information. I basked in the presence of this Light for a long time. I knew it was the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit was softly engulfing and surrounding me. He was opening the eyes of my understanding and revealing to me mysteries of the knowledge and wisdom of God which has been hidden for millennia.**

**After basking in the Light for a long time and enjoying this newly found wealth of knowledge, wisdom and understanding which I had been given, the Light around me slowly began growing dim. As the Light continued growing dim, I started losing the new treasures which I had been given. I slowly became aware that I was back in my bedroom. I shouted out to the Lord and said “Lord, I am losing it all. What is going on?” The Lord spoke to me and said: “These things which I have shown to you cannot be comprehended nor understood by the human mind.”**

**We have and understand very little information about Heaven and the treasures of knowledge, wisdom**

**and understanding which exists in Heaven. There are many mysteries we will never understand until we reach Heaven.**

**The Apostle Paul said during his trip to the Third Heaven he heard “inexpressible words” which is not lawful for men to utter. (2 Corinthians, 12-4). In Heaven, there is knowledge which abounds and surpasses all human understanding. The knowledge of God is infinite in Heaven. We will never acquire all the knowledge which God possess, but we will be able to understand many mysteries when we get to Heaven. There is no end to the treasures of information and knowledge in Heaven. All these treasures will be available to Believers when they “enter into the joy of the Lord.” We as Believers will have an eternity to bask in the Presence of God and be filled with His Knowledge.**

**Most everybody loves a good mystery. There are many biblical mysteries which have been hidden for centuries. Today God is revealing many mysteries to His people as they search the Bible for hidden treasures which are embedded in His Word. The Spirit of Understanding is revealing mysteries which are hidden in God’s Word. The key to understanding the mysteries of God is to seek His knowledge. When we earnestly seek for and find knowledge, we will obtain wisdom, understanding, and the hidden mysteries of God will be revealed to us. (Proverbs, 2:1-9).**

**When we earnestly seek to understand scripture, and ask God for revelation He will open the treasures of knowledge and wisdom to us. Today as time winds down and the return of Christ draws nearer, God is**

wanting to reveal Himself and His Word to His people. It is time for the Church to cleanse herself and become without spot or wrinkle to be prepared for the coming of the Bridegroom. The Apostle Paul called this process a “great mystery.” (Ephesians, 5:25-32).

**THE EARTH, O LORD, IS FULL OF YOUR MERCY;  
TEACH ME YOUR STATUTES. YOU HAVE DEALT  
WELL WITH YOUR SERVANT, O LORD,  
ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD. TEACH ME GOOD  
JUDGMENT AND KNOWLEDGE, FOR I BELIEVE  
YOUR COMMANDMENTS. Psalm, 119, Verses 64-66.**

## **Chapter 3**

+++++

### **THE FEAR OF THE LORD**

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. But fools despise wisdom and instruction.* Proverbs, Chapter 1, Verse 7.

The word “knowledge” comes from the Hebrew word “da’ath.” “Da’ath” means “to know, have cunning, and awareness (wittingly).” The word **KNOWLEDGE** in the Bible can refer to different types of knowledge. We are going to look at different types of **KNOWLEDGE** mentioned in the Bible and how they impact our life.

**Knowledge is one of the most important things we can possess. Knowledge gives us an opportunity to learn. Knowledge is facts and information. Knowledge tells us Jesus was crucified and died on the cross for our sins. This knowledge is called the “saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.” We cannot be saved without receiving and believing the knowledge that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.**

**The **KNOWLEDGE** of God is vital if we are going to live a life free from sin and bondage. When we change the way which we think, we will be able to overcome the things which hinder us from walking in freedom. When we have the knowledge of the truth, we will be able to live victoriously in every area of our lives. Wisdom is important. However, we will be unable to**

possess wisdom without KNOWLEDGE and understanding. KNOWLEDGE helps us to understand the principles and precepts of godly wisdom.

The word “fear” is derived from the Hebrew word “yir-ah.” It does not mean “respect” as many teach, although we need to always respect and reverence God because He IS God. “Yir-ah” actually means “fear, dread, or terror.” Jesus said, “Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear HIM who is able to destroy both body and soul.” (Matthew, 10:28).

*The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of evil.* Proverbs, Chapter 14, Verse 27.

A fountain of life is promised to those who fear the Lord. When we fear the Lord, He will protect us from the snares of evil. The knowledge of the “fear of the Lord” will lead us to a place of safety in His bosom. Wisdom and understanding will keep us from the snares of the enemy when we submit to the sovereignty of God. “The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility.” (Proverbs, 15:33).

Fools despise Wisdom and instruction. There is a sharp contrast between those who possess wisdom and KNOWLEDGE and fools who reject KNOWLEDGE and instruction. Those who fear the Lord will seek KNOWLEDGE and instruction because it is the desire of their hearts to please God and obey His will in all things.

I have taught for many years that people need to have a good, healthy fear of God. It seems like people today no longer have any fear of the consequences of their sins. If we fail to have a “fear of God,” we will end up making many mistakes and committing a multitude of sins. We cannot possess and benefit from the **KNOWLEDGE** of God if we do not fear Him.

We have nothing to fear if we are walking in the Spirit and obeying the voice and commandments of God. If we are continually walking in love, we have nothing to fear because there is no law which restricts love. The Bible tells us that “fear has torment” and that “perfect love casts out ALL fear.”

*How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning and fools hate knowledge. Proverbs, Chapter 1, Verse 22.*

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of **KNOWLEDGE**. A fool cannot and will not be able to possess the fear of God because he hates knowledge. The fear of God begins when we see Him first as King of Kings and Lord of Lords--the one who possesses **ALL** power and authority. The fear of the Lord is the foundational principle which the knowledge of God is built and rests upon. The fear of the Lord is a foundational truth which cannot be denied or rejected without consequence because **IT IS WRITTEN** in the truth of God’s Holy Word.

If our foundation concerning the knowledge of God is not built upon “the fear of the Lord,” our

relationship with God will be unstable. An unstable foundation will cause a building to fall easily because it does not have the proper support to keep it standing. When we have a firm foundation in Christ we will become firmly rooted and grounded in faith and love.

Once we have established a foundation of the “fear of the Lord” in our hearts we can work on our relationship with Him. The Bible tells us not to base our relationship with God upon fear but upon LOVE. The fear of the Lord is just the beginning of a wonderful relationship with Christ. When we have laid the basic foundational principles for our relationship with God, we will grow in wisdom and knowledge which will keep us secure in Him and His love.

God has not given us a spirit of “natural fear,” but of LOVE, power and a disciplined mind. (1 John, 4:18). We have a disciplined mind when we know and trust in the love and power of God, NOT in the strength and power of our enemies. We become able to cast out “all fear” when we UNDERSTAND and possess the PERFECT love of God. Fear always produces torment (judgment). We have not been made perfect in His love when we are fearful. When we have not been made perfect in His love, we leave ourselves open for the Spirit of Fear to come in which results in torment (judgment).

## **KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**

*My son, if you will receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply*



*your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice in understanding, if you see her as silver, and search for her as hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.* Proverbs, Chapter 2, Verses 1-5.

When we receive, and obey the Word of God and His commandments, we will understand why the “fear of the Lord” is important. We will find the wisdom of God when we search and seek for the knowledge of God as if we are seeking for hidden treasures.

When we have, and understand the love, grace and mercy of God, we will become steadfast in our walk with Him. When we have the wisdom and **KNOWLEDGE** of God within our hearts and minds, we will possess all we need to walk daily in victory.

Godly knowledge and understanding are shipmates. Concerning spiritual matters, **KNOWLEDGE** without godly wisdom and understanding is useless. It can be compared to being in a boat in the middle of an ocean without any oars. The current in the ocean will **TAKE** you wherever **IT** goes, **NOT** where you may want or **NEED** to go. Therefore, it is vital that as children of God we seek His wisdom in everything we say and do.

The link between the “fear of God” and “**KNOWLEDGE**” is understanding and wisdom. If we truly have the “fear the Lord,” we will seek godly

**KNOWLEDGE** so we can be pleasing to Him and receive His grace and mercy. His grace toward us is sufficient to meet all our needs. The Bible tells us that God will supply ALL our needs when we trust in His love for us. God is more than able to fix all the things in our lives which we are unable to fix. When we place all our cares upon the Lord, His mercy will constantly carry us through all the troubles and trials in life.

Wisdom and **KNOWLEDGE** always walk hand in hand to provide understanding and instruction to those who believe. If we **KNOW** the Truth (Christ the Word), Truth will set us free. If we have and use godly wisdom, Christ, who is our Wisdom, will guide us through life and help us to make quality decisions.

If we lack wisdom and knowledge regarding spiritual matters, our understanding concerning those matters will be non-existent. Godly wisdom, plus **KNOWLEDGE**, equals understanding. This is a simple mathematical equation.

We all need and must have knowledge. However, knowledge alone is worthless without godly wisdom and a proper understanding of the truth. Knowledge alone will not and cannot set us free. Knowledge and understanding of the **TRUTH** sets us free when we apply them to our life. Many people fail to have a good understanding of how godly knowledge is to be interpreted and used. They fail to understand that truth cannot be manipulated by their own esoteric and erotic illusions and desires. God's Word does not conform to our opinions or what we want it to say, but to the truth. Truth **IS** truth and nothing we do or say can change the truth.

**The Bible tells us “to study to show ourselves approved unto God” so we will be able to rightly divide the Word of Truth. Ignorance is not an option. We must KNOW and understand what the Word of God says before we can believe what it says.**

**Seeking knowledge is the pathway which leads to wisdom and understanding. If we are unaware and do not have the knowledge that wisdom exists, we would not be seeking wisdom. If we did not have the knowledge of the virtues of wisdom and understanding, we would not be seeking them.**

**If we possess knowledge, that knowledge will lead us down the paths to wisdom and understanding. On the other hand, ignorance leaves us in a state of unfruitfulness, confusion and peril during times of adversity. Without natural knowledge, we cannot and will not be able to function properly and prosperously in this World. Without godly wisdom and knowledge, we will be unable to function properly and prosperously in the Kingdom of God. We MUST understand why and how wisdom and knowledge prevail over ignorance.**

**FOR THE LORD GIVES WISDOM; FROM HIS MOUTH COMES KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING. Proverbs, Chapter 2, Verse 6.**

## **Chapter 4**

+++++

### **The Lack of Knowledge**

*My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I 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.* Hosea, Chapter 4, Verse 6.

The lack of knowledge leaves God's people in spiritual bondage. God said HIS people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. When quoting the above scripture, most people leave out the part which says "His people have rejected knowledge." The scripture goes on to say because God's people have rejected His knowledge, He rejects them. The problem is not that knowledge is unavailable to His people, but that His people reject the knowledge God has made available to them. I am not talking about knowledge in general, but the DIVINE knowledge of God which we can only receive by KNOWING Him and His Word.

The Bible is full of scripture regarding the knowledge of God and how we are to conduct ourselves as citizens of the Kingdom of God. When we are rejecting the principles and precepts in the Word of God, we are rejecting God Himself. When we reject God, He in turn rejects us. However, when we sincerely

**repent for rejecting God, He is always waiting faithfully to forgive us. God's Word is so powerful and important that He exalts His Word above Himself. A fool will REJECT knowledge, but a wise man will SEEK knowledge and truth.**

**God's people reject godly knowledge in many different ways. Some people reject knowledge because they do not want to "submit" to the authority of God's Word. Their agenda is more important to them than anything God would have them do. People who reject the knowledge of God are rejecting the WILL of God. This is called rebellion, and rebellion is sin.**

**Many Christians are more concerned about pleasing themselves and fulfilling the lusts and desires of the flesh so they reject the knowledge of God. The will of God for their lives is less important to them than their desire for worldly pleasures.**

**God's concern for His people is more than just a desire to control their destiny. It is God's desire to see His people set free from the oppression and bondage of sin and rebellion. Sin always brings reproach upon God's people. However, rejecting the knowledge which enables and shows people how they can become free from sin is even worse.**

**Christians are rejecting knowledge when they do not take time to study their Bibles and grow in faith as they should. Many Christians never open their Bibles until they are in Church on Sunday morning. The knowledge of God's Word is not as important to them as worldly pleasures. Worldly pleasures will continue to KEEP them in spiritual bondage until they repent**

and seek to please God. The Bible tells us not to “love the World” nor “the things which are in the World.” If we love the World and the things which are in the World, the love of God does not and will not dwell within us. (1 John, 2:15).

## **RETAINING KNOWLEDGE**

*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them up to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are convenient.* Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 28.

Many people reject the knowledge of God because it is an “inconvenient truth” to them. The “truth” which sets people free can be “inconvenient” to them because it interferes with their own agendas. Many people are determined they will do what they want to do, regardless of what God has forbidden them to do. Many people think they are doing God a favor when THEY choose what is right and wrong in the eyes of God.

Some people who call themselves Christians only seek knowledge which will fit into their image of truth. They think the knowledge of God was meant to be rearranged to fit their own agendas. As far as they are concerned, they modify and distort the Word of God to make it say what THEY desire for it to say. The Word of God was not meant to be interpreted privately by anyone. In interpreting the Word privately, people will make it say anything they want it to say in order to justify their sins. In rejecting the truth, the TRUTH

becomes a two-edged sword which becomes their judge, jury and executioner.

When the knowledge of God is aborted and the umbilical cord of truth is severed, it cannot be and will not be reconnected without true heartfelt repentance. When we sincerely repent of our sins, God is ALWAYS faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Knowledge gives us the information we need in order to find grace and mercy which we desperately need from God when we have failed Him.

**THE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE** will always leave people without spiritual wisdom and understanding. It leaves people without a foundation based on the truth of the WORD. The fear of the Lord, which is the basic foundational principle which knowledge rests upon, does not exist in the hearts and minds of the rebellious. Without the fear of the Lord, people will continue to be doomed to committing the same sins and rejecting the same knowledge over, and over again.

*Sanctify the Lord of hosts Himself; and let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread. And He shall be a sanctuary, but for a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Israel. Isaiah, Chapter 8, Verses 13-14.*

**God is a fortress and sanctuary to those who love and fear Him. To those who do not fear God, His Word becomes a “stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.” Peter said it like this: “And a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble (push away or reject) at the WORD, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.” (1 Peter, 2:8)**

**The knowledge of God is an offence to many people. There is an assault on the true Church today because the Word of God has become offensive to those who love darkness rather than Light. Those who love darkness hate the truth. Today many people in high (low) places are trying to silence the Church by passing laws which restrict and/or prohibit the preaching of the true gospel of the Kingdom. Mentioning the name of Jesus and praying in public places has been outlawed in many areas of our country.**

**Today the Church has become a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence to the World. Evil men do not wish to retain the knowledge of God in their hearts and minds. Because men reject the knowledge of God, He turns them over to a reprobate mind. Rejecting the knowledge of God will always result in judgment unless men repent.**

**The Lord told me over twenty years ago there was coming a day in America when it will be unlawful to “speak” the name of “Jesus” in public places. People will be arrested and jailed just for simply saying the name “Jesus” in public. We can SEE that day is quickly approaching. We would be wise to prepare to make a stand for Christ so our faith will not be compromised as the time approaches.**



**Many people in Churches today, as well as in the Nation's Courts, are turning a blind eye to what evil politicians and lawyers are doing in Washington. They refuse to see or recognize the assault upon Christianity and how it directly affects and hinders freedom of worship for Christians. While false religions have been given free course to proselytize in America, Christianity is being rejected and seriously subverted.**

**Today many people who call themselves Christians are offended by the TRUTH which is found in God's Word. Many have allowed their minds and hearts to become deceived and enslaved by Satan. Many have fallen prey to doctrines of devils and demons. They have become more interested in being told what they should do by ungodly, crafty church leaders rather than seeking the "knowledge of the truth" for themselves.**

**Many Christian leaders today have fallen from grace and are turning a blind eye to what is going on around them in this nation and around the world. If they cannot or do not wish to see what is blatantly obvious, they will be doomed to reap the unholy benefits of sin and debauchery. Many church leaders have become "blind guides" who are leading their followers into the same ditch which they themselves are destined to fall into.**

**Many Christian leaders have failed to understand or see that the wrath of God is quickly approaching, and fail to see that this Nation is under judgment. This Nation is quickly becoming like Sodom and Gomorrah. If people remain in Babylon they will receive the same punishment as Babylon when**

**judgment comes. Speaking of Babylon, the Bible says: “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.” (Revelation, 18:4). It is time for God’s people to come OUT of Babylon so they will not receive the judgments reserved for Babylon and the children of disobedience.**

**We can be assured that the Courts of Heaven are taking notice of what is transpiring here on Earth. There will be “Hell” to pay for those who reject, offend and persecute JUSTICE AND TRUTH.**

**Rejecting the knowledge of God is the most foolish thing a person can do. Fortunately, for those who reject the knowledge of God, the mercy of God is infinite. The Bible tells us His mercy endures forever. When people sincerely repent and confess their sins to God, He is faithful and just to forgive them.**

**“RETURN O BACKSLIDDING CHILDREN,” SAYS THE LORD; FOR I AM MARRIED TO YOU, I WILL TAKE YOU, ONE FROM A CITY AND TWO FROM A FAMILY, AND I WILL BRING YOU TO ZION. AND I WILL GIVE YOU SHEPHERDS ACCORDING TO MY HEART, WHO WILL FEED YOU WITH KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING. Jeremiah, Chapter 3, Verses 14-15.**

## **Chapter 5**

+++++

### **TWO TREES IN EDEN**

*And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the Tree of Life in the midst of the Garden, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Genesis Chapter 3, Verse 9.*

The first thing God imparted to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden was “knowledge.” God told Adam and Eve they could eat of every tree in the Garden except one. They were commanded to abstain from eating the fruit which grew on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told them that on the day they ate of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil they would “surely die.”

There were two trees located in the Garden of Eden which were opposite and contrary to each other in nature. Each tree was diametrically opposed in nature and each tree produced a different kind of fruit, or knowledge. One tree was the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil,” and the other tree was the “Tree of Life.”

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil boasts of the malevolent knowledge which it possesses. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was a

**representation of the Law of Sin and Death. The Law of Sin and Death states that “if you sin you will die.” We see that the word “knowledge” is part of the name of this tree. We call this a prophetic conundrum. On the other hand, the Tree of Life, which is a representation of Christ and the “Law of Life,” does not speak of anything except “LIFE.”**

**These two Trees were diametrically opposed to each other. God and Satan have differing plans for mankind. God’s plan after the fall of man in the Garden of Eden was to “seek and save” those who became lost as a result of sin. Sin always separates man from God. Satan’s plan and purpose was and has always been to destroy mankind. I wrote in depth regarding these two trees in a book entitled “Two Trees in Eden.”**

**God told Adam and Eve that if they “ate the fruit” which came from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil they would surely die. We all know the story of how they disobeyed God and partook of the forbidden fruit. The process of spiritual and physical death immediately began after they ate of the forbidden fruit.**

**The Tree of Life is a representation of Christ Jesus and the Law of Life. The Tree of Life was located in the middle of the Garden of Eden. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil which produced the deadly fruit was also located in the Garden of Eden. The Tree which produced the forbidden fruit was a representation of the “Law of Sin and Death” which says “if you sin you will die.”**

**Adam and Eve disobeyed God and fell into sin when they took their focus off the Tree of Life, and ate the forbidden fruit. They disobeyed God’s “command” warning them not to eat the forbidden fruit. Sin will always cause us to fall short of the Glory of God. When we take our focus off the Tree of Life (Christ) and place it on the tree which produces the deadly forbidden fruit, we are leaving ourselves open to be seduced by the subtlest beast of the field—the Serpent. The fruit which the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil produces are the lust of the flesh, the pride of life, and the lust of the eye.**

**Knowledge comes to us in many different forms. However, ALL knowledge originates from one of these Two Trees. I say “originates” because these trees still exist. Today many people are choosing to eat fruit from one or both, of these two trees daily. These two trees exist in the heart (spirit) of every man, woman and child. We will all be partakers of the fruit from one or both, of these trees daily. The Law of Sin and Death and the Law of Life are in constant conflict with each other within our hearts and minds. WE choose which tree we will eat from every day.**

**If we as believers are daily trusting in God, our focus will be on the Tree of Life, Jesus. Non-believers will be focusing on and partaking of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil daily. Those whose focus is fixed on the Tree which produces the forbidden fruit are lacking in spiritual understanding. Of course, most of them do not even KNOW or have even heard that a Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil exists. The flesh desires to eat the forbidden fruit. The spirit**

**desires to eat the fruit of righteousness which is only found in the Tree of Life, Christ.**

**The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is rooted and grounded in deception. It is the fruit from this tree which the serpent uses to oppose the truth which is found only in the Tree of Life.**

**The “knowledge of TRUTH” comes from the Tree of Life. Unlike the “knowledge of good and evil,” the Tree of Life does not boast of the knowledge or wisdom which it possesses. The only thing in the name of the Tree of Life which draws the attention of people is the word “LIFE.” It does not draw attention to knowledge, evil or good, but to its greatest virtue which is the “Truth and Life” which is Christ. The Tree of Life draws people to “life eternal” which is only found in Christ Jesus.**

**Every person has a spiritual garden within their heart. The Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil are rooted and grounded in our spiritual gardens. The spiritual decisions which we make every day are based upon which tree we decide to eat from. When we are eating from the Tree of Life, we are partaking of the Life of Christ. When we are partaking of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, evil is being produced in our life. When we choose to eat from the Tree of Life we are partaking of the “fruit of the Spirit.” When we choose to eat the forbidden fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, we will be bound and enslaved by the “works of the flesh.”**

## **THREE TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE**

Knowledge comes in many different forms. We are going to look at three different types of knowledge: the knowledge of God, natural knowledge, and what I call “perverted knowledge.”

*For the Lord gives Wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of the saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path. When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you.* Proverbs, Chapter 2, Verses 6-11.

**THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD** is knowledge which informs and instructs us concerning God and His Word. Knowledge informs us of who God is, what He does, what He expects us to do, and how we can operate successfully in His Kingdom. The Bible is **FILLED** with the knowledge **OF** God. The **KNOWLEDGE** of God is the most important knowledge which we can possess. If we are to be men and women of faith, we **MUST** possess within us godly wisdom, understanding, and **KNOWLEDGE** in abundance. If we are not **FILLED**

with the fullness of these three virtues, life can be a living hell even for believers. The peace of God will guard our hearts and minds by faith when godly **KNOWLEDGE**, wisdom and understanding dwells within us richly.

Possessing the *KNOWLEDGE* of God will open up a new universe of understanding and wisdom to us. The knowledge of God is a supernatural virtue which instructs us, among other things, on how we are to conduct ourselves as believers and how we can live by faith. The Bible says “the **JUST** shall live by Faith.” The **KNOWLEDGE** of God instructs us how we, as believers, can live by faith and obtain the peace of God which passes all understanding.

When wisdom enters into our hearts, the **KNOWLEDGE** of God becomes pleasant to our soul. When we obtain the wisdom, **KNOWLEDGE** and understanding of God, they become a “fortress” which preserves and protects us from the attacks of the enemy. Jesus, who is our **WISDOM**, is also a shield which guards the paths of those who have been justified by faith. When we possess the **KNOWLEDGE** and wisdom of God, we will understand the ways of the Lord. With knowledge we can and will learn **HOW** we can walk in **TOTAL** victory because of the sacrifice of Christ at Calvary.

*Wise people store up knowledge, but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.*

Proverbs, Chapter 10, Verse 12.



People seek to obtain knowledge so they can understand how things work. Wise men store up knowledge and understanding so they can be prepared for what lies ahead of them in the future. A fool who rejects knowledge walks the pathway of destruction, and when trouble comes he will perish in his folly.

*The righteous are delivered from trouble, and it comes to the wicked instead. The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.* Proverbs, Chapter 11, Verse 9.

Godly KNOWLEDGE will direct us down the path to deliverance. When our soul has been vexed and perplexed by our enemy, we KNOW strength and deliverance can be found in the omnipotent power of God. I have seen evil men who tried to entrap the righteous, but the tables of justice were turned upon them instead. I KNOW God justifies and protects the righteous from the hand of the wicked. His Word tells us “He guards the paths of justice and He preserves the way of the saints.”

*Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you*

*will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter, Chapter 1, Verses 5-8.*

If we are going to grow in the **KNOWLEDGE** of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must build upon the foundational principles of Christ which we already possess. When we accepted Christ and became born again, we received the divine nature of Christ. The divine nature of Christ embodies all the “Fruit of His Spirit.” In other words, the Spirit of Christ entered into our hearts, we became born again and thus, we became the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Now we possess the divine nature of Christ which enables us to sit together with Him in Heavenly Places. If we are **IN** Christ and Christ is **IN** us, we will be bearing Christ-like fruit.

Even though we have been born again and the Spirit of Christ dwells within us, we must **GROW** in the grace and **KNOWLEDGE** of Christ. That is why the Bible tells us to “study to show ourselves approved.” We grow in the grace and **KNOWLEDGE** of Christ when we seek godly wisdom and knowledge. We grow in the grace and **KNOWLEDGE** of God when we diligently apply His Word to our hearts and minds. We will grow in Christ as we daily walk with Him.

**THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD** can be called “revealed knowledge” when we understand, believe and receive the knowledge which He gives us. Revealed knowledge can also be called “supernatural knowledge” because it can only be understood through supernatural understanding. Revelation knowledge is knowledge

**which has been revealed to individuals by the Spirit of God. This type of knowledge is the greatest knowledge we can possess because it is Holy Spirit inspired, Holy Spirit breathed and spirit (of men) received. In other words, when the KNOWLEDGE of God is imparted to an individual, it is imparted directly to them Spirit (God) to spirit (man). When that knowledge is received by our “spirit man,” it then becomes a part of our spiritual DNA. Revelation knowledge replaces the carnal thoughts of the “old man” and becomes Life and Truth in the “new man.”**

**FOR WISDOM IS A DEFENCE AS MONEY IS A DEFENSE, BUT THE EXCELLENCE OF KNOWLEDGE IS THAT WISDOM GIVES LIFE TO THOSE WHO HAVE IT. Ecclesiastes, Chapter 7, Verse 12.**

## CHAPTER 6

+++++

### **The Knowledge of Idolatry**

*You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself any carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love me and keep my commandments.* Exodus, Chapter 20, Verses 2-6.

The Mosaic Law was built and based upon the Ten Commandments. The foundation of the Law was built and established upon the first commandment. The first commandment addresses the topic of our relationship with God and reasonable service to Him. The first commandment God gave the children of Israel was to “have no other gods before Him.” Commandments are divine rules and boundaries which God gave men concerning what is, and what is not, appropriate behavior in His eyes.

**The first commandment was designed to give us the knowledge we need concerning God’s “perfect will” for our lives. God commands that we have “NO OTHER GODS BEFORE HIM.” The promise of mercy was given to ALL who keep the first commandment. We know the breaking and disobeying of God’s commandments is called sin. The Bible says, “when sin is conceived it brings forth death.” (James, 1:15).**

**The first commandment was given to the Children of Israel as a reflection of the deep love God had for them. The foundation of the first commandment is not only built upon His love for people, but also His severity and judgment when people disobey His commandments. Every commandment flows out of the love and severity of God and comes with many promises for those who obey them.**

**Jesus said “all the Law and Prophets are founded upon the commandment to love.” When we fail to “keep” the first commandment to love, we will have a hard time obeying and “keeping” all the other commandments. (Matthew, 22:40). There is no commandment against love. When we walk in love, we are fulfilling the first commandment, thus effectuating and fulfilling the entire Law.**

**God is Love. Calvary was proof and a demonstration of His Love for all mankind. When God commands or tells us to do something, it is always for OUR benefit, not His. When men disobey God’s commandments, they leave themselves open to the severity of God. Judgment is a demonstration of God’s severity. Jehovah is a jealous God. When men create**

and worship idols, they are showing their disrespect and disdain for God. In essence they are saying: “Jehovah is not worthy of their worship.” They are also saying that what they have created IS worthy of their worship.

## **IDOLATRY**

*Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.* 1  
Corinthians, Chapter 10, Verse 14.

The word “idolatry” comes from the Hebrew word “traphiym” which means an “idol or image.” The Greek word for idolatry is “maskiyth.” Maskiyth means “a figure or image carved in stone, a wall, or any other object.” People who “create” their own gods and bow down to worship them do so because of their “desire” to worship something THEY have created. God IS our Creator, and we are “created” in His image. Thus, we have a desire and aptitude in our natural DNA to create. God has imbedded within us the ability to “create” with the “knowledge” He has given us. Unfortunately, when that knowledge becomes perverted in the hearts and minds of men, they end up using that knowledge inappropriately and sinfully. They break the commandments of God and create things which are unnatural and unacceptable in the His eyes.

The Bible condemns and forbids the worship of idols. Anything men worship in place of God is an idol. God demands total obedience and devotion to Him. As born again Christians, the commandments of God are written upon our hearts. It is the sin nature in man which causes him to transgress the commandments of God and worship idols. We are breaking God’s commandments when we sin, thus leaving ourselves

**open for judgment which the law demands. Christians may not carve an idol of wood or stone with their hands, however, many do worship idols of gold, silver, flesh and mammon to name a few.**

**Idol worship is the transgression of the first commandment. If God is not our “first love,” we will find ourselves worshipping idols which we, or other men have created. Idol worship originates in the hearts of individuals who harbor impure motives and attitudes toward God. These idol worshippers do not wish to retain the knowledge of God in their minds. Absolute devotion to the true God is the ONLY way we will be able to keep ourselves from some form of idol worship.**

**Many set themselves up as idols in their own hearts. This form of idolatry is called “pride.” Self-worship is the worst and most dangerous form of idolatry. Men place their ego on the throne of their hearts because their love for self is greater than their love for anyone or anything else. “Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs, 16:18). Lucifer was the “covering cherub” in Heaven until pride was found in him. Filled with delusion, Lucifer and his angels were cast out and fell from Heaven to Earth bound in chains of spiritual darkness.**

**Many Christians are unaware and have no idea they are worshipping idols. For Christians, an idol can or may be a job, a car, a sports team, money, pornography or another person, to name only a few. Anything we put before God is an idol. People may not fall on their knees in adoration before their idols, but they worship those idols in their hearts. Jesus said,**

“Where your TREASURE is there your HEART we also be.” (Matthew, 6:2). If we treasure our relationship with the Lord, we will not love the World--nor the things which are in the World.

## **PICTURES AND IMAGES**

*Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan; Then ye shall drive all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down (completely demolish) all their high places. Numbers, Chapter 33, Verses 51-52.*

Webster defines “idolatry” as the “worship of a picture or object as god.” Pictures and images can also become idols. When the Children of Israel entered the “Promised Land,” they were told to destroy all the idols and the high places and drive out ALL the inhabitants of the land. We know they did not comply with ALL the commandments of God because they neglected to drive all the inhabitants out of their “Promised Land.” In prophetic teaching, land speaks of the “spirit.” The inhabitants which they failed to drive out of the land became a “thorn in their side” which continues to plague them to this day. When and if we fail to drive out ALL the idols in our lives, they will also become thorns in our side. They will frustrate and hinder our



**relationship with God because our idols will be the focus of our worship.**

**The “inhabitants of the Promised Land” were so vile and depraved they had polluted, defiled and profaned the land with their perverted lifestyles. Their sexual and spiritual perversion had no boundaries. (Leviticus, 18:21-25). I read a story a few years ago about a group of archeologists in the late nineteenth century who were digging in sites which was then known as the land of Canaan. The pictures and images which they found engraved on the walls and floors of the ancient temples were so vile and perverted they covered them back up with dirt. They regretted they had dug them up.**

**As Christians, we have crossed the Jordan River (spiritually speaking), when we became saved, and have entered into the Promised Land (the Kingdom of God). When and if we fail to rid our hearts and minds of the images and idols we may have worshipped in the past, we can be sure these things will become thorns in our side.**

**Pictures and images can be an important part in our study of God’s Word and in our relationship with Christ. It has been said “A picture is worth a thousand words.” We can also say “The Word of God is worth a thousand pictures.” Pictures and images can work for us or against us, depending on what images we are meditating on. For instance, if we see a picture of Christ hanging on the cross, we would think of the sacrifice He made to free us from the bondage of sin. After becoming born again we continually carry that image within our hearts. On the other hand, if someone**

sees a picture of a “pot of gold” they might “picture” in their minds all the “things” they could buy if they could get their hands on some gold. They may continually carry in their hearts the desire for riches so they can buy “all the idols” they can afford.

When we read the story of David and Goliath, we can imagine and see a picture in our minds of a small lad facing a great giant. The small lad slays the giant with a stone from a slingshot, walks up to him, and cuts off his head with the giant’s own sword. Every word we read comes together to paint a picture or image of the truth. Those images give us the faith to believe in the delivering power of God. Good images will help to produce good fruit in our lives.

Many Christians are addicted to pornography, food, sports, drugs, alcohol and other worldly pleasures. Someone took a secret survey of men in a Pentecostal Church and found out that seventy percent of the men in the Church were hooked on pornography. The men desired to look at and meditate on images which are sexually deviant and immoral. It is not our place to condemn these men, however, we can judge their actions as being unacceptable in the eyes of God. I just want to point out that many Christians worship and meditate on images they should not be worshipping.

When people are worshipping images and idols,” they are substituting their “reasonable service” to God for things which are sinful, unlawful and unreasonable to Him. Thankfully, Christ has POWER to free people from their addictions and idol worship if they repent of their sins.

**Our minds are portals where we receive and assimilate knowledge and information. We always make decisions BASED on the knowledge and information which we receive and retain.**

**The mind has been called the “fortress of the soul.” If the knowledge we have is perverted and/or contorted, we will lack true understanding. The decisions we make will be based on false or perverted data. If our perception of the Word of God is not correct, our understanding will be unfruitful. Sooner or later somewhere down the line, we will miss God if our understanding is amiss. However, studying, assimilating and rightly dividing the Word of Truth will change us into the image of Christ and will make us fruitful in every area of our lives.**

**It is imperative that we cleanse and clear our hearts and minds of everything which “exalts itself against the knowledge of God.” The false images and idols which many Christians find themselves worshipping will always bring heartache and confusion into their lives. Only Jehovah, the true God, can free us from ourselves and our inclinations to worship things which are not spiritually profitable or uplifting. We are commanded to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. This is the first commandment. If we are not obeying the first commandment to love, we will have a problem following and obeying the other commandments. We will find ourselves looking for other gods to replace our “first love.”**

**MORTIFY THEREFORE YOUR MEMBERS WHICH ARE ON THE EARTH; FORNICATION, UNCLEANSNESS, INORDANATE AFFECTION, EVIL**

**CONCUPISENCE, AND COVETOUSNESS WHICH  
IS IDOLATRY. Colossians, Chapter 3, Verse 5.**

## CHAPTER 7

+++++

### **Perverted and Natural Knowledge**

*For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, none seeth me. Thy wisdom and knowledge, it hath perverted thee, and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me. Therefore, shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to pull it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know. Isaiah, Chapter 47, Verses 10-11.*

The above judgment was pronounced upon the Chaldeans because of the perversion which permeated their nation. Chaldea was part of the Babylonian Empire. The name “Chaldees” is synonymous with the name “Babylon” in the Bible. “Chaldees” is used in many places in the Bible instead of Babylon because several Chaldeans became Kings of Babylon.

Babylon means “City of Confusion.” Babylon is a type and shadow of the World. Because of the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden, the World is in a “state

**of confusion.” The entire World System is captivated by and operates under the authority of the “Spirit of Confusion.” According to the Bible, Satan is the god of this World. He is also the ruler of the Babylonian System.**

**All perverted knowledge is propagated by and through the Spirit of Confusion. Doctrines of devils and demons are designed to confuse and control the minds of people who are spiritually and canonically weak. Cults are breeding grounds for demons and devils who manipulate and subordinate their victims with damnable lies through their power to delude and deceive the masses.**

**Perverted knowledge degrades and degenerates the attitudes and motives of irrational, progressively minded people. Progressive thinking says that “truth is transient” and truth can become whatever one wants it to become. It all depends on what progressive thought is most convenient at the time.**

**A perverted mind will perceive and assimilate knowledge and understanding with evil intent and reckless resolve. A perverted mind will perceive “truth” as irrational, inconvenient and confusing. Minds are easily controlled and influenced by demonic suggestion and manipulation when they reject the truth of the Gospel.**

**Perverted minds are bound in chains of darkness and obscurity. Those who love darkness rather than light will hate truth and righteousness. They will remain confused and in bondage to perverted thoughts unless they repent.**

All spiritual knowledge, understanding and wisdom which man possesses outside of Christ is perverted in one way or another. On the other hand, godly knowledge dwells and thrives in the hearts and minds of those who possess godly wisdom and understanding.

If we have been born-again we now belong to God--not to the Babylonian System which rules and controls this World. Satan is known as the "Prince and Power of the Air." He rules over Babylon, the System of Confusion in this World. We live in this World, however, in Christ, we are not OF this World so we are not subject to the rules and regulations of the Babylonian System. The Babylonian System is the system which controls this World, to a certain extent, by serpentine principalities, powers and spiritual wickedness in high places. They pervert knowledge to gain access to the minds of people who are void of spiritual understanding.

### **PERVERTED KNOWLEDGE**

*For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, none seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am and none else beside me. Therefore, shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and*

*desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shall not know.* Isaiah, Chapter 47, Verses 10-11.

**Perverted knowledge is “knowledge which opposes the Laws of God and human nature.” It is knowledge which was God inspired, but was changed by deviant minds which became twisted, corrupt and warped in their thinking. Knowledge will always be perverted in one way or another when it comes from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is sensuous, devilish and worldly, just as the wisdom which it produces. No godly fruit can be found on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. That tree is rooted and grounded in bias and hatred toward the Tree of Life and the fruit of godly wisdom, knowledge and understanding which the Tree of Life produces.**

**There is a curse upon perverted wisdom and knowledge, as well as all those who have deceptive and treacherous hearts and minds. When people become perverted they will connive to use perverted wisdom and knowledge to promote their evil agendas because their hearts are full of evil. Judgment will eventually visit all who walk the path of immorality and passionate perversion. Evil minds are perverted habitats full of lustful desires, carnal cravings and abominable appetites. They are motivated by lust, greed, selfishness and lasciviousness.**

**All natural knowledge comes from God. However, much of it has been perverted by demonic entities who use perverted knowledge to control people**



by and through the spirits of witchcraft and confusion. When I was a sinner, sin had dominion OVER me. When I found the knowledge, through faith in Jesus Christ, of how to overcome and have dominion OVER sin, I became more proficient at living godly. Sin no longer has dominion over me because the POWER of the Holy Spirit dwells richly within me.

Most of the time God does not get the glory for the knowledge He has given mankind to invent and create things which are useful and beneficial to humanity. All the knowledge we have originated from God and not from man. Much of that knowledge has been perverted by mankind.

**THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE.** The knowledge which the Tree of Life produces is God breathed and produces godly fruit. Like wisdom, the knowledge of God rests upon the foundation of “the fear of the Lord.” Godly KNOWLEDGE always acknowledges God as its source. Godly knowledge promotes righteousness, joy and peace by way of the Holy Spirit. It does not conform to the wisdom of this World, but to the principles which govern the Kingdom of God.

## **NATURAL KNOWLEDGE**

“Natural knowledge” is knowledge which is not supernatural or perverted. Natural knowledge is knowledge natural man possess outside of the knowledge of God and perverted knowledge. Natural knowledge can become perverted when it is used for selfish and immoral purposes. The purpose and function of natural knowledge is to educate and equip

mankind to live a safe, prosperous and productive life here on Earth. Even though God is the source or beginning of all knowledge, natural knowledge is not the same as the knowledge OF God. The knowledge OF God is rejected by men who live in darkness. Most of mankind does not acknowledge or agree that God is the source of ALL natural knowledge.

With natural knowledge man understands how to build ships, bridges, airplanes, buildings, roads and many other things they need. With natural knowledge, man is able to make medicine, heal the sick, wage war and create wealth, among other things. With the wealth of knowledge God has given men they can do almost anything they can imagine. Natural knowledge can include everything men learn from the natural sciences to political science, criminal science and astronomy.

When it comes to spiritual matters, natural knowledge is worthless and spiritually unfruitful unless it is tempered with godly wisdom and love. We can create things through the arts, sciences and other God given talents which honor God and promote righteousness when anointed by the Holy Spirit. However, possessing knowledge which is not God inspired will do nothing to promote the Kingdom of God.

*For what hath man of all his labor, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath labored under the sun? For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also*

*vanity. There is nothing better for a man, that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labor. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.* Ecclesiastes, Chapter 2, Verses 22-24.

Having all the knowledge we need to build, create and subdue our enemies is vanity outside of the Kingdom of God. King Solomon wrote much about how the knowledge and labors of men were in vain without the KNOWLEDGE of God. When we acknowledge God in all our accomplishments, we will find a greater reward than the satisfaction and gratification of self-accomplishment. We will experience the peace and joy God has promised us when we use the knowledge He has given us to perform our earthy duties with humility and thankfulness.

If we live according to the precepts and principles God has laid out in His Word, our life will not be in vain. What we accomplish in Christ and for Christ will have eternal value. Life is never in vain when we are serving God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. If we are truly serving and dedicated to the “Most High God,” we will not be seeking for our own will to be done, but rather for His will to be done on earth.

Natural knowledge can help us on our journey through this World. However, the KNOWLEDGE of God can take us beyond this World into “heavenly places” where godly knowledge and wisdom abounds. We may possess knowledge, but knowledge alone is

nothing without wisdom. When we receive the knowledge of God, we must ask Him for wisdom to use it properly and faithfully. The Bible tells us that God gives wisdom liberally to all men who ask Him for wisdom in faith.

*Now concerning things offered to idols: we know that we all have knowledge.*

*Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.* 1 Corinthians, Chapter 8, Verses 1-2.

The Apostle Paul said “natural knowledge puffs up,” or “makes one prideful.” Paul said if we think OUR knowledge is important, we do not KNOW anything. We all possess some natural knowledge. However, the KNOWLEDGE of God is what is most important.

Many people use knowledge for selfish gain. Many people try to impress others with the vast knowledge they have acquired and retain in their human memory banks. Some possess more knowledge than others because they have more “gigabytes” in their carnal computers. However, what is most important is not WHAT we know, but WHO we know. We can KNOW the one who created “all things which were created.” His name is Jesus. When we KNOW Christ, we have access to the truth which is able to set us free in every area of our lives.

**Paul said “Although I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all KNOWLEDGE, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 2.**

**Possessing knowledge outside of LOVE is worthless and vanity. Knowledge without LOVE is based upon facts, figures and principles generated by the carnal mind. Although knowledge is important, LOVE is more important because it edifies.**

**The carnal mind is an enemy of God. If we LOVE God--we are KNOWN by Him. Do we want to be FILLED with the LOVE of God or earthly knowledge which may make us proud and boastful? Do we wish to be carnally minded or spiritually minded? Is “our” knowledge more important than the LOVE of God which casts out all fear and never fails? Knowledge alone “puffs up,” but the knowledge of God leads us to wisdom and understanding when we “acknowledge” Christ as Lord and Savior.**

**AND EVEN AS THEY DID NOT LIKE TO RETAIN GOD IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE, GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO A REPROBATE MIND, TO DO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT FITTING. Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 28.**

## **Chapter 8**

+++++

### **The Spirit of Knowledge**

*The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him,  
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit  
of KNOWLEDGE, and the fear of the Lord.*  
Isaiah, Chapter 11, Verse 2.

The Spirit of Knowledge is a supernatural endowment of “knowledge” which is bestowed upon individuals by the Holy Spirit. It is one of the Seven Spirits of God. The term “Spirit of Knowledge” is only mentioned one time in the Bible, however, the tenet of the Spirit of Knowledge is found many times in scripture.

The Seven Spirits of God in the Book of Revelation are referred to as the “Seven Lamps of Fire.” The lampstands represent the seven Churches. Jesus possesses the Seven Lamps of Fire, or the Seven Spirits of God. The “fire in the Lamps” also represents the Presence and Holiness of God. The Light the Fire produces represents “revelation knowledge and understanding.” We can always find knowledge, understanding and wisdom in the “presence” of God.

We also find the Seven Lamps of Fire coming together as one in the Book of Revelation known as the LAMPSTAND. In the Temple at Jerusalem the Lampstand was called the “menorah.” The

**“Lampstand” represents the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church.” Thus, we see the Presence of the Seven Spirits of God burning brightly and eternally in the Church (God’s people).**

**According to Isaiah, Jesus did not judge by what He saw or what He heard. Isaiah said His loins were “girt with righteousness” and His “waist with faithfulness.” In other words, Jesus IS the personification of the righteousness of God and was always found faithful in the eyes of God. Jesus did not judge according to flesh, but according to the supernatural knowledge, wisdom and understanding He received from the Holy Spirit.**

**There are many places in the Bible where it is evident the scripture is talking about the “Spirit of Knowledge.” Jesus was endowed with the Spirit of Knowledge. He was FILLED with ALL the fullness of the Godhead which includes “supernatural knowledge, wisdom and understanding.” Christ IS the Light of the World. His Light burns brightly in Believers to illuminate THEM with godly knowledge, wisdom and understanding.**

**All supernatural knowledge, wisdom and understanding are embodied in the person of Christ. Supernatural knowledge is also known as “revealed knowledge.” Supernatural knowledge, along with supernatural understanding, are imparted to Believers by the Spirits of Wisdom and Revelation. (Ephesians, 1:7). Knowledge without wisdom and understanding will always be useless and of no affect.**

When God imparts knowledge to individuals, He does it supernaturally. Solomon was not “endued” with knowledge to rule God’s people until He asked God for it. Solomon was able to judge God’s people righteously because God gave him supernatural knowledge, understanding and wisdom by revelation.

## **SUPERNATURAL TALENTS**

*Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying: “See I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, and in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in the manner of all workmanship. Exodus, Chapter 31, Verses 1-2.*

In the Bible “talents” were a medium of exchange. However, the scripture was not just speaking of money, but of any God given median of exchange which could make a difference in the lives of others. In Bible days, a talent usually, but not always, referred to a weight or unit of money. A talent could also pertain to anything which could be used as a medium of exchange. The term is used today as natural gifts, skills or aptitudes which people possess.

According to the Bible God gave talents to all His servants. God given talents are used today as a medium of exchange for more than just monetary exchanges. Jesus came to give us “beauty for ashes,” the “garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness,” and the “oil of joy for mourning.” He came to make an



**exchange with us. When we place all our cares upon Christ, He sets us free from bondage and clothes us with joy and praise. Christ gives us His “inner beauty” in exchange for our ashes. He exchanges HIS talents for our problems and cares as we cast all our cares upon Him.**

**Anointed praise and worship will break the yoke of bondage and set people free from the spirit of heaviness (our burdens). The Holy Spirit will anoint us with the oil of joy as we sing praises unto God. The beauty of His holiness washes away the sin that so easily besets us when we sincerely repent of our sins. The Holy Spirit is FILLED with all the “talents” needed to set the captives free and make men and women Holy in the eyes of God when we look to Calvary.**

**The Lord FILLS people with supernatural talents along with knowledge, wisdom and understanding so they can perform their God given callings and mandates here on Earth. In Bezabeels case, he was given supernatural knowledge to help design and embellish the Temple with “artful workmanship.” We call this an anointing. Bezabeels God given gifts and talents are mentioned in two different books in the Bible.**

**When we become FILLED with the Spirit of Knowledge, we become “anointed” to perform our God given mandate. We will be able to “break the yoke of bondage” through the POWER of the Holy Spirit for those who are bound by Satan. God gives His people supernatural knowledge, gifts and talents to edify the Church. I would rather speak under the anointing of God to one person than to thousands without the**

anointing. The anointing is the only thing which breaks the yoke of bondage in the lives of individuals.

The Lord gives certain talents and abilities to all His people. Whether someone has been called to preach, to teach, to administrate, to sing, to write, to pray, to design, or to build, it takes the anointing of the Holy Spirit” to make a difference.

## **BEING BRUTISH IN KNOWLEDGE**

*Every man is brutish in knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them. They are vanity and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.* Jeremiah, Chapter 10, Verses 14-15.

The word in the above scripture which was translated from the Hebrew word “brutish” means “consumed as if by fire.” The Children of Israel had fallen away from God and began worshipping the pagan gods of their neighbors. They acquired gold and silver from their pagan neighbors and formed for themselves gods of gold and silver to worship. They spent a lot of their time and financial resources making false gods which they created and formed by their own hands to worship. Unlike Bezabeel, the founders (metal workers) were more interested in using their talents to create their own gods to worship.

**The deaf and dumb gods they created represented the spiritual darkness in their hearts. They were more interested in worshipping false gods formed by the works of their own hands than they were in Jehovah, the Living God. They were using the talents God had given them foolishly and irresponsibly. The graven images which they created were examples of their self-seeking, self-righteous and self-promoting motives and attitudes.**

**The Children of Israel were “consumed” and “obsessed” with creating “gods” of their own choice, just as many are doing today. They created gods which promoted themselves rather than the true God. Pride in our own abilities and accomplishments will always lead to idol worship which in turn leads to damnation and destruction.**

**People who are “consumed” with THEIR talents and the gods they and others create and worship are destined for destruction. They will be consumed by the fires of judgment and condemnation. Many people worship gods of gold, silver and mammon today. They may not place them on a pedestal and physically fall on their knees to worship them, but they do so in their hearts.**

**True worship always comes from a pure heart and is not meant to be a public display. As Christians, we may worship corporately, but our worship is not intended for public display only but to honor the true God, Jehovah in our hearts.**

**It is apparent the majority of the Israelites DID NOT possess the “fear of God” in Jeremiah’s day. If**

**they had possessed the fear of God, they would have been worshipping the true God. Instead, they worshipped the gods they had created with their own hands and in the chambers of their hearts. The “fear of the Lord” is the beginning of knowledge AND wisdom. The fear of the Lord is the foundation which knowledge and wisdom rest upon. Without the fear of the Lord people will perish.**

**God created people to worship and fellowship with Him. Worship is an attitude of the heart. God created a throne in the heart of every individual where He was to reign and be worshipped as God. When God is not sitting on the throne within the hearts of individuals, they will create something else to worship. Most of the time it will be themselves which they worship. This is commonly called the “pride of life.”**

**Lucifer, who had the most awesome “pipes of praise” in Heaven, was not satisfied with the anointing and talent God had given him. He became jealous and full of pride and wanted more than the God anointed “pipes” he possessed. He desired to set on the throne of God so he could be the one which all, Heaven worshipped. Lucifer became lifted up in pride and created a god in his heart which HE chose to worship--himself. Now, he is destined to be “consumed with fire” throughout eternity. Brutish men will always be “weighed in the balance and found wanting” because they reject the “knowledge of God.”**

**The Spirit of Knowledge is given to the Church so the Church can grow and prosper in Christ. Supernatural knowledge will empower believers to understand things which the rest of the World will not**

**be able to understand. The supernatural knowledge of God is imparted to those who earnestly and passionately seek the truth. When we possess the knowledge of the truth, the truth will set us free. If the Son (Truth) sets us free—we are free indeed. (John, 8:6)**

**THE SIMPLE INHERIT FOLLY: BUT THE PRUDENT ARE CROWNED WITH KNOWLEDGE. Proverbs, Chapter 14, Verse 18.**

## **Chapter 9**

+++++

### **Knowing God**

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

The knowledge of God is the most important knowledge we can possess. The knowledge of God goes beyond human reason and understanding. I am not just talking about understanding the principles and doctrines in the Bible, but about KNOWING God and having a personal relationship with Him.

Knowing God is greater than knowing about Him. Having a personal relationship with God is greater than knowing something about Him. Seeking to know God is better than seeking to know more about Him. When we KNOW Him, we possess eternal life through the finished works of Jesus Christ our Lord.

If we desire to know God personally, we must seek to be in His presence daily and spend quality time with Him daily. The more time you spend with someone, the better acquainted you become with them. We can read about someone and listen to what others may tell us about them, however, until we meet, spend time and commune with them, we do not really KNOW them. We may know some things about them, but we have not established a personal relationship with them.

If we are going to grow in Christ, we **MUST** have a desire to know what pleases God and how we can establish a closer relationship with Him. We can find these things by searching His Word and asking Him for clarity and understanding as we read and study. However, nothing can take the place of experiencing for ourselves the pleasure of being in the presence of God and understanding first-hand how much He loves and cares for us.

*Submit yourselves therefore to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh unto God, and He will draw nigh unto you.*  
James, Chapter 4, Verses 7-8.

If we are going to experience a closer relationship with God, we must submit ourselves to Him and resist the devil. When we resist the devil in the name of Jesus, he will flee from us. We must take the initiative to draw nigh unto God. When we draw nigh to God--He will then draw nigh to us. God has done everything He needs to do in order for us to establish a relationship with Him. We must take every opportunity and do everything we can to insure our relationship with Christ grows and flourishes. We do this by daily spending quality time with Him and searching the scriptures for wisdom and understanding.

If our relationship with the Lord is going to prosper, we **MUST** first seek and find the knowledge of how our relationship with Him can and will grow and prosper. We must find out what God expects of us and how we can please Him as we daily walk alongside Him.

## **THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION**

*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.* Philippians, Chapter 1, Verses 10-11.

The Apostle Paul said he “desired to **KNOW** Christ, the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings.” We cannot really **KNOW** Christ if we have not experienced Christ through the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings.

I did not hang on the Cross with Christ and experience the horrible pain and suffering He endured. I was not present at the tomb on the day Christ rose from the dead. In my spirit, however, I have been crucified with Christ. In my spirit, I have experienced the fellowship of His sufferings because the same Jesus who died on the Cross and rose from the dead now dwells richly within me. I will never **EXPERIENCE** the horrible pain and suffering Christ experienced. However, I will carry the **KNOWLEDGE** of His agonizing death at the Cross, along with His burial and resurrection in my heart forever.

I **KNOW** and understand by faith that His pain and suffering was more than any human being could bear. By faith I believe God raised Christ from the dead because His resurrection power dwells within me.



**I first experienced that POWER when the Spirit of Christ entered into my heart. The moment I accepted and received Christ as my Lord and Savior, I began a new relationship with LIFE. I became a new creation in Christ when I said “Yes, I believe” to Him, and accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior.**

**Like Paul, I can say, “I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet it is not I who lives, but Christ who lives in me. The life I now live I live by the faith of the Son of God, and I bear in my body the marks (puncture wounds) of the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Galatians, 2:20 and 6:17).**

**It is Christ who lives within me and gives me the strength to “deny myself,” pick up my cross, and follow Him daily. It is the power of His resurrection which enables me to live a life free from sin. I sit with Christ in heavenly places because His resurrection power dwells within me. It is the power of His resurrection which gives me the ability to tread upon serpents, scorpions and over all the power of the enemy. Yes, I am crucified with Christ, and now by the power of His resurrection I KNOW Him intimately and gloriously. On a daily basis I now maintain a loving and secure relationship with Him.**

## **REVELATION KNOWLEDGE**

**We become united with Christ through the power of ‘revelation knowledge.’ The Living Word (Jesus) brings “new life” to our spirit when we accept Him as Lord and Savior, and we become born-again. As we study God’s Word and seek His presence, we will be enlightened, renewed and refreshed by His Spirit.**

**The word “revelation” comes from the Greek word which means an “unveiling or uncovering.” The Book of Revelation is the revelation OF Christ and the messages He gave to each of the seven Churches in Asia Minor. It is also an unveiling of the events which will transpire here on Earth in the last days.**

**Many people have attempted to interpret the Book of Revelation. However, it is impossible without the knowledge given by God to interpret the Book of Revelation unless it is REVEALED (unveiled) to them by the Holy Spirit.**

**The Apostle Paul prayed for the Church at Ephesus to receive the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the KNOWLEDGE of the Lord Jesus Christ. We receive and understand the KNOWLEDGE of God through the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation.**

**If we fail to have a good understanding of God’s Word, it could be because many things in His Word have not yet been revealed to us. God reveals Himself and the KNOWLEDGE of His Word to us by His Spirit. This is called “revelation knowledge.”**

**Today God is revealing His Word to His people as never before. Just as natural knowledge increases, revelation knowledge is also increasing. God is opening the “books” of Heaven to pour out knowledge, wisdom and understanding to the Church which has been stored up and hidden for “such a time as this.” Without the knowledge and wisdom we need, we will be unable to stand against the continual deception and onslaught of the enemy as well as the greater deception which is coming.**

**We accept Christ as our Lord and Savior when the Spirit of God reveals to us that Jesus IS the Son of God and the Redeemer of souls. We did not see Jesus die on the cross, nor did we see the Holy Spirit raise Him from the dead. However, we KNOW this is true because the Spirit of Revelation has personally revealed it to us.**

**Now that we know who Christ Jesus is and understand that He died on the cross for our sins, Christ needs to be revealed to and within us in a greater, more personal way. If the character of Christ is to be REVEALED within us, we MUST be willing to allow the Spirit of God to change us into HIS image.**

**To KNOW Jesus is to love Him. As we become closer to Christ and follow in His footsteps, we will become more like Him. When we become more like Him, we will love Him even more. When we seek Him with our whole heart, we will find Him in all His mercy, grace and glory. As we seek to KNOW Christ more intimately, the Spirit of Revelation will give us greater spiritual insight, wisdom, knowledge and understanding of the things of God. When we have been enlightened by the truth we have a responsibility to share with others what God has revealed to us.**

**When we desire to know Christ more intimately, many people will try to convince us we have “gone off the deep end.” Others will declare that we can become “one” with Christ by learning more about Him as we read and study His Word. However, we MUST NOT accept any substitutes. We are not just seeking information about Christ, but we are desiring to**

**KNOW Christ personally so we can serve Him through and in the power of His resurrection.**

**Head knowledge will not get us an audience with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Head knowledge will not get us into the Throne Room of Grace where we can find help in the time of need. Head knowledge cannot and will not assure us we have victory over the schemes and power of the enemy. The Spirit of “Wisdom and Revelation” is the key to godly knowledge and intimacy with Christ. (Ephesians, 1:17)**

**Revelation Knowledge is more than just facts or information. It is Holy Spirit breathed and spirit (of man) received. Revelation Knowledge is a tangible force which comes in and occupies the fortress of our renewed spirit, mind and soul. Revealed knowledge will help us fight the “good fight of faith” when the enemy comes in like a flood seeking whom he may devour.**

**Because knowledge alone “puffs up,” we must have more than information. We must have wisdom as well so we can properly use the KNOWLEDGE we possess. Together knowledge and wisdom admonishes us to prefer and seek a personal relationship with Christ over precepts and doctrines which only introduces us to the “historical and rhetorical” Christ. We must have “revelation knowledge” from the Holy Spirit because His wisdom and understanding are the only things which will produce and create spiritual stability, faith and NEW LIFE within us.**

*Thus says the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty*

*man glory in in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord which exercises lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, says the Lord.* Jeremiah, Chapter 9, Verses 23-24.

Many people in churches today prefer earthly wisdom over godly wisdom, as well as riches and position rather than intimacy with God. They continue to reject spiritual knowledge and understanding because their hearts are filled with pride and materialistic desires. Paul spoke of people like these in the Book of Hebrews, Chapter 11. The scripture says, "They are dull of hearing and lack godly wisdom and restraint." Dullness of hearing will always prevent people from understanding the things of God, and is unproductive in assimilating godly precepts and doctrines which promote and govern the Kingdom of God.

Many men and women reject revelation knowledge to their own peril. In doing so they will never find themselves advancing and growing spiritually in grace, understanding and wisdom. Many people attend Church for years, and yet they never make a commitment or attempt to seek a more intimate relationship with Christ. They keep the pews warm, however, there is no FIRE within their hearts.

**Without revelation knowledge, our perception of God and His Word can, and will be, somewhat obscured and diluted. Information and facts in the Bible do us no good if they are not “rightly divided” by the Spirit of Truth. Earthly wisdom and riches will choke the Word of God and cause our relationship with Christ to be unfruitful, and life can become unbearable.**

**God delights in us when we seek to understand and KNOW Him more intimately. When we walk in His ways and seek Him with all our hearts, we will find Him and obtain His grace and mercy. God’s grace and mercy will always help us through the tests and trials which all of us go through and experience while we are here on this Earth.**

**The “joy of the Lord” and His lovingkindness are imparted to us as we delight ourselves in Him. He promised to give us the “desires of our heart” when we delight ourselves in Him. (Psalm, 34:7). When we delight in the Lord we will not be seeking earthly gain, but we will be seeking to be FILLED with the fullness of Christ. When we are delighting ourselves in Christ, the desire of our heart will be to secure and maintain a closer relationship with Him. When we have done all He has told us to do, God will do all He has promised us He would do for us.**

**The Knowledge of God is revealed in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the embodiment of the knowledge and wisdom of God. All the treasures of knowledge, wisdom and understanding are hidden in Christ. When we are FILLED with the fullness of Christ as we walk with Him, we will be FILLED with all the treasures of Heaven. (Colossians, 2:2-3).**

**THE EARTH WILL BE FILLED WITH THE  
KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD AS  
THE WATERS COVER THE SEA. Habakkuk,  
Chapter 2, Verse 14.**

## **Chapter 10**

**+++++**

### **Knowledge and Wisdom**

*The Lord is exalted, for he dwelleth on high:  
He hath filled Zion with judgment and  
righteousness. And wisdom and knowledge  
shall be the stability of thy times, and  
strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is  
his treasure.* Isaiah, Chapter 33, Verse 5-6.

**Knowledge without godly wisdom is useless. Knowledge and wisdom walk hand in hand to give Christians the stability they need in their life. Christians can be walking encyclopedias, but without godly wisdom they are destined to fail. Many Christians do not recognize the need they have for godly knowledge AND wisdom. The strength of our salvation comes through godly wisdom and knowledge.**

**Knowledge without wisdom always accentuates and promotes PRIDE. Without godly wisdom we cannot and will not use the knowledge of God properly. Judgment and righteousness are produced when knowledge and godly wisdom are unified.**

**Wisdom gives us the ability to understand and use the KNOWLEDGE which God has imparted to us. Do we always use the knowledge we have when making important decisions? UNFORTUNATELY, NOT ALWAYS! Until we have subdued and put the “old**



man” to death, we are going to find it impossible to be free from bondage, in certain areas of our life. Until we take the knowledge we have and use the wisdom we have been given, we will find ourselves venturing back and forth into the land of Egypt (bondage).

I know people who excel in knowledge; however, they do not possess much wisdom. Many of them have written “self-help books” which are filled with good information. However, they fail to use the godly principles which they write about in their books. The knowledge we possess will always be “unfruitful” unless we use wisdom.

Solomon was a man who excelled in godly wisdom and knowledge, yet many times in his life he failed God. When Solomon became King of Israel, he asked God for the wisdom and knowledge he needed in order to rule Israel. God granted Solomon the wisdom and knowledge for which he asked. Unfortunately, Solomon was drawn away from God when he began worshipping the gods of his many pagan wives. Without the fear of the Lord, wisdom and knowledge can be and at times will be unfruitful causing us to fall short of the glory of God.

## **THE FEAR OF THE LORD**

**THE FEAR OF THE LORD** is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. The “fear of the Lord” is the basic foundational principle upon which wisdom and knowledge are built. If our wisdom and knowledge is not built upon the foundation of the “fear of the Lord,” we will eventually fail in our attempts to walk with the Lord and be pleasing to Him.

**I have taught many years that God's people must have a good, healthy "fear of the Lord." If we fail to possess the FEAR of the Lord, we will one day find ourselves fearing His judgment. People make many mistakes and commit many sins when they do not fear the Lord.**

**If we have no fear of the Lord within us, we cannot possibly possess His wisdom. We are not using wisdom when we allow ourselves to fall into the snares of the enemy because we have no fear of God. When we sincerely repent IF we sin, God will forgive us of our sins. God has given us all the information we need to accomplish His will, plan and purpose for our lives. Without the wisdom and understanding of God, godly knowledge and information cannot and will not help us through our spiritual journey in life.**

**If we are walking in the Spirit and obeying the voice and commandments of God, we will have nothing to fear. If we are walking in LOVE, we will have nothing to fear because PERFECT LOVE casts out ALL fear. If we are NOT walking in the Spirit, we will be fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. We do not want to fall into the hands of an angry God because we do not fear or reverence Him. When we are fulfilling the lusts of the flesh, we are frustrating His grace. God is LOVE, but He is also a God of judgment and severity. He is also a God of grace and mercy. God will forgive all who sincerely turn from their sins and repent.**

**I would rather stand before God on Judgment Day and be judged by the God of love rather than the God of severity. Which God will you choose to stand before on Judgment Day? Will you stand before Christ**

and hear Him say: “Depart from me you worker of iniquity--I never knew you?” Or will you stand before Christ and hear Him say, “Well done my good and faithful servant—enter into the joy of the Lord?”

## **THE KNOWLEDGE OF WISDOM**

*For wisdom is a defense as money is a defense, but the excellence of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to those who have it.*  
Ecclesiastes, Chapter 7, Verse 12.

Knowledge is important. However, knowledge without wisdom can be at times, and will be at times “ineffective and useless.” Knowledge instructs us in the importance and virtues of wisdom. Without knowledge, we would not know wisdom existed. Knowledge informs us how we can obtain wisdom. Without wisdom, our lives will be in turmoil. Wisdom helps us make quality decisions so we can live our lives free from the folly of pride, prejudice and carnal mindedness.

If we possess and USE godly wisdom, we will not be prideful. Wisdom tells us “knowledge alone puffs up” and always leads to destruction. Using godly wisdom and understanding is the KEY to finding grace and mercy in the eyes of God. If we are going to please God, we must seek to find out what pleases Him. We need to understand what displeases God and grieves the Holy Spirit. We must seek to find out what frustrates His grace and grieves the Holy Spirit so we can walk in the FULLNESS of Christ. We must seek knowledge and wisdom if we are going to build a relationship with God based upon HIS righteousness, grace and mercy.

If we use the wisdom and knowledge which God has given us, we can be assured that our relationship with Him will remain stable and secure.

Before we can understand the ways of God, we must possess the knowledge OF God. Knowledge leads us down the path to understanding and wisdom where all the mysteries and treasures of God are found.

Knowledge without wisdom is unfruitful. Wisdom, on the other hand, helps us to correctly apply the knowledge we do have so we can be successful in our walk with the Lord. Without the ability to properly use godly knowledge, we will find ourselves spiritually impoverished. If we are going to bear fruit in the Kingdom of God, we first must establish a foundation based upon wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

### **THE KNOWLEDGE OF LOVE**

*For this reason, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians, Chapter 3, Verses 12-14.*

**The Apostle Paul prayed that the Ephesians would, by faith, KNOW and comprehend the love of Christ which passes or excels all human knowledge. GOD IS LOVE. Knowledge tells us that when we are filled with the fullness of God, we are filled with His love. God is love, and when we are filled with love, we will be filled with His fullness.**

**Love is greater than knowledge, wisdom or understanding. Our comprehension or understanding of God's love goes beyond human knowledge and reason. All the law and the prophets are fulfilled when we obey two commandments. Both are commands to love.**

**GOD IS LOVE. He placed His love in us by and through His Spirit so we can be conduits of His love. Our purpose is not only to receive love, but also to give love. If we comprehend and KNOW the love of God, we will be filled with His fullness. When we KNOW Christ and the POWER of His resurrection our life will become an extension of His love here on Earth.**

**Resurrection power has been made available to us because of Christ's "undying love" for us. That love was demonstrated at the Cross and at the tomb when the Holy Spirit raised (resurrected) Christ from the dead. When we become rooted and grounded in the love of God, we will begin to understand the great power of His love toward mankind.**

**Charles Spurgeon once said, "Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal, and are all the greater**

**fools for it. There is no fool so great as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom.”**

**The Bible tells us that fools reject the knowledge and wisdom of God. When they reject wisdom and knowledge, they are also rejecting the love of God. Rejecting the love of God is the most foolish thing individuals can do.**

**Knowledge informs us we were created to fellowship with God.**

**Wisdom admonishes us to fellowship with God.**

**Knowledge informs us we were created to worship God.**

**Wisdom admonishes us to worship God.**

**Knowledge informs us we were created to serve God.**

**Wisdom admonishes us to serve God.**

**Knowledge informs us we were created to love God with all our heart.**

**Wisdom admonishes us to love God with all our heart.**

**Knowledge informs us to love our neighbor as our self.**

**Wisdom admonishes us to love our neighbor as our self.**

**MY SON, EAT HONEY BECAUSE IT IS GOOD, AND THE HONEYCOMB WHICH IS SWEET TO YOUR TASTE; SO SHALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF WISDOM BE TO YOUR SOUL; IF YOU HAVE FOUND IT, THERE IS A PROSPECT, AND YOUR HOPE WILL NOT BE CUT OFF. Proverbs, Chapter 24, Verses 13-14.**

## **Chapter 11**

+++++

### **The Key of Knowledge**

*Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key to knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in ye hindered.* Luke, Chapter 11, Verse 52.

The Bible is a book filled with spiritual KNOWLEDGE. It is replete with all the information we need to know about God. It is also filled with the spiritual principles which we need to know in order to live a life of freedom, peace and joy--a life free from the power of sin.

The lawyers Jesus was rebuking in the above scripture were the interpreters of the Mosaic Law. They were learned men who were experts in interpreting the "Torah" and the Law of Moses. It was their responsibility to help the Jews understand the meaning of the principles and precepts of the Law written by Moses.

Unfortunately, the lawyers were purposely negligent in interpreting the Mosaic Law responsibly and correctly for others. They revealed only what they wanted to reveal to the people in order to keep them under subjection. They purposely never taught the people the KEY TO KNOWLEDGE so they could correctly understand and interpret the Torah and the Mosaic Law for themselves.

## **SEEKING KNOWLEDGE**

*My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if your cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.* Proverbs, Chapter 2, Verses 1-5.

In Northern Alabama where we lived for a few years there is a denominational organization which does not allow anyone but the Pastor to carry their Bibles to Church. In other words, the congregations have no other choice but to rely on what the Pastors tells them is true when interpreting scripture. Thus, they cannot follow along with what the Pastor is teaching them in the Bible. They are unable to know if what is being taught to them is correct. They are required to accept the Pastor's word that what he is reading and teaching to them is the GOSPEL truth.

One of the false doctrines they teach is that if a person sins one time after they have accepted Christ as Lord, they are destined to spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. The person who commits sin is excommunicated from the Church. The congregation is ordered to sever any and all relationships which they may have with the



**individual who has sinned. This is more than just a tragedy--it is a travesty of justice.**

**Excommunicating someone from Church because they committed ONE sin is tragic and defies all spiritual laws. This is tragic because it brings pain and suffering to someone, their family and their friends just because they had the misfortune to make one mistake. Obviously, the people who run this denomination and their churches are grossly misinformed and lack true knowledge of the scriptures. They certainly are not following what Jesus taught about forgiveness of sins.**

**Some of the people who have been excommunicated from the Church go to other churches in the area seeking spiritual counselling and guidance. Others just give up and accept what the Church leaders tell them. I have been told by Pastors of some of the churches in that area that they have been able to reach a few of these people with the truth. However, they are unable to convince most of them that God will forgive them of their sins if they sincerely repent.**

**Many who have been raised in churches practicing these false doctrines have many problems. They are unable to comprehend how God could or would forgive them. Some leave the counselling sessions with a heavy heart and a confused mind. Many never go to Church again because they believe they have been condemned to hell and cannot be forgiven. They continue to believe they have committed the unpardonable sin.**

**God will always justify us when we sincerely repent of our sins. God and God alone has the**

**authority to say who will and who will not be forgiven. The scripture is clear that the only sin which God will not forgive is the sin of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. If WE condemn others because of their sins, we are unjustly and precariously putting ourselves on the throne of God and leaving ourselves open to severe condemnation.**

**Having dealt with pastors and Church leaders for years, I can assure you many of those who teach this false doctrine have sinned in their life at one time or another. Each of us will be judged and condemned in the same way we judge and condemn others.**

**Wisdom is the principle thing, and each of us are commanded to seek godly wisdom for ourselves. When we possess wisdom, we will be able to understand the knowledge of God which can only be found in the Word of God.**

**Understanding the fear of the Lord, which is the foundation of all spiritual knowledge and wisdom, will set us on the path to receiving all the blessings of God. When we possess the fear of the Lord and seek Him with our whole heart, we can be assured God will teach us what we need to know about Him and His Word.**

**The KEY to obtaining spiritual knowledge is to diligently seek it for yourself. Do not rely on what somebody “tells” you about God and His Word. Jesus said to “ask and it will be given to you, knock and the door will be opened, and to seek and you will find.” He was not just talking about asking for our physical needs, but also for wisdom and understanding.**

**We must not rely solely upon teachers and godly counselors. We must make the determination regarding what the Bible is saying for ourselves. Seeking God for His wisdom and understanding in faith will assure us that we will find the correct answers we are seeking. Teachers can lead us to the truth, but only the Holy Spirit can enlighten the eyes of our understanding so we can KNOW the truth.**

**The KEY to understanding spiritual knowledge is REVELATION. Revealed knowledge takes us through the gates of Heaven into the Throne Room of God where we can find and understand the mysteries of God. Revealed knowledge is found in the presence of Almighty God. The voice of God is the voice of knowledge, wisdom and understanding. The voice of God can be heard in the POWER of His spoken Word. God empowers us with knowledge, wisdom and understanding so we can be effective witnesses of His almighty power, grace, mercy and love.**

**When I came to the saving KNOWLEDGE of the Lord Jesus Christ, I thirsted for spiritual knowledge and understanding. When I came to the realization God had called me into the ministry I was told I needed to listen to as much Bible teaching as possible. I was told by others I needed to get the “Word of God” inside me before I would be able to fulfill the call of God on my life. Wanting to know and understand what the Bible taught, I bought a cassette player and listened continuously to teaching from many different ministries. I visited many different denominations and churches trying to learn all I could about the Word of God. I was hungry to know more about Jesus and gain**

**as much knowledge and wisdom as possible in order to “find the truth.”**

**One day as I was listening to a sermon by one of my favorite teachers, the Lord spoke to me and said: “Do you not want to hear what I have to say about my Word?” I realized I had been so busy listening to what everyone else was teaching about God’s Word that I had neglected to seek the Holy Spirit for understanding myself.**

**Needless to say, I quit listening to what everybody was teaching regarding the WORD and started asking God for His knowledge, wisdom and understanding. I started listening to the Holy Spirit rather than men. Only the Holy Spirit can quicken our knowledge and understanding of the Word of God. I still listened to teachers, and continued to read my Bible, as well as many other Christian books to gain knowledge. However, the Holy Spirit became my teacher and my understanding became clearer. Now I rely on the Lord to show me how to rightly divide the Word of Truth and give me spiritual insight into what He is trying to show and teach me.**

**I learned over time that many of the things which I had been taught over the years were NOT God breathed. There are some carnally minded preachers who teach knowledge which is not biblically based to “carnally minded” people. They will continue to remain carnally minded until they decide to seek and find the Key to Knowledge for themselves. Many in churches today are still listening to what others are saying about God’s Word and not taking time to read, study and pray themselves. Rather than seeking God**

for revelation many of them are still relying solely on what carnally minded ministers are teaching them.

There ARE many teachers who have a good understanding of the truth and are very prolific orators. These are the ones who have sought the Holy Spirit for wisdom and understanding because they care for their congregations and others they minister to. We will find the Spirit of Revelation in our midst when we are listening to those who have wisdom and a good understanding of the truth.

## **THE KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH**

The KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH is the most important knowledge we can possess. It is the TRUTH which sanctifies us and sets us free from the bondage of sin. The knowledge of the Truth sets us apart from the World and keeps us under the protection of Almighty God. Jesus is the Truth, the Life and the Way. Truth is reality. When we have the knowledge to determine what is true and what is not true, we will be able to make quality decisions based upon godly wisdom and understanding.

The lawyers Jesus rebuked were responsible for leading people in the wrong direction by not giving them the KEY to obtaining knowledge and understanding for themselves. What they taught as GOSPEL was not to be refuted or challenged by anyone. However, the people themselves were somewhat at fault because THEY were not seeking God for the truth. They were much like many people in

**churches today who believe that anything and everything which comes out of the pulpit is TRUTH.**

**When people are listening to false doctrines and do not search the scriptures for themselves, they can easily fall into sin. Individuals must seek to KNOW and understand the truth for themselves. The Bible tells US to “study to show ourselves approved.” It does not tell us we are to “believe every wind of doctrine” we hear from others. We are responsible for what we believe and what we receive as being TRUE. Teachers can give information to people, but it is the Holy Spirit which “quickens” the Word and brings new life to our spirit.**

**In many churches today the ‘Key to Knowledge’ has been taken away and hidden from the congregations. This is partly because Christians put ministers on a pedestal and trust their “spiritual lawyers” to tell them the truth. I am not saying all ministers of the Gospel are self-serving hypocrites. However, many ministers are carnally minded and grossly misguided or misinformed themselves. They continue to lead, mislead and misinform their congregations. They do not understand many of the truths which are in the Bible. When the “blind lead the blind” they will all fall into a ditch. When ministers do not have a good understanding of the truth, their congregations will also lack understanding.**

**There are many ministers who love God and are teaching sound doctrine. There are many good men and women of God who have much wisdom and are excellent teachers. Those ministers are who Christians need to be listening to in order to gain spiritual knowledge and insight into the Word of God. We are**

told to “test the spirits” to see if they be of God. If what we are hearing is not producing fruit in our lives, we must find out WHY and seek to do something about it.

There are no shortcuts to obtaining and retaining spiritual knowledge. We must be diligent in seeking the truth for ourselves. Many Christians are continuing to walk in spiritual darkness because they do not have a good understanding of the truth. Truth can only set us free when we “understand” and use the knowledge of the truth. Without godly knowledge, Christians will not have the understanding or power to be free from the darkness which is continually growing more ominous as time goes by.

*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* 2 Timothy, Chapter 2, Verse 15.

When people are listening to carnally minded preachers, the only thing which changes in them is carnal information which has nothing to do with truth. They may trade one false doctrine for another, but they are never able to “come to the knowledge of the truth.” Their perception of God and His Word may change. However, the foundation of truth is still lost in false interpretations. They may change the way they think, but their life is still going to be unfruitful if they are not correctly interpreting the Word of God.

If there is no change in how we conduct ourselves in the eyes of God, we may not be interpreting the Word of God correctly. Individuals must search the

**scriptures for themselves. If they are not sure that something they heard regarding God's Word is true, they need to seek the Lord and ask Him for wisdom and understanding. When we sincerely search the scriptures for understanding and truth, God will open the "eyes of our understanding." We will find the knowledge of God which enables us to walk in the "freedom of the Holy Spirit."**

**Paul admonished Timothy to study to "show himself approved." Timothy sat under the tutoring and teaching of Paul for years, yet Paul told Him he needed to "study for himself." The knowledge which comes by studying the Word of God is essential to every believer. Understanding the hidden things of God can only come by revelation. Knowledge and wisdom gives us insight into the Word of God, but only the Spirit of God can give us the ability to understand and receive what God is saying to us as individuals.**

**It is the Holy Spirit which establishes truth and righteousness within us when we rightly divide the "Word of Truth." It is the Spirit of Truth which transforms us into the image of Christ. It is the Spirit of Truth which gives us the faith to believe and receive ALL the promises of God.**

**OUR DESIRE FOR GODLY KNOWLEDGE WILL LEAD US TO WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING AND TRUTH. IN SHORT, YOU COULD SAY "THAT THE KEY TO KNOWLEDGE IS SEEKING; THE KEY TO WISDOM IS UNDERSTANDING: THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING IS REVELATION, AND THE KEY TO TRUTH IS FOUND ONLY IN CHRIST JESUS."**



## **THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM**

*And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*

Matthew, Chapter 16, Verse 19.

The Key of Knowledge gives us understanding of how the Kingdom of God operates. The Keys to the Kingdom come from Revelation Knowledge. Knowledge is the key to all wisdom, revelation and understanding. The knowledge of the truth is the greatest knowledge we can possess. God's Word gives us all the information we need to live a life of holiness and godliness, free from the cares of this World and the snares of the enemy.

The Keys to the Kingdom are found in binding and loosing. We have the power to bind and loose through the words we speak. Before we can command the blessings of God in our life, we must understand the power we possess in our words. God has given us the ability to receive His blessings in our life through the knowledge of His Word. The power to bind and loose is found in our words. Our words will either hinder the blessings of God in our life or they will RELEASE the blessings of God in our life. We will either sow seeds of righteousness or we will sow seeds of unrighteousness in our life by the words we speak. The Bible says "by our words we are justified, and by our words we are condemned." (Matthew, 12:37).

**Peter acknowledged through divine revelation that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. Through divine revelation we also understand God gives us the power to bind and loose certain things in heaven and on earth. When we have the REVELATION of WHO Christ is in us, we are given the power to bind and loose according to the will and purpose of God.**

**Keys are used to lock and unlock doors. We lock and unlock the promises of God by the WORDS we speak. By the words we speak we open or close doors to spiritual entities who will either work on our behalf or against us. When we do not believe what the Word of God says, we will not be allowing the Spirit of God to operate in our life. When we acknowledge the Word of God as being truth, we are unlocking the windows of Heaven, and the blessings of God will overtake us. When we exercise authority over the forces of evil through the power of the Holy Spirit, they will be unable to hinder the process of our believing and receiving from God.**

**When it comes to the blessings of God, without faith, binding and loosing will be ineffective. We can bind the enemy all day and all night, but without FAITH the enemy will prevail. We can only exercise authority when we understand how authority works. We have authority because we have “been given” authority by Christ who possesses all authority. We can only exercise authority when and where authority has been given us.**

**If we do not choose our words wisely, we open the door to the enemy and to many other problems we DO NOT want. Jesus said we would be judged for**

every “idle word” which “proceeds” out of our mouths. Many people fail to realize that many problems they have in their life is because of the negative and unfruitful words they speak. When we speak words of doubt, unbelief, fear and confusion, we close the windows of Heaven, thus leaving ourselves open to the schemes and wiles of the Devil.

The power to bind and loose is given to believers so the Kingdom of God can be established in our lives personally, as well as for others we minister to here on Earth. We “open up the windows of Heaven” with our words to receive from God as we are fulfilling His plan and purpose for our life. If we are not seeking God and walking uprightly with Him, we will have no power to bind and loose. Thus, our prayer life will be unfruitful and we will continue to languish in spiritual infidelity.

**BUT INDEED I ALSO COUNT ALL THINGS LOSS FOR THE EXCELLENCE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST JESUS MY LORD, FOR WHOM I HAVE SUFFERED THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS, AND COUNT THEM AS RUBBISH, THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST. Philippians, Chapter 3, Verse 8.**

## **Chapter 12**

+++++

### **Knowledge is Power**

*But you, Daniel shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.*  
Daniel, Chapter 12, Verse 4.

The angel informed Daniel that at the time of the end “knowledge” would increase. The exponential increase of knowledge we are experiencing today is a sign we are living in the “time of the end.” Knowledge is increasing daily as the end is drawing near.

We are living today in what some are calling the “Information Age.” Since the invention of the Internet, more information has been made available to people since any time in history. We can find the answers to any questions we may have by searching the Internet. More and more knowledge is being made available to people daily as information is increasing. With new technological, scientific, medical and educational breakthroughs and advances, knowledge is increasing at an alarming pace.

Experts are telling us that eighty percent of the knowledge we now have has come forth in the last ten years. They also say that ninety percent of all scientists who ever lived are alive today. There have been so many breakthroughs in medicine, science, technology and travel in recent years it is almost mind boggling.

The book the Angel gave to Daniel was not meant to be understood in His time. MANY of the prophetic truths in the Bible were not meant to be understood until today. The prophecy we find in Daniel which IS being fulfilled today IS proof we are living in the “Time of the End.”

The KNOWLEDGE and understanding of the Word of God has also exploded exponentially in the last few decades. I believe more revelation knowledge is being given to the Church today because of the perilous times in which we are now living. God’s people need more knowledge, wisdom and understanding because the darkness which prevails in this World is becoming darker and more prevalent. We need more knowledge, wisdom and understanding now than ever before in order to stand against the evil aggression and onslaught the enemy is bringing against the Church.

The Bible is a Book of Knowledge, as well as a road map giving us directions which leads to godly wisdom and understanding. It is a book which teaches men to love and serve each other through the power of the Spirit of Christ. The Bible is full of information God intended for His people to use to strengthen their relationship with Him. The Bible is also a Book which instructs men and women how to find eternal life, peace and freedom from the ravages of sin and debauchery. KNOWLEDGE instructs and teaches us how we can have POWER over the forces of darkness which are trying to destroy us.

## **RUNNING TO AND FRO**

Today many Christians are running “to and fro” seeking for knowledge. Unfortunately, many are

**seeking the wrong type of knowledge. Others are seeking knowledge in all the wrong places.**

**Many Christians are focused on seeking the knowledge of how to “gain wealth,” position, fame and other materialistic pleasures. They are listening to carnally minded preachers and teachers who are telling them that the “abundant life” Christ has bestowed upon them is all about prestige and materialism. Their motives and attitudes toward righteousness and holiness have been hijacked and replaced by selfishness and greed. Seeking worldly pleasures and earthly treasures was not what Jesus was talking about when He said He came to give us “life more abundantly.” Our LIFE cannot be measured by the things we possess or the things which possess us. As Christians, our LIFE is “hidden in Christ” not in avarice, mammon and materialism.**

**Many Christians are going from church to church with itching ears seeking preachers who will tell them what THEY want to hear. Many find that the true Gospel of Christ is not very appealing to them. They are seeking to find ANOTHER GOSPEL in order to satisfy their flesh and promise them they can have what they want instead of what they need.**

**Some Church leaders today have more influence over congregations than God does. Their doctrines do not reflect the message of the Gospel, but their own self-inspired doctrines. In many churches the Word of God is transformed to fit into man’s agenda rather than the agenda of God.**

**The knowledge of God's Word has been perverted and turned into fables by many preachers who do not care for their congregations, or where they will spend eternity. Many are more concerned about themselves than others. Their doctrines are filled with the "leaven of the Pharisees." Their doctrines are designed to make them look "wise" in the eyes of their congregations. However, like the Pharisees, they are filled with hyper faith, hoopla and hypocrisy: they are dishonest, insincere and sanctimonious.**

**Knowledge alone begets pride, but the knowledge of the truth sets people free. We can possess knowledge but still lack wisdom and understanding. If we are going to be able to use the knowledge we have acquired, it is imperative that we know how to use it correctly. Knowledge can be like an abstract painting if it is not tempered with wisdom and understanding. It may be pleasurable for some to look at; however, in reality it is just a collage of images thrown together lacking continuity.**

**Many Christians who are sincere about their walk with Christ are hindered because some church leaders no longer possess or use godly wisdom and knowledge. Therefore, they cannot impart wisdom and knowledge to others. This is one of the greatest travesties taking place in churches today. Many Christians desiring to serve God more have become hindered in their attempts to find the will of God for their lives. Because the leaders themselves lack knowledge and understanding, they have a problem ministering truthfully and effectively to their congregations. They need to find wisdom and**

understanding themselves before they can minister to their congregations accurately and appropriately.

There are many Christians who fail to realize there is more to their walk with God than they have been taught. They fail to seek God and develop a personal relationship with Him. You cannot walk hand in hand with God from a distance. The “barely get along” doctrine was never meant to be a “church doctrine.” If we desire to know more about God, we must seek Him MORE. The Bible says to “knock” and the door will be opened. The Greek implies we are to “keep knocking” until the door opens and we find what we are seeking.

One of the keys to receiving what we have need of from God is perseverance. When we have a need, we must believe God’s promise to meet all our needs. If we do not receive after asking God the first time, we are admonished by His Word to ask Him again and again until we receive. The Bible says to “ask” and it will be given to you. The Greek implies we are to “keep asking” until we receive. We know that if we ask anything according to His will, He WILL meet our needs when and if we are persistent and patient in prayer. Doubt and unbelief are resistant, but faith and perseverance are persistent.

## **THE POWER TO BECOME**

*But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. John, Chapter 1, Verse 12.*



**The great evangelist Dwight L. Moody said, “The Bible was not given to increase knowledge, but to change our lives.” Knowledge alone will not help us unless we use it to bring about needed change in our lives. Knowledge only has POWER when we follow the instructions which tells us how we can be transformed into the image of Christ.**

**We are transformed into the image of Christ by the TRUTH. Jesus is not only the personification of Truth, He is the one who transforms us into His image by the renewing of our minds. Jesus transforms us when we seek to apply the truth, knowledge, wisdom and understanding we find in the Word of God to our lives. We have been given the power to BECOME the sons of God by faith in His Name through the POWER of His Word.**

**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. Knowledge tells us we will be SAVED if we sincerely repent of our sins and believe on the Name of Jesus Christ. Wisdom and understanding tells us why we need to become SAVED. Knowledge instructs us HOW to become SAVED. Through “free will” we have been given the power to decide whether we will accept or reject the knowledge, understanding and wisdom which enables us to receive Eternal Life.”.**

**Through knowledge we understand that God has given us POWER over serpents, scorpions, and ALL the power of the enemy. Through knowledge we understand we have been given POWER through the Holy Spirit over all the works of the enemy. Through knowledge, we understand the POWER which God has given us as sons and daughters is much greater than the**

power of our enemies. I am speaking of demonic entities and the princes of darkness which are constantly and continuously trying to hinder our walk with Christ and destroy our lives.

Paul said, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the POWER of God unto salvation.” (Romans, 1:16). When we accept Christ as Lord and Savior, we become sons and daughters of God through the POWER of the Gospel.

God intended for us to be conduits of His power. We are admonished to be ambassadors who represent Christ. We have been sent to the Nations to share the Gospel to a lost and dying World. God never envisioned a weak, powerless Church void of faith and discernment, but a Church that would be filled with His power. Jesus died for the Church so it would be “endued with power from on high.” As Christians, we have the potential to do the “greater works.” Jesus said we could do the “greater works,” because that same Spirit which raised Him from the dead now dwells within us. We must be doers of the Word and not just hearers only.

*And these signs shall follow those who believe: in my Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.* Mark, Chapter 16, Verses 17-18.

**If we believe we have been given the POWER to become the sons of God, why do we not believe we have the POWER to do the things He tells us to do? The same faith which gives us the power to become children of God is the same faith which gives us the power to do the “works” of Christ.**

**Most of the knowledge many churches possess today is the “knowledge” of what it takes to “survive in this World.” We do not see many, if any, “signs and wonders” happening in most churches today because the knowledge of how to walk in faith is not taught to the congregations. In many churches “signs and wonders” have been replaced with “whines and blunders.” Faith is one of the “fruits of the Spirit.” If people do not have much faith, they will not be producing much fruit. If you do not have faith, you will not produce any fruit.**

**Knowledge tells us we have the propensity to do “ALL things through Christ which strengthens us.” We cannot do these things in our own power, but we can do these things by the power of His Spirit which lives within us. If we are going to do the “greater works” which Christ said we could do, we must “believe” in the “greater one” who dwells within us. We CAN do what He tells us we can do.**

*Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite. Psalm, 147, Verse 5.*

**The word “understanding” in the above scripture is speaking of the intelligence of God. God’s knowledge, wisdom and understanding are infinite.**

**You could say that God knows “everything about anything.” To God knowledge is more than just power. He is the essence of knowledge and power. In general, we could say God is all power, all knowing, and always present in Heaven, on Earth, throughout the Universe and beyond.**

**God’s knowledge is unlimited. All things were created and exists by and through the power of His Word. All things which were created were created by the power of His Word.**

**Jesus did great and mighty works because of His knowledge, understanding, wisdom and relationship with the Father. Jesus said “I do what I see the Father do.” The Bible says, “All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ Jesus.” If we are going to gain wisdom and knowledge, it is going to come through our relationship with Christ.**

**God wants us to “know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge; that we may be filled with the fullness of Christ.” When we KNOW Christ and the power of His resurrection, we will be filled with the fullness of Christ. When we are filled with the fullness of Christ, we will be filled with the power of His love. When we are FILLED with the power of His love, we will be changing lives wherever we go. Our faith becomes empowered by God’s love when we trust in His Love.**

**A WISE MAN IS STRONG, YES A MAN OF KNOWLEDGE INCREASES STRENGTH; FOR BY WISE COUNSEL YOU WILL WAGE YOUR OWN**

**WAR, AND IN THE MULTITUDE OF MANY  
COUNSELORS THERE IS SAFETY. Proverbs,  
Chapter 24, Verses 5-6.**

## **Chapter 13**

+++++

### **Love is Power**

*For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

John, Chapter 3, Verse 16.

John 3:16 is probably the most well-known, and the most powerful scripture in the Bible. Many people have been drawn to the Lord and have committed their life to Christ through of the POWER of this one verse. Because God LOVED mankind so much, He sent His only begotten Son to die a cruel death at Calvary so those who would believe on Him would receive eternal life.

True love is not just a “fuzzy little feeling” we get in our stomach when we are around someone we have a crush on. It is more than just a desire to be with someone because they make our heart flutter every time we look at them. True love, the God-kind of love, has nothing to do with the physical appearance of a person or their personality. True love is not just an emotion, but a person. The Bible says that “God is love.”

Love is the most powerful force in the Universe. Love can change the course of human nature. Through knowledge we will find the existence and power of God’s amazing love. Love has the power to change our attitudes and motives toward God, as well as our fellow

man. When we believe and receive the knowledge of His love, His love creates a new heart within us.

The Bible tells us “God IS Love,” and love never fails. Love never fails because God is love and He cannot fail. If God could ever fail, love would no longer exist, but that is impossible. Love is a perpetual virtue which rules Heaven perpetually. The love of God is more powerful than anything which exists. It is God’s nature to love. It is the nature and desire of God to impart His love to everyone even if they are not worthy of His love.

Without love, there is only despair. Without the hope of salvation mankind would be eternally lost. Love is the bridge which connects hope and salvation. The Apostle Paul wrote “we are saved by hope.” (Romans 8:24). The Bible says, “faith is the substance {foundation} of things HOPEd for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hope tells us that something we need is available. We are saved by faith, but hope connects us to the promise and knowledge of salvation.

## **LOVE’S DIVINE PURPOSE**

*For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. John, Chapter 3, Verse 16.*

Love’s divine purpose was to give eternal life to everyone who would believe in Christ Jesus. God is not only Love, He is also Life. God prefers love over hate and life over death. God prefers justification over

**judgment and justice over lawlessness. God loves those who hate evil. God justifies those who sincerely repent of their sins. God gives eternal life to those who accept Christ as their Redeemer. Those who do not accept Christ will not receive eternal life, but eternal damnation.**

**According to the Bible the love of God surpasses all knowledge and understanding. I do not understand how God could love people who do not love Him. I do not KNOW how God could love people who turn their back on Him and time after time break His laws and commandments. I do not understand how God can love people who do not love Him, but He does. However, I will be eternally thankful that He loved me even though I was one of the worst sinners to walk this earth. Yes, the Love of God surpasses all the knowledge and understanding natural man possesses.**

**The love God has bestowed upon us gives us the power to walk in His Love. The love of God has taken us to heavenly places which we never dreamed we could or would go. In Christ, we live and move and have our being. In Christ, we love and show grace and mercy to those who are in bondage to sin as we once were.**

**Love is self-denying. Love is self-sacrificing. Love is longsuffering and kind. Love seeks not its own. Love rejoices in truth. Love bears all things and hopes and endures all things. Love never fails. There are no references in the Bible which says anything negative about love.**

**There are four “love words” found in the New Testament which were translated from the Greek into**



English. They are philia love, eros love, storge love and agape love. “Agape love” is commonly called “divine love.” It is also referred to as the “God-kind of love.” Agape love is considered to be love which is divinely inspired and transferred to people by God the Father who IS love. It is with this divine love we are commanded to love one another. Even if we do not like someone, we are **COMMANDED** to love them with the God-kind of love.

### **FAITH WORKS BY LOVE**

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, not circumcision nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.* Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 6.

Paul said “faith” works by, or is “energized by” love. The Bible tells us God created the entire universe by faith. As I stated earlier, love is the most powerful force in the Universe. The “faith” chapter in Hebrews 11, Verse 2, states: “the worlds were framed by the Word of God.” “Faith is the substance (sub-foundation) of things hope for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith is the foundation which God’s Word is built and rests upon, and is energized by His Love.

Faith standing alone is unfruitful. Our faith **MUST** rest upon the foundation of God’s Word which is an extension of His Love. Paul said he could have faith to move mountains, but if he did not possess love he was nothing. Love is greater than faith because faith is contingent upon and works by the power of His

**divine Love. Love never dwells on evil, but on mercy, grace, faith and righteousness.**

**God created the Universe and everything in it through faith by the power of His love. His plan and purpose for creation was to build “a Church” that would love and serve Him throughout eternity. His plan was to impart to the Church His LOVE, wisdom, and knowledge.**

**Faith fails to work for many Christians because they lack the basic foundational principle which governs the Law of Faith, which is His Love. The Bible tells us that without faith we cannot please God. If we are going to be people of faith, we must be people who possess the love of God.**

**Our faith will not be any stronger than our love. I talk to many people who are seeking more faith, but their faith will not get any stronger until they understand that faith rests upon the foundation of God’s love. If we do not possess the love of God we cannot have the God-kind of faith. When we learn to love as God admonishes us to do, we will have faith to move mountains.**

**People can quote scripture all day long, and decree all they want, however, until they learn to LOVE they will not possess the faith to move mountains. If the love of God is not abiding within our hearts, the faith of God will not be present in us either.**

**Many marriages fail because they are not built upon a foundation of love. This may be a carnal example of love, but nevertheless, it works according to the same principle the love of God works by.**

When we make the quality decision that “we are going to walk in love” we have taken the first step to increasing our faith. When we become conduits of God’s love, we will see changes in our life and the lives of those around us as we pray for them in faith.

## **WALKING IN LOVE**

*Therefore, be followers of God dear children and walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, as an offering and sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling aroma. Ephesians, Chapter 5, Verses 1-2.*

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John, Chapter 13, Verses 34-35.*

Knowledge tells us we are to love others in the same manner Christ loves us. As followers of Christ we are commanded to “walk in love.” Walking in love is not just a suggestion. We are disobeying the commandment of God to “love our neighbor as our self,” if we are not walking in love.

In our own ability, we cannot and will not love people the way God loves them. It is human nature for people to dislike those who do not like them, or those who physically and verbally abuse them. I am not

**suggesting we stand by and let others physically and verbally abuse us. I believe God expects us to protect ourselves, our families and the things He has entrusted to us, but to still love people unconditionally.**

**It is human nature for men to dislike those who disagree with them. Yet, we are commanded to exhibit “agape love” no matter who we are dealing with. We are told to love our enemies. That does not mean we are to let them do anything they want to do to us.**

**Jesus loves everybody, however, He hates hypocrisy. He treated the hypocrites with disdain and contempt for their pride, dishonesty and lack of sincerity. There is no room in the Kingdom of God for the leaven which promotes rebellion and teaches others to sin. The Pharisees were supposed to be examples of righteousness; however, they fell short of God’s glory by leading others into sin. The only love they had was for themselves and their lofty positions in life.**

**Jesus died for the sins of all mankind, including the Pharisees. However, if they failed to repent of their sins and receive Christ as Lord, they were not welcomed into the Pearly Gates of Heaven when they died. We are to love people even though we may not approve of the things they do. When the love of God dwells within us, we will love people even though we do not approve of their actions.**

**If we rebuke a wise man, he will love us for showing him the error of his ways. If we rebuke a fool, he will hate us for trying to meddle in what he considers to be “his own business.”**

**Many Christians try to walk in love in their own strength and emotions. This ATTEMPT to be like God is futile and will always result in disaster. If we are going to walk in the God-kind of love, we must be FILLED with the God-kind of Love which only comes by way of our relationship with Christ. We must allow God, who is Love, to control our will and emotions so we can walk in “agape love.”**

**Agape love does not try to manipulate or control people. Manipulation is selfish and engendered by the spirit of witchcraft. When people try to control the lives of others they are practicing the sin of witchcraft. We cannot love people and try to manipulate or control them at the same time.**

**Of all the virtues of Christ, LOVE is the greatest. Love never meditates on evil, but only on righteousness. Agape Love is the POWER which led Jesus to the Cross so we could find forgiveness for our sins. Agape love is the POWER which enabled Jesus to heal the multitudes, raise the dead and cast out demons. Whatever we do for God, we must do out of love or our works will remain fruitless and useless. God has a special plan and purpose for each of our lives. Whatever God has called us to do will require us to possess the God-kind of love.**

**THEREFORE, BE FOLLOWERS OF GOD AS DEAR CHILDREN AND WALK IN LOVE, AS CHRIST ALSO HAS LOVED US AND HAS GIVEN HIMSELF FOR US, AN OFFERING AND A SACRIFICE TO GOD FOR A SWEET SMELLING AROMA.**

**Ephesians, Chapter 5, Verses 1-2.**

## **Chapter 14**

+++++

### **Loving Yourself**

*Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and Prophets.”* Matthew, Chapter 22, Verses 37-40.

Many Christians have a problem with the concept of self-love because self-love sounds too much like pride. God commands us to love our neighbor as **OUR SELF**. I previously thought loving self was being prideful. I realized if God was commanding me to love myself, He must not be speaking of pride, but of something else. Pride is sin and God would never lead us into or command us to commit sin.

Pride will always give us a perverted self-image. It is a perverted form of self-love. Pride always leads us away from God and into many sinful and sorrowful situations. Pride is the sin that transformed Lucifer from the “covering cherub” to the dastardly devil he is today. Pride is the scourge of mankind. God gives grace to the humble, but he “resists” the proud.

**The sin of pride is a perverted and distorted preoccupation with self. Pride produces selfishness, greed and egotism. Pride says everything I do and say must be for me, myself and I, and no one else matters. Pride is an attitude of self-worship. Pride breeds contention. (Proverbs, 13:10). When pride comes, then comes shame. (Proverbs, 11:2). Pride is detestable to Jehovah. (Proverbs, 16:5). We become our own god when we allow pride to sit upon the throne of our heart. There is nothing good that can be said about pride.**

**There is probably no greater sin than the sin of pride. Pride is a “spiritually infectious disease” which permeates the hearts and minds of men with ALL the filthiness of the flesh. The Bible gives us many warnings regarding the traps, perils and consequences of pride.**

**A wise man once said God was commanding us to have a good self-image when He was commanding us to love ourselves. Although I think a good self-image is needed, I do not think that is what God was referring to. A good self-image is needed in order for us to have self-esteem. If we have a negative image of ourselves as Christians, we will be reluctant to go boldly before the throne of God asking for His help in our time of need. A prideful man will approach God in his time of need never acknowledging his sinful nature and his petitions will be rejected. A godly man with a good self-image will approach the Lord in his time of need with boldness and faith, expecting his petitions to be granted.**

**If we have a poor self-image, we will more than likely be oppressed and depressed when we look in the mirror. That is human nature. On the other hand, a**

positive self-image will help us build self-esteem and we will not be ashamed of ourselves when we are in the presence of the Lord or around others.

## **LOVING OURSELVES**

If we do not love God we cannot love our neighbor or our self. Love is of God. If we do not show and possess the love of God for others, we will not be able to love our self or others with the God-kind of love. If we do not love God, we cannot and will not have the God-kind of faith, because faith WORKS by HIS love.

In order to love yourself, you must first have a good self-image. I am not talking about loving who “you” are, but who you are in Christ Jesus. I realize in making this statement that there are many people who are prideful of who and what they THINK they are in Christ. This is called “spiritual pride.” Spiritual pride comes when people are partaking of the “pride of life” fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Spiritual pride is another form of selfishness and self-centeredness. We will never get an audience with the King of Kings unless we first repent of the sin of “spiritual pride.”

The Bible says that no individual ever hated their own flesh. When I was lost and without Christ, I felt like I hated myself because of the wrong things I was doing. However, after I came to Christ, I realized it was the sins I had committed which I hated, and not myself. I was not pleased with myself, but I did not hate myself. God looks at us in much the same way. He hates the sin, but He has compassion on the sinner



**because He knows the sinner does not have the power within himself to quit sinning without Christ.**

**We cannot love our neighbor unless we love ourselves. If we do not love our neighbor, we must realize our problem is not with our neighbor but our self. If we are going to adhere to the commandment to “love our neighbor as our self,” we must first learn how to love ourselves the Biblical way.**

**For those who have not forgiven themselves of past sins they committed, self-forgiveness becomes the first step to loving self. When God has forgiven us of our sins, we must not play God and continue to condemn ourselves of the sins for which we have been forgiven. We should not be our own judge, jury and executioner when it comes to the sins of the past. When God has forgiven us of our sins, we must also forgive ourselves. The Bible says that God tossed our sins into the sea of forgetfulness the moment we repented and accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior. Self-forgiveness is the KEY to finding happiness, peace and joy in the Lord.**

**For years, even though I knew God had forgiven me, I was unable to forgive myself for the sins I had committed in the past. I did not have the knowledge and understanding which I now have of how the plan of salvation works. Even though I had been saved, I continued to hold a grudge against myself for the sins I had committed in the past. I finally realized that in the past I was unable to quit sinning because I did not have the power or ability within me to stop sinning WITHOUT Christ. At that time, I was missing the one**

**fundamental TRUTH which could help me to stop sinning, JESUS.**

**Self-condemnation is one of Satan's greatest weapons. If he can get us to condemn ourselves after God has forgiven us, he can keep us from understanding how the love, grace and mercy of God works. Today self-condemnation continues to be a stumbling block for many Christians. It brings many heartaches, heartbreaks and spiritual illusions which contradict the Word of God and confuses the hearts and minds of many Christians.**

**Jesus loved me even though I felt I was unloveable. I realized that Jesus did not look at me the way I was, but the way I could be when He came to live within me. Jesus came into my heart, placed His love in my heart, cleansed and set me free from all my past sins. I became a new creation in Christ. When we become a new creation in Christ, our life will change differentially, dramatically and remarkably.**

**We must have a good self-image if we are going to love ourselves. The only good image we can have within us is the image of Christ. We may not like some of the things we do at times. However, if we focus on Christ who lives within us, we will be able to develop a good self-image. It is Christ who makes the difference in our hearts. Without Christ, we are nothing. In Christ Jesus, we are the righteousness of God. In Christ, we live and move and have our being. When we are born again we become one with Christ, and that part of ourselves we can love.**

**We will have a problem loving our self if we fail to love the person of Christ dwelling within us. Loving self as God loves us is actually unselfish. As Christians, Christ is now the head of our spiritual house and His love dwells richly within our hearts when we become dead to sin. Because Christ lives in us, we can have a better image of ourselves than we did in the past. We can forgive ourselves IF we fall short of the glory of God because the Blood of Christ washes away all our sins when we repent. We have joined with Christ in a partnership based on His love and forgiveness, not on our failures and shortcomings. We can love ourselves when we see Christ WITHIN us bearing the fruit of His righteousness.**

**We are crucified with Christ, nevertheless yet we live. Yet it is not we who live, but Christ who lives in us. The life we now live we live by the faith of Christ and our faith works by His love. God placed His love in our hearts when we accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior and became one with Him.**

**We can love our self with the God-kind of love because we are a product of His love. Because the love of Christ dwells within us, we can now love our neighbor as our self. The Golden Rule which commands us to “do unto others as we would have them do unto us” is energized by the love of Christ when He dwells richly within us.**

**If you love your neighbor as yourself, you will treat him as you treat yourself. If he is hungry, you will feed him. If he is thirsty, you will give him something to drink. If he needs clothing, you will give him clothing. I am not just speaking in the natural sense, but also**

spiritually. If our neighbor is spiritually hungry, we should tell him about “the Bread of Life.” If he needs spiritual clothing, we should offer him a “robe of righteousness.” If he is spiritually thirsty, we should offer him a drink of “Living Water.”

Loving yourself and loving your neighbor as you love yourself is not an option nor a suggestion, it is a **COMMAND**. If we were thirsty, we would find a large glass of cool water to drink. If we were naked, we would find something appropriate to cover our nakedness. If we were hungry, we would not neglect to eat a huge, hearty, healthy meal.

The Bible tells us not to think more highly (pride) of our self than we should. There needs to be a limit on how highly we think of ourselves. False humility will produce pride in us if we are not careful. A man was once given a medal at Church for being the humblest man in the congregation. The next Sunday he came to Church proudly wearing the medal on his chest for everyone to see.

When we think of ourselves in a positive way, it will give us a positive outlook on life. When we have confidence in who we are in Christ, we will be able to perform our divine duties as Christians properly and amiably. If we become puffed up with pride, we will be unable to portray humility and the righteousness of Christ before others.

## **BEING UNIQUE**

*I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are your*

*work, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed, and in your book they were all written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.* Psalm, 139, Verses 14-16

God knew us before He formed us in our mother's wombs. He created and loves each one of us individually, and created each one of us to be unique. Our bodies are amazing instruments. Our minds have the ability to think, retain knowledge, learn, reason and understand. Each one of us will leave a different and unique footprint while walking here on this earth. Each one of us will leave a different fingerprint as we touch things here on earth. This is proof and a sign from God that He created each one of us as individuals to be unique.

The human body is made up of approximately one hundred trillion cells. It begins as one single fertilized cell in our mother's womb and develops into what we physically become. Cells make up the different kinds of tissues, organs and systems which make the body complete. The DNA contained in the cells of every individual is unique to each person God created. We all may look somewhat similar on the outside, however, the DNA which cannot be seen by the naked eye makes us all different.

**In the inner man where the Spirit of God dwells we as individuals are all unique. The spiritual DNA of every individual is different. God created each of us as individuals to be different and special to Him. He did not throw us on a spiritual assembly line and put the same personality in each one of us. He created us as individuals so He could love each of us individually. God loves the Church corporately, but He loves individuals personally.**

**If we do not have a personal relationship with Christ, we cannot have a corporate relationship with Him. A personal relationship with Christ leads us into a corporate relationship with Him. As a Christian, each one of us makes up the DNA of the body of Christ. We become HIS body as we are united together in His love. We are all one IN Him by the power of His Spirit. The Church becomes the fullness of Christ when we become joined and knit together by His love. (Ephesians, 4:14-15).**

**With all the knowledge man possess regarding the human body, they know very little, if anything, about the soul and spirit of man. God has a vested interest in the people He created, but His greatest interest is in their souls and where they will spend eternity. God created man to be inhabited by His Spirit. Adam, the first man God created, became the first vessel He breathed His Spirit into.**

## **THE INNER MAN**

**Many people are more concerned about “how they look” on the outside rather than how they look and feel on the inside. Many embellish their bodies to look**

**pleasant and attractive, but they neglect the most important thing--their spiritual DNA.**

**As Christians, we should be more concerned about what we look and feel like on the inside rather than how we look on the outside. The inner man is where the “true beauty” of holiness resides. We should not embellish the outer man and neglect to strengthen and empower the inner man with the virtues of Christ. If we neglect the inner man, we will be unable to accomplish anything in the Kingdom of God.**

**God loves every person He created. Although He does not like some of the things we do at times, He continues to loves us. Sometimes we may do things we should not do, but fortunately, through Christ, we have the ability to change if we choose to do so. We must realize the journey which we are on can and will from time to time be hindered by Satan and our enemies. We may fail to do the things we know we should do to please God while we are on this journey. However, we can be confident in knowing we are on the right track WHEN and IF we sincerely repent.**

**Repentance is the key to finding ourselves in right standing with God. If we fall short of the glory of God, we will have negative thoughts about ourselves. Negative thoughts will always lead us to be disappointed, discontent and depressed. When we become disappointed and discontent with ourselves we become depressed. We will take our focus off God and place it on ourselves in a negative manner.**

**Repentance will always lead us out of depression when and if we have fallen short of the glory of God. As**

**long as we keep our focus on God, we will continue to walk in the fullness of Christ. Because Adam and Eve took their focus off the Tree of Life (Christ) in the Garden of Eden and ate of the forbidden fruit, they fell short of the glory of God.**

**Many people will try to look and/or act like someone they hold in high regard. Sometimes they try to mold and make themselves in the image of that person. I knew a Pastor who wanted to be just like Jimmy Swaggert. He preached like JIMMY, dressed like JIMMY, sang like Jimmy, and even combed his hair like JIMMY. However, no matter how much he tried to look and be like JIMMY, he was NO JIMMY SWAGGERT! We need to act and be who God created us to be, not who we desire to be like. We were created in the image of God, and we should desire to be like Him.**

**God created each one of us as individuals to be unique in Him. He could have created a church of spiritual robots, but He wanted vessels He could pour His Spirit and love into who would in turn fall in love with Him.**

**If we wish to re-invent ourselves to be like someone else, we should choose Christ as our example. We all need to be Christ-like. Jesus was successful at everything He did. We have been told if we want to be successful in life we must pattern our life after someone who has been successful. Jesus is the only one we should be trying to imitate. The only mold we should be trying to fit ourselves into is Christ.**



**Jesus is the Life, the Truth and the Way. In our heart of hearts, Jesus is the only one who can make a difference in our life. When we have been changed into the image of Christ, we will find the power we need to succeed in doing the works of Christ. We will then be successful at whatever we do for and in Him.**

**We must see ourselves as God sees us. We must accept ourselves as God accepts us, but realize there may be a need for us to change. We must do what we need to do to bring about the necessary changes in our hearts so Christ can be glorified IN us. If we care about what God thinks of us, we will seek and adhere to His knowledge and wisdom. If we desire to be CHANGED into the image of Christ so He can be glorified in us, we must earnestly seek to daily serve Him.**

**God cares for us and loves each one of us as individuals, but does not necessarily like what we do at times. However, being who we are is not as important as being “who we can be in Christ.” We must “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians, 3:14). Knowledge shows us how we can become free from the “old man” and allow the Spirit of Christ, the “new man,” to dwell within us richly. We must “rebel against rebellion” today and ask God to impart the divine nature of Christ in our hearts so we can be about our Father’s business.**

**LOVE DOES NO HARM TO A NEIGHBOR;  
THEREFORE LOVE IS THE FULFILLING OF THE  
LAW. Romans, Chapter 13, Verse 10.**

## **Chapter 15**

**+++++**

### **Judgment, Mercy and Faith**

*Woe unto you, scribes, pharisees and hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: judgment, mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.*

Matthew, Chapter 23, Verse 23.

Jesus said that even though tithing is important, there were more important issues which the Law addresses. The Scribes and Pharisees paid their tithes but neglected to obey the more important matters of the Law—judgment, mercy and faith. All scripture is profitable for doctrine, reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness, but some doctrines will have more of an impact on our lives than others.

I believe in tithing, but there are more important things in my walk with the Lord than giving. The Scribes and Pharisees believed that tithing was one of the most important commandments of God, and it became a “tradition” to them instead of a requirement. They did not give out of necessity or conviction, but were giving out of egotism and arrogance. They only gave their tithes and offerings when others were present to witness their giving.

How we conduct ourselves regarding the commandments of God is indicative of the attitudes and motives of our hearts. How we conduct ourselves regarding the virtues of judgement, mercy and faith will have a greater impact on our walk with the Lord and our ministries more than anything.

The knowledge that judgment, mercy and faith are more important than other issues in our lives will lead us to a greater understanding of the Word of God. When we have the right understanding of what our priorities should be, we will become more proactive and productive citizens in the Kingdom of God.

When we are neglecting and continue to neglect the doctrines of judgement, mercy and faith, our attempts to believe and receive the promises of God will fail. The “weightier” matters of the Law are more important because they make a greater impact on our lives and those around us. When we are obeying ALL the commandments of God, we will be fulfilling ALL the requirements of the Law. We are no longer under the Law; however, if we are failing to keep ALL the Law which is written on our hearts, we will find ourselves falling into temptation and sin.

## **THE SIN OF PRESUMPTION**

*The devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the Temple, and said unto Him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: “He shall give His angels charge concerning you and*

*“In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.” Jesus said to him, “It is written again, you shall not tempt the Lord your God.”* Matthew, Chapter 4, Verses 5-7.

One of the biggest problems in the Church today continues to be the sin of “presumption.” Presumption is defined as “supposition” or “conjecture”. Presumption in the Church is not based upon truth and faith, but upon ignorance, opinion and postulation. Presumption comes from attitudes of arrogance, audaciousness and impudence. The Scribes and Pharisees were steeped in tradition and selfishness. They were self-seeking, self-promoting, egotistical and arrogant, just as many are in the Church today. Presumption in the Church causes people to act without authority or permission from God which can and will adversely affect their lives. Presumptuous Christians have no spiritual boundaries which can help prevent them from falling into sin and temptation.

David said, “Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.” (Psalm, 19:13). David said the “sin of presumption” was a great transgression. Presumption can and will control a person’s life to the point where they commit, sometimes unknowingly, great transgressions in the eyes of God. That is why having the knowledge of God and the understanding of His will and purpose for our life is so important.

**Many Christians when reading the Bible think they can interpret the scripture privately. They assume they have the right to choose how to interpret the Bible for themselves. However, the KEY to interpreting the knowledge of God is not found in private interpretation, but in wisdom and understanding from God. Scripture can ONLY be interpreted correctly through the eyes of the spirit, not the flesh. The Holy Spirit will illuminate the eyes of our understanding as we sincerely seek the truth.**

**When it comes to the plan and purpose of God for our life, we do not have the liberty to pick and choose our calling or destiny. What we desire to do in ministry does not always line up with what God has called us to do. I know ministers who were called to be pastors, however, they wanted to be and tried to become evangelists. I know ministers who wanted and tried to be pastors, but were called to be missionaries. They tried doing their own thing for Christ, and failed miserably. They finally realized they were on the wrong path and sought God's perfect and definitive will for their ministry. Finding God's perfect will for their lives changed their ministries and gave them the anointing and ability they needed to fulfill their God given destiny.**

**Satan tried to lure Jesus into the sin of presumption. He challenged the fact that Jesus was the Son of God. He was basically saying to Jesus, "IF you are the Son of God show me proof by fulfilling this scripture which was written about you." Had Jesus thrown Himself off the pinnacle of the Temple, the outcome would not have been divine. Jesus could never**

**and would never have fallen into the trap of presumption because He only did WHAT THE FATHER told Him to do. Jesus did not have to prove who He was to anyone because He KNEW who He was. To Him that was all that mattered. Likewise, we should know “who we are in Christ.” There should never be a question of who we are in Him. Our life should reflect and reveal to others “who we are in Christ.”**

**Satan often uses the Word of God deceptively to tempt Christians into sinning. A minister of the Gospel once tried to entice me into doing things in ministry which I knew was NOT the will of God for my life. His beguiling words tried to build up my ego and convince me “I” was the right man for the job. A spirit of witchcraft appeared before me, and I knew this was not an open door from God--but from the enemy. Of course, I declined the temptation and rejected the seducing offer.**

**Presumption caters to the “pride of life.” The sin of presumption is always rooted and grounded in selfish desires, self-admiration and earthly wisdom. People rationalize and assume that since they are God’s “chosen vessel,” they can do things the way THEY think they should be done. It is not about “who they are in Christ,” but who they “want to be in Christ.” In other words, “it is my way not thy way; it is my will not thy will.” Before Jesus went to the cross, He prayed “Father not MY will, but THY will be done.” He did not pray “Father my will, not thy will be done.”**

**A few years ago I heard a story about President Reagan. Soon after he took office as the 40<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, he and some secret servicemen**

were eating at a restaurant in California. An elderly man walked up to his table and said to him, “You’re that famous actor are you not?” Reagan replied by saying, “Yes, I am.” After leaving the restaurant one of the Secret Servicemen asked President Reagan why he did not tell the man he was the President of the United States. Reagan responded by saying “I KNOW who I am. That is all that matters.” It is important that we know who we are in Christ. That should be all that matters when it comes to WHO WE are.

When we KNOW who we are in Christ and who Christ is in us, we will fully understand we are not here to accomplish OUR will on earth, but the will of God. It does not matter what others think of us. We will be secure in knowing who we are in Christ and that our destiny is concealed safely in His hands. In reality, “knowing” God is in control of our present and our future should be all that matters.”

The devil took Jesus up to a high mountain to show and offer Him the Kingdoms of the World if He would bow down and worship him. Presumption always comes from high-minded Christians who SEE through the eyes of the flesh, not the Spirit. They SEE possibilities and opportunities which are not in harmony and agreement with the will and purpose of God for their life. They begin to rationalize within themselves that God’s plan for their life involves what “they” perceive it to be. However, they lack wisdom and understanding, therefore, truth eludes them. When we place our focus on things which are carnally subjective, we will become entangled in the deceitfulness

**of secular humanism, sensual pleasures and materialism.**

**Jesus looked and SAW Satan's domain--the Kingdoms of the World and all their "glory." According to Satan, all Jesus had to do was to "bow down and worship Him. "To many the temptation of possessing the "whole world" and all of its riches would have been their DOWN FALL. However, Satan was not dealing with no ordinary man. He was dealing with the Son of God who could not be tempted by the lust of the eye, the pride of life, or the lust of the flesh. Jesus could not and would not be tempted to FALL into sin.**

**Presumption comes from the sin of pride. If we must prove to others WHO we are, we are carrying a heavy burden, self. "Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a great FALL." (Proverbs, 16:18). The sin of presumption will only cause people to FALL off the pinnacle of the Temple into the destructive hands of Satan.**

**If we are walking daily with Christ, the things of this World will not be of any value to us. We will BE seeking the greater treasures which can ONLY be found in knowing Christ and the "power of His resurrection."**

**IF THEN YOU WERE RAISED WITH CHRIST, SEEK THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE, WHERE CHRIST IS, SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE, NOT ON THINGS ON THE EARTH. FOR YOU DIED, AND YOUR LIFE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD. Colossians, Chapter 3, Verses 1-3.**



## **Chapter 16**

+++++

### **The Knowledge of Judgment**

*Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged: and with the same measure back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Matthew, Chapter 7, Verses 1-3.*

People have taken these scriptures out of context for years. We saw in the last chapter that “judgment” is one of the “weightier matters of the law.” (Matthew, 23:23). If you continue to read the scriptures on judgment found in Matthew, Chapter 7, you will see that Jesus was talking to hypocrites. The Scribes and Pharisees were condemning people for doing the same things they were doing. The word “judge” in these scriptures should have been translated from the Greek as “condemn.” Jesus was saying we should not “condemn” others. Jesus WAS condemning the Scribes and Pharisees for THEIR hypocrisy. He was not saying WE “should not” judge others, but that we should not “condemn” others. There is a big difference between judging and condemning.

Judgment and condemnation are not the same thing. We judge people by pointing out their illicit

**actions, abuses and transgressions. When people do commit sin, they can become justified in the eyes of God if they sincerely repent. When they sincerely repent, they will be forgiven of their sins and condemnation will be averted. When WE condemn someone, we are passing sentence upon them. The authority to condemn others has not been given to men, but to belongs to God.**

**Condemnation is the sole (soul) responsibility of God. Condemnation is punitive in nature. It is the final ruling for transgressions and the breaking of the Law. IF we are going to judge people, we must judge them based upon what the scripture says. However, it is not OUR responsibility to condemn them.**

**At times, I have been accused AND condemned by others for judging people. Are they not judging and condemning me for judging others? When a word in the Bible is mistranslated, people can and will misinterpret and misrepresent the meaning of the word. When truth is misrepresented, misinterpreted or misunderstood, it will always cause problems in the body of Christ. I am not to condemn people for what they do, but I am REQUIRED by God to use godly judgment in discerning right from wrong and pointing out mistakes people make. Likewise, I am required to help people with their problems if, and when, they are willing to listen to the truth.**

**Jesus said to “beware of the leaven of the Pharisees.” He went further stating that the leaven of the Pharisees was “hypocrisy.” When you put leaven in bread, it will make the entire loaf rise as it is baking. The heat causes the bread to rise. Hypocrites tend to get HEATED up, PUFFED up, bent out of shape and**

**then condemn others for doing the same evil things which they are doing. Hypocrisy is contagious, especially when it is found in Church leaders.**

**When I am talking about things others are doing which are not acceptable, God-like behavior, I am not condemning them. I am trying to warn people and make them aware that some of the things which others may be doing are wrong and inappropriate behavior for Christians. The things they continue to do can and will be dangerous to them if sin is not exposed, addressed and eliminated.**

**If we fail to warn others of the leaven and false doctrines of others, we are doing a disservice to the Church. Many of God's people get caught up in the lies and deception which comes out of erroneous teaching, doctrines and the cynical behavior of others. It is easier for some people to believe lies and doctrines of self-seeking, self-appointed, self-indoctrinated ministers than others. If someone would have warned the people who were following Jim Jones about his lies and deception, maybe more of them would not have perished in Jonestown, Guyana.**

**Jesus said He did not come into this World to condemn the World, but to save the World. People without Christ are already condemned. (John 16:17-18). Jesus did, however, condemn the hypocritical behavior, false doctrines and false teachings of those who were leading people astray. He cleansed the Temple twice and rebuked Peter several times for his lack of spiritual knowledge and understanding and the Disciples for their lack of faith.**

*Judge not, and ye shall not be judged:  
condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned:  
forgive and ye shall be forgiven.* Luke, Chapter  
6, Verse 37.

In the above scripture, we are told not to “judge” or “condemn” others. However, the scripture is not saying that we are not to “judge” at all. If we are judging people and condemning them when we have sin in our own lives, then we are just as guilty as they are. Many people like to judge and condemn others when they have their own issues which need to be addressed. Judging with the intention of condemning is wrong.

God is the only one who has the right to both JUDGE and CONDEMN. We can judge the behavior of people without condemning them. We must warn people that certain things they or others are doing is improper and dangerous. Judgment carries a “heavy weight” and is meant to expose and correct the ungodly motives and attitudes of others. Jesus CLEANSED the Temple of the moneychangers twice and rebuked the Scribes, Pharisees and Lawyers for their hypocrisy. He used their ungodly behavior as examples of what we should NOT be doing.

We are doing the Church a disservice if we fail to expose the behavior of modern day moneychangers and hypocrites in the Church, as well as the false teachings of carnally minded ministers. There are ministers in many churches who teach that “the love of money is the root of all evil,” but you should give them all the money you can. We all know it takes money to maintain the Church and send the Gospel around the World.

However, many aspects of the “prosperity doctrine” is full of leaven which needs to be cleansed from the Temples.

## **EXPOSING ERROR**

*But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the Word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 2 Corinthians, Chapter 4, Verse 2.*

Years ago I had a dream about a man who was standing over a swimming pool holding a little baby in his hands. He was holding the baby out over the swimming pool and precariously throwing the child up and down over the pool in front of him. Suddenly the baby slipped out of his hands and fell into the water and drowned. I woke up out of a deep sleep horrified at the tragedy I had witnessed in the dream. The dream seemed so real it shook me to the core. It was as if I had actually seen this baby struggling and gasping for breath as it died. The Lord then spoke to me and said, “Many of my ministers are handling my Word deceitfully.”

The word “handling” in the above scripture is translated from the Greek word which means “adulterated.” If we are not careful of how we handle the Word of God, we could be adulterating His Word. The lives of many innocent Christians who have not grown or matured enough to know better are taught

**erroneous precepts and doctrines of devils. Many Christians lack wisdom and understanding because they are fed with false doctrines. Those doctrines are designed by Satan to keep God's people spiritually immature and in bondage.**

**The Scribes and Pharisees adulterated the Word of God by teaching that "the traditions of men" were to be preferred over the Word of God. They lead people astray with false doctrines and their hypocritical attitudes. If the message we carry is not unadulterated and pure, it will always lead others into discontentment, failure, spiritual disillusion, darkness and destruction.**

**If we fail to address and expose critical issues in the Church today, especially Church leaders, there will be many negative implications regarding the rest of the scripture. When line upon line and precept upon precept is not followed correctly, the Word of God becomes misrepresented and of no affect.**

**The Bible points out that many of the people of God are in error and in need of correction. We have a responsibility to point out the error of their ways so they can find the help they need. If we are judging people in a critical manner, we will not be helping them at all. We can only help them by showing them the error of their ways in a "non-condemning and loving manner." When we correct them scripturally with the right attitudes and motives in mind, we will be helping them to turn from their sin. We will also be helping to save their souls from death and cover their sins. (James, 5:19-20).**

*There are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. One of them, a prophet of their own, said "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." This testimony is true, "Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth." Titus, Chapter 1, Verses 10-13.*

Paul told Titus to "rebuke sharply" those in the Church who are deceivers and false teachers. If sin is not addressed in the Church, it will spread like wildfire. False teachers should not be permitted to spew forth doctrines of devils which cause people to break the commandments of God.

All sin must be pointed out so people who have been led astray by these false teachers can be lead back to the truth. Standing by idly and watching others inflict heavy casualties upon God's people through false doctrines is not biblical or acceptable. If we do not take measures to stop this injustice when we see it happening, we are not fulfilling our God given mandate to purge the Church of all unrighteousness.

Paul told Titus to “Exhort, and REBUKE with all authority, and let no man despise you.” (Titus, 2:15). Solomon said, “If you REBUKE a wise man he will love you.” (Proverbs, 9:8). Jesus said, “If someone sins against you to REBUKE them, and if they ask you for forgiveness to forgive them.” (Luke 17:3). Jesus also said, “As many as I love I REBUKE and chasten.” (Revelation, 3:19). When we rebuke others, it must be done out of a “spirit of love and not condemnation.”

One of the problems in the Church today is that the Church is filled with an assemblage of pacifists who are afraid to speak out against sin in the Church. Many pastors are afraid of losing affluent people in their congregations who give large amounts of money. Others are afraid they will lose people in key positions in their churches who are close friends and/or acquaintances. Yet, others are teaching false doctrines and have their congregations under the spell of their selfish ambitions and covetous hearts. It is no wonder Paul said, “Judgment must first begin at the house of God.” (1 Peter, 4:17)

## **JUDGEMENT AND DISCERNMENT**

*Moreover, I saw under the sun: In the place of judgment, wickedness was there; And in the place of righteousness, iniquity was there.*  
Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, Verse 16.

When we are weighing facts and information we have obtained to make proper decisions, we are using



**good judgment. When good judgment is deferred, wickedness will prevail. Many Christians fail to use good judgment when making important decisions which can affect their lives and the lives of those around them. Some Christians are hypocritical, callous and self-centered. Others lack discernment, godly wisdom and understanding because they have not been fed a proper diet of the Bread of Life. The truth concerning “judgment” eludes them, thus they fail miserably when they are making important decisions. We must seek the truth in order to find the truth.**

**Solomon, the author of the Book of Ecclesiastes, wrote: “when judgment is deferred, righteousness is replaced by iniquity.” Without discernment, we will be unable to recognize the enemy when he comes to beguile and tempt us into eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Without spiritual insight--we have no spiritual foresight. If we lack discernment and foresight, we will be blind and will not see or recognize the enemy when he comes with cunningness to beguile and deceive us.**

**King Solomon asked God for: “understanding so he could JUDGE His people and be able to discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people.” (1 Kings, 3:9). Discerning between good and bad is extremely important, especially when we are dealing with the lives of the people God has placed in our care and under our protection. Like Solomon, a righteous person will desire to judge those lives he has been entrusted with both righteously and truthfully.**

Before we can judge others, we must have **ALL THE FACTS**. We must never jump to our own conclusions until the truth has been revealed. When we are called upon we must trust God for discernment in judging others concerning important matters in the Church.

The concept of “biblical discernment” is defined as “perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtaining spiritual direction and understanding.” In layman’s terms that means when we lack understanding, we **CAN** obtain supernatural direction and understanding from God. Discernment can be described as “spiritual intuition.” When we are continuously walking close to God, the “eyes of our understanding” will be supernaturally enlightened by the Holy Spirit when and if we lack understanding.

## **RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT**

*The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.* Psalm, 37, Verse 30.

A righteous person will discuss the virtues of using good judgment with others. He will understand the importance of using good judgment, and will judge wisely himself. Because he is righteous and wise, he will be filled with discernment and good judgment. If we do not possess discernment and good judgment, we will become depressed under the spell of oppressing spirits. There will be no peace in our hearts because the fiery darts of the devil will leave us entrenched in the depths of despair. “The way of peace they know not, and there

is no judgment in their tongue: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.” (Isaiah, 59:8)

The Apostle Paul told us to, “Be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Corinthians 1:10). Paul also said, “But he that is spiritual JUDGETH all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.” (1 Corinthians 2:15). Judging is a characteristic of a righteous and wise person. Righteous judgment is pleasing to God. It is no wonder the devil tells people they should never judge others.

One of the most important things we must remember about judgment is that we are not to verbally abuse people when we are correcting them. If we only point out the weaknesses in others without offering them solutions, we are not judging righteously. Offering solutions which help to fix their problems is the “key” to understanding for them. When we do judge others, we must always judge according to scripture, not what WE perceive to be, or not to be, appropriate behavior.

## **JUDGING OURSELVES**

*For this cause, many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 1 Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verses 30-31*

*For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we*

*are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the World.* 2 Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verses 31-32.

**We must look at our own life objectively. If we rightly judge ourselves, we will not come under the judgment of Christ or others. Others may condemn us, but their condemnation will come from impure and carnal motives. The Bible tells us to “examine ourselves to see if we are of the faith.” Paul said, “if we do not judge ourselves, we may be condemned with the rest of the World.” One who judges righteously will not fail to judge himself faithfully and honestly.**

**I have been judged and maliciously condemned by others for things I never did. It comes with the territory. Satan is always trying to discredit ministers in order to stop people from listening to and supporting them. Many people hear RUMORS about others, which may or may not be true, and cannot wait to tell the whole World about them. We should never malign or condemn someone else just because we heard a rumor about them. We could be doing God, the person, and the Church a disservice and ruining someone’s reputation who has done nothing wrong.**

**We are the only one who can make the decision whether or not we will judge our self. The decision to examine our motives and attitudes toward God and our fellow man rests with each of us. If we fail to examine and judge our self, we will be exposing our self to much pain, heartache and suffering.**

**We examine ourselves by looking into the mirror of God's Word to see if we can see ourselves in the image of Christ. Does the Word of God expose the blemishes and scars of sin or spiritual infidelity in our spiritual countenance, or do we see our self in the likeness of Christ?**

**The chastisement of the Lord is never pleasant, but is sometimes necessary. If we fail to judge ourselves the Lord will judge each of us, and it could be unpleasant and/or severe. "For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." (Hebrews, 12:6). "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent." (Revelation, 3:19).**

**DARE ANY OF YOU, HAVING A MATTER AGAINST ANOTHER, GO TO THE LAW BEFORE THE UNRIGHTEOUS, AND NOT BEFORE THE SAINTS? DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT THE SAINTS WILL JUDGE THE WORLD? AND IF THE WORLD WILL BE JUDGED BY YOU, ARE YOU UNWORTHY TO JUDGE THE SMALLEST MATTERS? DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT WE WILL JUDGE ANGELS? HOW MUCH MORE THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO THIS LIFE? 1 Corinthians, Chapter 6, Verses 1-3.**

## **Chapter 17**

**+++++**

### **The Knowledge of Faith**

*And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors; and some, 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 into 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, Chapter 4, Verses 11-13.*

God placed the five-fold ministry in the Church to equip, edify and/or build up the saints for the work of the ministry. When we all come into the unity of the FAITH through the KNOWLEDGE of Christ, the BODY of Christ will become filled with His fullness. Christ will not be complete until His body has come “unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” In other words, the body of Christ is not perfect (complete) without unity and the full knowledge of the Son in the Church.

As Christians, we are all individual members which make up His body. We become knit together in Christ as members of His body, through unity, faith and

**knowledge. We possess the fullness of Christ when we measure up to the standard of righteousness Christ portrays. When we ALL become transformed into the FULLNESS of Christ, the Church will be complete.**

**The word “faith” appears in the Old Testament only two times. The word “believe” appears in the Old Testament only nineteen times. The word “faithful” appears in the Old Testament many times. However, the word “faithful” in the Old Testament does not refer to people with faith, but to people who were steadfast, trustworthy and loyal. For many in the Old Testament, the concept of “faith” was elusive and difficult to grasp. Today many people in the Church continue to struggle with the “concept” of faith just as many of God’s people did in Old Testament times.**

**Without unity and faith, the Body of Christ is not complete. The word “unity is only found one time in the Old Testament. The concept of faith and unity together are never mentioned in the Old Testament. The concept of being unified together in faith can only come through the knowledge of Christ.**

**The words “faith” and “believe” are similar and somewhat interrelated. However, they do not always have the same meaning in the Bible. Many Bible translations do not always differentiate clearly between the two, and many of them use the two words interchangeably.**

**Many people BELIEVE in God, or that there is a God, but they do not have much, if any, faith IN God. In other words, they believe God exists, but they do not have the faith to believe His Word or His promises. We**

**can be born again by the faith of the Son of God, and yet still not have the faith to believe the promises of God.**

**Many Christians seem to struggle with the concept of “faith” and how to receive by faith the things they desperately need from God. God’s people should not have a problem receiving His promises. Faith is not a complex issue. However, there are some issues which can and do hinder us from receiving the promises of God. When we learn what those issues are and make a concerted effort to correct them, we position ourselves to become believers and receivers of the promises of God.**

**Sin is the greatest issue which hinders people from receiving the promises of God. If we can take care of the sin problem in our lives, we will be able to understand what we need to do to with the other problems which are hindering our walk with the Lord. Then it simply becomes a matter of believing “by faith” and receiving “by faith” the promises of God.**

**When people pray asking God for His blessings and do not receive anything from Him, they may think what they are praying and asking for may not be His will. This may or may not be true. Many times, people do ask the Lord for things which are not His will for them. There are many things which people ask the Lord for that will or would hinder their walk with Him if He gave those things to them. God gives us specific instructions (knowledge) in His Word of what we are to pray for, how we are to pray, and how we can receive the things which we are asking of Him. (1 John, 5:14). The Lord’s Prayer gives us specific information of how**



we are to pray and what we are to pray for. (Matthew, 6:9-13).

## **OBTAINING FAITH**

*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* Romans, Chapter 10, Verse 17.

The first key to receiving faith is HEARING. Knowledge always comes before faith. Knowledge tells us how we can obtain faith. Without knowledge, faith will be elusive. Without the knowledge of how to obtain faith, we will have no faith. Without knowledge, our understanding will always be unfruitful. Faith rests upon the foundations of knowledge, wisdom and understanding. If we are going to believe by faith, we need to KNOW how to walk in faith.

Unfortunately, faith does not come just by reading, but by hearing. Reading can give us knowledge and can instruct us on how we can receive faith, but reading alone will not give us faith. We must start by listening to and obeying what God is saying to us if we are going to have faith. I am not saying that as we read and study God cannot speak to us. God can and does speak to us in many ways. As we read and study the Word of God, many times He will quicken to us the understanding of His Word.

Faith comes to us when we HEAR, understand, and receive what God is saying directly to us. He may also quicken His Word to us by His Spirit as we are reading His Word and/or hearing the Word spoken by someone else.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing comes by the “WORD” of God. The word “word” in the above scripture comes from the Greek word “rhema.” The word “rhema” does not refer to the written Word of God, but to a “spoken or direct” Word from God. It simply means a “word” spoken or directed specifically to an individual or individuals.

When a preacher delivers a good message on Sunday Morning it does not mean we are being given a “rhema” word from God. We can gain knowledge from what the preacher is saying, however, unless the Lord is quickening and imparting “new life” into our spirit through that word, it is not a “rhema” word. Many times people in congregations are just getting and receiving information from the pulpit which may or may not be true.

## **DEAD FAITH**

*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.* James, Chapter 3, Verse, 26.

According to James, just as the body is dead without the spirit, faith is dead without works. When faith is alive within us we will be producing “good works.” The lack of “works” in a Christian is a sure sign their faith is dead, dying, or not working at all.

Many people claim and think they have faith, however, they show no evidence that faith exists within them. They say they have faith, but it is obvious their faith is DEAD because they lack works. Many people who have dead faith replace works with words. The

scripture says “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the “evidence” of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1). Our works will always prove whether we have “living faith” or “dead faith.” Faith, plus nothing, will equal nothing. Our works will always prove that faith is alive in us when we are doing the “works” Christ is directing us to perform.

**THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.** A person with “living faith” will be living **BY** faith. Our faith is always demonstrated by our works. If we are doing nothing to promote or grow the Kingdom of God, our faith is useless. We more than likely have dead faith if we are not helping to encourage and minister to others around us.

A works-based religion is always rooted and grounded in “dead faith.” When the “root” of religion is dead, it cannot and will not produce life. A works-based religion tells us **WE** must do certain things before we can be saved. In other words, they think it is the works they do which ensures them they will receive eternal life. This doctrine is not biblical and will cause many to fall into the pit of destruction if they fail to repent of their sins.

All false religions are based upon the principle of a “works-based” religion. They believe if their good works outnumber their bad works, they will receive the promise of eternal life. Works based churches are just social clubs where members gather together to ease their consciences once or twice a week and fellowship with each other. The pastor may preach a 10 or 15 minute sermon, then they all head to the fellowship hall for the “main event.” They may give financial support

**to needy people in the community, and give to the local food bank, but their worship and reasonable service to God is non-existent.**

**In Christianity, our faith is not based on our works, but our faith in the “finished works” of Christ. It is our faith in Christ and HIS FINISHED works which assures us the promise of eternal life.**

**Many Christians who once produced faith based works have traded them for works based on the “social justice” movement. Their faith in God has been replaced by faith in their works. When works glorify MEN rather than God, they are known as “dead works.”**

**Faith-based works will always glorify God and not self. Dead works are always based upon presumption and speculation. Many people erroneously believe that “works alone” will please God. Works of faith will always be based upon our desire and willingness to be led by the Holy Spirit. Dead works are designed to ease the conscience and promote self-satisfaction and self-gratitude.**

**Unfortunately, many Christians fall into the trap of thinking they can please God by THEIR works. They think “If I put enough money in the offering, or help as many people as I can, God will accept me.” This attitude will always hinder their walk and relationship with the Lord. When faith-based works are replaced by “works” based upon social justice, all people have is another “form of godliness.” The social justice revolution will never justify anyone in the eyes of God.**

The promise of eternal life is a gift from God, and we do not have to labor to receive the promise. The Bible tells us that all we have to do to receive eternal life is to “repent of our sins” and BELIEVE on the name of Jesus Christ. We are saved by grace, though faith, in the Son of God. The promise of eternal life has nothing to do with the works WE do, but the “finished works” which Jesus did on our behalf at Calvary. Dead faith is unproductive and will only produce works which are spiritually unfruitful. “By their fruit you shall know them.” (Matthew, 7:16). If our works are not bearing fruit and lifting up Christ, then our faith is dead.

## **THE KEYS TO FAITH**

*Who will have all men to be saved, and come unto the knowledge of the truth.* 1 Timothy, Chapter 2, Verse 4.

Our faith is based on the knowledge we find in the Word of God. We are able to use the knowledge we have gained to produce fruit when we come to the knowledge of the truth. When we have received Christ as our Lord and Savior, His faith is imparted to us because we have received the knowledge of the Truth (Christ). After we receive and accept Christ as Lord and Savior, we are admonished to grow IN the knowledge of God and INCREASE our faith.

There are four keys which opens the door to faith for Believers. Many Christians do not use these keys which can produce faith in them. Instead, they settle for a faith which is based upon their works. They perform works they think will be pleasing to God.

**Thus, their faith is in their works, NOT in God. Jesus told the interpreters of the law they had “taken away the key to knowledge” from the people. In doing so, these people lacked wisdom, faith and understanding regarding the Word of God. In many churches today this same travesty continues to grow and flourish. They have a “form of godliness,” yet they deny the POWER of God which comes by faith in the “finished works” of Christ.**

**FAITH COMES BY HEARING AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD. The four keys which open the door to faith are:**

- 1. Knowledge**
- 2. Hearing**
- 3. Trusting**
- 4. Obeying**

**The knowledge of God’s Word tells us how we can obtain and retain faith. If we fail to have a good understanding of what God says regarding faith, we will have a problem growing in faith. If we are not growing in faith, we will have a problem being faithful to God regarding works of faith.**

**Hearing comes by listening to, understanding, and adhering to what God is saying to us. Because we are God’s children, He is always trying to communicate with us so we can learn how to INCREASE our faith and live a life filled with godly knowledge and wisdom. God desires for us to “grow in faith and in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter, 3:18).**

**Trusting and believing in what God is saying will open the door of faith to us. Believing what God says will take us on a journey through patience which will in turn lead us to the fulfillment of all His promises. Through “faith and patience” we receive the promises of God. (Hebrews, 6:12).**

**Obeying God gives us an opportunity to make a difference in our life and the lives of those around us. Obedience is not a chore. Obedience is an opportunity to make a difference and bring change in our life where and when change is needed. Obedience always leads to an opportunity to learn something new from the Lord or to help someone in need. If we are not obeying the commandments of God, we should not be expecting anything from Him when we ask Him for His blessings. Our words will fall on deaf ears if we have been disobedient.**

**The biggest problem people have with faith is the “believing” part. When people pray, and do not immediately see results, they tend to “believe” what they are petitioning God for is not His will. This may or may not be true. We know IF we pray according to HIS will, He hears us and will supply those things we desire, IF we believe. In many cases, it is not a matter of IF it is His will, but a matter of IF we believe.**

**Over the years I have found that many Christians do not receive what they need by faith because they “are not” persistent and insistent in their prayers. Faith is insistent and persistent. We cannot command God to do anything, but we can be persistent in asking and reminding God of the promises He has given to us. The widow who went before the unjust**

judge was granted her request because of her **PERSISTENCE**. (Luke, 18:1-8). God is our Judge, but He is not unjust and is willing to grant our wishes when we are faithful to Him and persistent in prayer. Jesus told us to be “persistent in prayer” and we would receive the promises of the Father.

I have found in praying for others that if I do not see results the first time I pray, I should **NOT** stop praying. I continue to pray until I see the desired results or the Lord tells me why the person cannot or will not receive what they are asking from God.

Many people give up when they do not see results the first time they pray. Others give up because they are **UNSURE** that what they are petitioning God for is His will. It is important that we know what the will of God is when we pray and ask Him for something. We know that “when we pray according to His will, He hears us and we **HAVE** the things we have asked of Him.” (1 John, 5:14). If we **KNOW** what the will of God is, we do not need to say “If it be thy will,” when we pray.

*My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding: yes if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures: then you will understand the fear of the*



*Lord, and find the knowledge of God.*

Proverbs, Chapter 2, Verses 1-5.

God gives us specific instruction for a reason. The knowledge of His Word instructs us HOW to live a life of freedom from the oppression of sin, sickness, poverty and fear. When we seek the knowledge of God as we would seek for hidden treasures, we will not only find His knowledge but also the treasures of wisdom and understanding.

Faith comes from HEARING what God is saying to us as individuals. The understanding of what God is saying comes from wisdom AND revelation. Without the knowledge that faith exists and how we can live by faith, we cannot and will not be fruitful in our daily walk with Christ.

Faith has nothing to do with our intellect or how much information we might possess. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing (what we hear) comes by the Word of God." With the knowledge of faith and how faith operates, we will understand how we can inherit by faith "the promises of God."

God always responds to faith. He does not respond to our doubt and unbelief. If we are going to possess faith, we are going to have to hear what the Spirit of God is saying to us. If we are under the tutelage of ministers who are not preaching the truth, we will have a hard time having and living by faith. What we believe WHEN we hear messages regarding the things of God determines whether we will or will not be candidates for ever increasing, mountain moving faith.

**The Apostle Paul wrote about the Law of Faith. Faith works by certain principles which are found in the Word of God. When the LIGHT of that knowledge illuminates our hearts and minds, we will find a living, working faith which WILL destroy all the works of the enemy. The Psalmist said, “The entrance of thy words giveth light (understanding).” (Psalms, 119:130.) When we walk in total obedience to the commandments and voice of God, He truly causes all things to “work together for our good.”**

**BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, FOR HE WHO COMES TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM. Hebrew, Chapter 11, Verse 6.**

## **Chapter 18**

**+++++**

### **A Living Faith**

*Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him.* Hebrews, Chapter 10, Verse 38.

Paul was saying that those who have been justified by faith will live by faith. As Christians, we have been forgiven of our sins and justified by our faith in the finished works of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If we are going to have a “living faith,” we are going to have to BELIEVE and trust in the LIVING WORD. Jesus is, of course, the “Living Word.” The Living Word must be “living within us” if we are going to be living by faith.

If we are going to walk in faith, our faith, must be rooted and grounded in the source of faith, Jesus Christ. When we have faith in the Word of God, we are having faith IN God. We must have faith in God’s Word before we can truly have faith in Him. Before we could know Christ, we had to hear about Christ in order to know He existed. When we have faith in God’s Word, we are having faith in Him. Our faith must be in God and His Word, or our works will be unproductive AND IN VAIN.

At one time or another we have all heard the term “blind faith.” However, there is no such thing as

“blind faith.” Faith is not blind. Faith SEES through the eyes of the spirit. Faith sees opportunity in the promises of God. The “just live by faith” because they do not focus on the problem but on the solution to the problem. Christ Jesus is the “answer” to all our problems. The answers to all our problems can be found in the Word of God. His promises are truly “YEA” and “AMEN” because their foundations rest upon the Word of Almighty God.

At one time or another we have all heard the term “simple faith.” Faith can be simple. However, even as simple as faith may be, faith may require more of us than we sometimes understand. In order for us to operate in faith, we must obtain and understand the knowledge of faith and how “simple faith,” works so we can receive the promises of God.

## **THE GOD KIND OF FAITH**

*So Jesus answered and said unto them, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say unto you, whoever says to this mountain, be removed and be cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things which he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says. Therefore, I say unto you, whatever things you ask for when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. Mark, Chapter 11, Verses 22-24.*

**When the above scriptures was translated from the Greek, the phrase “have faith in God” SHOULD have been translated “have the faith of God” or “have the God-kind of Faith.” As Christians, all the faith we have and receive comes from God. According to the Bible, God gives us the faith to believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. (Galatians, 2:20).**

**Many people are lacking the “God-kind of faith” because they lack the KNOWLEDGE which helps them to understand how faith works. We know that faith works by love, therefore, if we are going to have faith, we must be conduits of the love of God. Once we know how faith works and how faith is released within us, we will see changes in our life as well as the lives of others who we are holding up in prayer.**

**Praying without faith is praying without power. We can throw rocks at the mountain, rebuke, declare and decree all we want, but we will never be able to CAST the mountain into the sea without faith. Faith is persistent, insistent, unshakeable and unmoved by anything we may see, hear or feel.**

**There are no shortcuts to faith. Jesus is the only way to Heaven, and God’s Spirit is the only one who can give us faith. The God kind of faith is Holy Spirit oriented. Faith comes from the Life of Christ which dwells within us. Paul stated, “The life I live I now live by the faith OF the Son of God.”**

**Faith changes the way we perceive and understand the things we see and hear. We will look at things differently through the eyes of faith. With faith, we will respond differently to the cares and sorrows of**

**this World. Adversity will not have dominion over us when we believe by faith ALL the promises of God.**

**Faith does not need physical evidence to prove that “ALL things are working together for our good.” Faith is the only proof we need that God is on our side and He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. If we are diligently seeking God, our faith in His promises will carry us through to the other side of adversity during the trials, troubles and temptations of life.**

**Faith says that “with God all things are possible.” Faith goes beyond reason. Faith sees that the answer to our petitions are on the way BEFORE they are manifested. Reason MUST take a back seat to faith when we BELIEVE in the promises of God. We know the promises of God are for us because we have the KNOWLEDGE of His Word written upon and in our hearts. God places a treasure chest of faith within our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit when we choose to believe in Him and stand on His promises.**

*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as His divine power hath given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding and great promises: that by these we might be partakers*

*of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2 Peter, Chapter 1, Verses 2-4.*

All faith is based on revelation knowledge. All things which pertain to life and godliness are imparted to us by the knowledge of God through the Holy Spirit. If God has given us all things which pertain to life and godliness, faith must be one of those things. Faith in the finished works of Christ justifies us and imparts to us the gift of eternal life. The amount of faith we have in Christ will be in direct proportion to the knowledge we have of the Word of God and how much we trust Him. If we do not KNOW what faith can accomplish we will accomplish very little with what meager faith we possess.

Many Christians pray for God to “increase their faith.” However, what they need to ask God for is more LOVE. Faith is energized by love. The more of the love of God we possess, the more faith we will possess. Jesus was able to minister to people by faith because He had compassion for them.

If we are going to have and maintain faith, we are going to have to be faithful. If we lack faith, we must read, study, and meditate on God’s Word and pray for God to give us more love so we can possess MORE faith. When we fully understand how faith works, we can ask God to impart faith to us through the power of His love.

I have written down some of the most powerful scriptures in the Bible regarding faith and where they

**can be found. If you desire more faith, ask God to give you the knowledge and understanding you need as you read and meditate on these scriptures. Let the knowledge of His Word in these scriptures come alive within you. Digest “what is written” and you will find yourself on a journey leading you to the unseen treasures of faith and love found in His Word. God will impart His love, new life, and faith to us as we pray, meditate, and study His Word daily.**

**Faith works (is energized) by love. Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 6.**

**Now faith is the substance (foundation) of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verse 1.**

**Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, my soul shall have no pleasure in Him. Hebrews, Chapter 10, Verse 38.**

**But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verse 6.**

**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verse 8.**

**Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Ephesians, Chapter 6, Verse 16.**

**That your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 1 Corinthians, Chapter 2, Verse 5.**



**Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. 1 Corinthians, Chapter 16, Verse 13.**

**For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 7.**

**But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, “Be of good cheer daughter; your faith has made you well. Matthew, Chapter 9, Verse 22.**

**And all things, whatsoever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive. Matthew, Chapter 21, Verse 22.**

**So Jesus answered and said unto them, “Have faith in God.” Mark, Chapter 11, Verse 22.**

**“I say unto you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew, Chapter 17, Verse 20.**

**BELOVED, WHILE I WAS DILIGENT TO WRITE TO YOU CONCERNING OUR COMMON SALVATION, I FOUND IT NECESSARY TO WRITE TO YOU EXHORTING YOU TO CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS. Jude, Verse 3.**

## **Chapter 19**

+++++

### **The Knowledge of Grace and Mercy**

*For by grace are you saved through faith,  
and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of  
God, not of works lest anyone should boast.*  
Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 8-9.

The word “grace” in the New Testament is derived from the Greek word “charis.” Grace is defined as “the unmerited favor of God and His willingness to act divinely on our behalf.” Grace says that even though we do not deserve anything from God, we can be candidates of the favor of God.

The concept of grace is more than what many may think it might be. Grace is more than “God’s unmerited favor” to a lost and dying World. Grace is something we grow into as we gain the knowledge and truth found in the Word of God. Grace is not just something we receive, but something we GIVE as well. Although we are not worthy of God’s grace and mercy, He has shown us grace and mercy. As Christians, we too are to extend grace and mercy to others. God extended His grace and mercy to us, thus we are required to do the same for others.

The Book of Genesis is the first place in the Bible where the word “grace” is found. The Bible says, “Noah FOUND grace in the eyes of God.” If Noah FOUND grace, he must have been seeking grace. The

virtue of God's grace and mercy is available to ALL who seek it. Grace and mercy were extended to mankind at Calvary when Christ died for the sins of all mankind. Although God's grace and mercy are available to all mankind, it is our responsibility to take the initiative to seek God and His grace and mercy. Having the knowledge and understanding that grace and mercy exists is the first step to finding grace and mercy in the eyes of God.

## **SAVING GRACE**

Romans 5:20-21 says, "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." God's grace is so powerful it can change the heart of a sinner where darkness rules and reigns and make it a haven of righteousness and grace.

By nature, all men are born dead in their trespasses and sins without Christ. There is no spiritual life in the carnal heart and mind. The carnal heart and mind of man is enmity with God. There is no true spiritual awareness and heart-felt remorse for sin where Christ does not dwell. People may know and understand the concept of sin, but the knowledge of God's grace and mercy is not something the majority of people have experienced. Those who have a conscience may feel guilty when they do something wrong. However, their guilt is not directly associated with the Spirit of God, but with their own conscience.

Everyone is born with a conscience and knows the difference between right and wrong and good and

evil. As people grow they become influenced by people as well as evil spirits which contend for their souls. According to the Apostle Paul, natural men cannot receive, know, or understand the things of God. The things of God can only be discerned by those who are spiritually minded.

We are saved by grace through the faith of the Son of God when we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior. God not only gives us grace, but He gives us the faith to “believe” in His grace. God’s grace is much more powerful than sin. God’s grace is so powerful it can take the worst sinner from the depths of depravity to the pinnacle of righteousness and impart to him eternal life. The Bible says that “while we were YET sinners Christ died for our sins.” God’s grace and mercy were working on our behalf BEFORE we came to the realization that we needed a Savior.

We would all still be dead in our trespasses and sins without the KNOWLEDGE of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul tells us that no one can be saved without the knowledge of salvation. How can someone be saved if they do not know they are lost and in need of a Savior?

God’s grace and mercy are byproducts of His love. If the love of God did not exist, the grace and mercy of God would not exist. It is God’s grace which leads us to the knowledge of His mercy.

## **GOD’S MERCY**

*But God who is rich in mercy for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we*

*were dead in sins, hath quicken us together with Christ, by grace are ye saved.* Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 4-5.

The word “mercy” is derived from the Greek word “eleos.” Mercy is another word for “compassion.” Like grace, mercy is not just something we receive, but something we show to others. Although someone does not deserve our unmerited favor, we will be moved by compassion for them if we are walking in love. We will have compassion for others if the love of God abides within our hearts.

Jesus commanded us to have compassion for our enemies. He also told us to forgive those who revile and persecute us. Jesus told us to forgive those who sin against us. If we fail to forgive, Jesus said we would NOT be forgiven. (Mark, 11:25-26).

People who sin against us are usually unsaved or are spiritually immature. They may be less fortunate and less knowledgeable concerning the ways of God than we are. They may not possess the ability through the power of the Holy Spirit to refrain from their un-Christ like behavior. When we have the knowledge and understanding of WHY people do the things they do, we can have compassion and forgive them for the way they may have treated us.

Knowledge and wisdom give us a greater understanding of why people do the things they do. God has compassion on all people because He knows they do not have the ability within themselves to change their behavior without Christ.

**The motives and attitudes of carnal men will always lead them into the sin of pride. All mankind will continue to suffer in the bondage of sin unless they find the only answer to their sin problem--Jesus. As Christians, we are required to have compassion on those who may not have the wisdom and understanding we may possess. We are admonished to forgive all who have sinned against us or we will not be forgiven.**

**I heard a story about a missionary who went to Africa to meet with a friend who had been ministering the Gospel in a small village to the indigenous people of the area. The missionary who was visiting Africa for the first time walked into the village where the other missionary was living. He was astonished at seeing all the villagers walking around nude. He looked at his missionary friend who had come out to greet him and said "My God, brother, these people are all naked." The missionary living in the village softly responded and said "Yes they are, but they do not KNOW that yet."**

**When we understand that people do not have the same knowledge and understanding which we might possess, we can be more tolerant with them. That is not to say we should condone their behavior, or turn a blind eye to their sin, because we should not. However, we need to use patience, wisdom and understanding to lead them to the truth. The best way we can do that is to lead by example. We may be required to correct them at times, but ONLY when the Holy Spirit leads us to do so.**

**Timing is important when we are dealing with the souls of men and women. It is imperative that we be**

led by the Holy Spirit when we are correcting others. Where sin abounds, grace and mercy will lead people to the knowledge of the truth when we are prayerful and patient with them. God's grace and mercy are more powerful than sin.

## **FORGIVING GRACE**

*If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive men of their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

Matthew, Chapter 6, Verses 14-15.

Several years ago, I preached the same message at three Pentecostal Churches regarding forgiving people when they had sinned against us. Only God can forgive people when they sin against Him. According to the above scriptures, we are commanded to forgive people when they sin against us. I had preached in all three of those Pentecostal Churches on several occasions. I was led by the Lord to preach the same message to each Church, which I did. It became apparent that the message I preached to the three Churches was not received by the Pastors. These Pastors never again asked me back to preach to their congregations. I preached that same message at many other Churches as well, and the message was well received by the Pastors and their congregations.

After preaching the message of forgiveness at the last of the Pentecostal Churches which rejected the message, a visiting Baptist Pastor of another Church approached me. He very solemnly agreed with what I

**preached and said that every Church in the World needed to hear the message on forgiveness which I had preached that night. He invited me on several occasions to preach at his Church.**

**There is no ambiguity about what the above scripture is saying. The Bible is clear concerning the topic of forgiveness. The Bible plainly states “if we do not forgive others, we will not be forgiven.” Although we are all unworthy of God’s grace and mercy, Jesus paid the price so we all could be forgiven of our sins and trespasses. We are commanded to grant to others the same grace and mercy we received from God when we asked Him for forgiveness. Jesus told us to “forgive our brother seven times seventy” when we are asked to forgive. The Bible says “he who shows no mercy will be judged without mercy, and mercy triumphs over judgment.” (James, 2:13).**

**Most people have heard the saying “to err is human; to forgive is divine.” We can forgive others because the divine nature of Christ dwells within our hearts by faith. Because we have been forgiven--we must also forgive. We must give grace and show mercy to others because WE have been given grace and shown mercy by God.**

**The knowledge of grace and mercy admonishes us to forgive others whether they deserve grace and mercy or not. When we learn how to forgive unconditionally, we will have learned how to LOVE unconditionally. We did not deserve mercy and grace from God, but nevertheless, He forgives us of our sins when we ask Him. God is faithful and just to forgive ALL who sincerely repent and ask Him for forgiveness,**



**and He thoroughly cleanses them from ALL  
unrighteousness.**

**GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE WILL BE WITH  
YOU FROM GOD THE FATHER AND FROM THE  
LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF THE FATHER,  
IN TRUTH AND LOVE. 2 John, Verse 3.**

## **Chapter 20**

**+++++**

### **The Knowledge of Power**

*But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.* Acts, Chapter 1, Verse 8.

Many Christians possess the knowledge that the power of God has been made available to them. However, they fail to obtain the power of God which can and will enable them to walk in the freedom of the Holy Spirit. All the power we need to live a life of godliness comes **THROUGH** obtaining and using the knowledge God has given us. Knowledge gives us the information we need to understand the power of God and how His power can and will operate in our life. Once we understand how to receive power from God, we are on our way to living a life free from oppression and the cares and encumbrances of this World.

When we find freedom in the Lord, we will be able to show others how they too can walk in freedom. Possessing the knowledge of what the Bible tells us regarding the **POWER** of God will take us on a journey where faith declares that with God **ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE**.

**Just “knowing” what the Bible says regarding power does not automatically guarantee us we will receive power. Ignorance will guarantee us THAT we will never walk in faith by His power. The divine power which leads to a life of freedom is given to us through the knowledge of God by the Holy Spirit. We must first be FILLED with the Holy Spirit before we can walk daily in His power.**

**The Holy Spirit gives us the power to be witnesses of Christ to a lost and dying World. The English word “witness” is derived from the Greek word “martus” which means martyr. As Christians, we are all called to be martyrs for Christ. All Christians will not be called to be physically slain as martyrs for the cause of Christ. However, we all have been called to be “spiritual martyrs” for Him. We all must die to self in order that Christ can live richly and consistently within us. The old man must be put to death so the new man (Christ) can live richly within our hearts.**

**A few years ago, I was preaching at a Church near downtown Cleveland, Ohio. During the altar service the Lord told me to call up a young man and prophesy to Him. He was wearing a T-shirt which read “Witness.” I spoke several words the Lord gave me over the young man regarding his ministry and other things in his life. The Lord then told me He had called this young man to be a martyr for Him. Unknown to the young man, the T-shirt which he was wearing was a prophetic word of his calling and destiny. I prophesied to him calling him a “martyr” for Christ. I do not think he understood what I was saying to him. I was told later by his Pastor that this young man did a lot of**

street witnessing in and around the most dangerous areas in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. He witnessed in many dangerous areas where most people, especially Christians, would dare not go.

Whether we are called to be spiritual or physical martyrs for Christ, we all have the responsibility of being “witnesses” of the Gospel of Christ. God has given us the Holy Spirit so we can share Christ and His Word with others. We cannot and will not be witnesses (spiritual martyrs) for Christ until we have died to self. Jesus told us we must “deny ourselves, pick up our cross daily, and follow after Him.”

The Cross was a place of death. Until and unless we die to self, we will be unable to pick up our cross and follow Christ. When we deny ourselves, and become crucified WITH Christ, we become spiritual martyrs for Him. The Apostle Paul said, “I die daily.” He meant for Christ’s sake he put to death the “works of the flesh” so he could follow Christ.

The Bible tells us to, “Put to death the works of the flesh.” We receive the power to be martyrs for Christ when we FILLED with the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes and dwells richly within us, we will glorify God in our earthen vessels. God expects us to perform the works He has empowered us to do by His Spirit.

Several years ago my wife and I watched a movie about an elderly Indian chief who thought he was going to die soon. He woke up one morning and said to his nephew, “It’s a good day to die.” He left the village that morning and went up into the mountains to die.

My wife and I were attending Church one Sunday morning not long after we watched the movie. After Church as we were walking out to the car, I looked at her and said “it’s a good day to die.” Thinking I was serious she gave me a look like she thought I knew something bad was going to happen. Then I said to her “It is a good day to die to self.” The look on her face went from serious to a smile when she realized I was talking about dying to self. Every day IS a “good day” for us to die to self. We must die daily to self so Christ can live and be glorified in us daily.

The Apostle Paul said “I die daily.” As Christians we are admonished to “put to death the works of the flesh, pick up our cross, and follow Christ daily.” When we deny our self and pick up our cross daily, we are dying TO self. We must “die daily” if we are going to “walk daily” with Christ in the Spirit.

God has called us as Christians to be bearers and conduits of His power. We do not and will not possess His power until the Holy Spirit comes upon us and we are baptized with His power and anointing. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be unable to promote and advance the Kingdom of God here on earth.

## **POWER FROM ON HIGH**

*And behold I send the promise of my Father on you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*  
Luke, Chapter 24, Verse 49.

**The Disciples were told by Jesus to “tarry” in Jerusalem until they received the promise of “power from on high.” The power of the Holy Spirit came upon them as they were tarrying in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. They were waiting for the power of the Holy Spirit to fall upon them AS they prayed in the upper room as Christ told them to do.**

**Jesus had given the Disciples a command to “wait and pray” in Jerusalem until they were endued with the power of the Holy Spirit. The word “endued” comes from the Greek word which means “clothed.” In other words, the Disciples had to wait and pray in Jerusalem until they were “clothed” with the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**The Holy Spirit is like a garment which clothes our inner most being (inner man) with the Power of God. The Holy Spirit is given to us so we can not only be witnesses of Christ, but so we can be conduits of His power as well. When we are clothed with the Holy Spirit, we are clothed with His POWER.**

*Most assuredly, I say unto you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to my Father. John, Chapter 14, Verse 12.*

**Jesus told us we WILL do the same works He did and greater (more of the same) works if we believe. According to Christ, we can not only do the things He did, but we can do greater things, or a greater number of things, than He did. Most Christians do not believe**

they can do the “works” of Christ--much less “greater works.”

Many Christians do not understand the potential they have through the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within them. Jesus did not say ONLY the Pastors or Evangelists WOULD do the greater works. He said ALL those who BELIEVE in Him would be able to do the “greater (in greater numbers) works.”

Because Christians have listened to false doctrines and misinformation over the years, they have been left somewhat powerless. They do not realize that the call to do the “greater works” is given to ALL who have been filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said if we are going to perform the greater works, we must BELIEVE we can.

## **THE GARMENT OF GOD**

The Holy Spirit is like a garment. Jesus told the disciples they would be endued, or clothed, with power from on high. When we are clothed with the Holy Spirit we are clothed with “power from on high.” We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the “greater works.” When we are FILLED with the Holy Spirit, our spirit is clothed with ALL the power we need to do “the greater works.”

The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to transform the lives of others through the power of prayer. Prayer changes (fixes) things. We pray and believe, and God fixes. If we are going to be agents of change in the lives of individuals, we must be “clothed” with the garment of God’s power.

The key to “being clothed” with the garment of God is “waiting and praying for the Holy Spirit to endue us with “power from on high.” The Disciples had to wait (tarry) and pray in in the upper room in Jerusalem until they received the PROMISE of power. They had to wait for the Holy Spirit to give them the power to do the greater works. Before we can do the works of Christ, we have to pray, fast and BELIEVE God for power. Just like the Disciples, we will not be able to perform the works of Christ until we are FILLED with His power from on high.

Before we can transform others through the power of the Holy Spirit, we must first be transformed ourselves. The Holy Spirit is the instrument of change which transforms us into the image of Christ so we can do the “works” of Christ. When we are FILLED with the fullness of Christ, we become FILLED with the power of the Holy Spirit. Power to do the greater works does not come by works, but by FAITH. By faith, when we have been changed into the image of Christ, we will see lives transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Making Melody**

Many Pentecostals use the term “Spirit Filled” erroneously. The word “filled” is a transitive verb. It shows things will happen after someone is “filled.” Many people claim they are Spirit filled, but they are mistakenly using the term “Spirit Filled” when they should be using the term “Spirit Baptized.” When the people were FILLED with the Spirit on the day of Pentecost, they went out immediately and preached the Gospel with signs and wonders following them wherever they went. They were admonished and



**motivated by the Spirit of God, to do the “works” which Christ did. How many Christians who call themselves “Spirit Filled” are doing the works that Jesus did and more?**

**The Bible tells us when we are FILLED with the Spirit, our motives, attitudes, temperament and language will change. We will be speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord. (Ephesians, 5:19). We cannot be filled with the Spirit and be oppressed, downtrodden and vexed at the same time as many Christians are.**

**A Pastor I knew several years ago always said He was “Spirit filled” but at times he had a problem with leakage. When we are filled with the Spirit, we can spring a leak if we leave an open door for the enemy. We become REFILLED and recharged as we continually worship and praise God in the Spirit of Holiness.**

**We can live a life empowered by the Holy Spirit if we desire to do so. It is our choice. As Christians, we are all called to spiritual martyrdom for Christ. We must put to death the “works” of the flesh before the Holy Spirit can bear fruit which will remain within us. We MUST put to death the “works of the flesh” before we can effectively do the “works” of Christ.” If we are going to live a life of empowerment in this World, we must live it through and in Christ Jesus. Christ gives us the power we need in order to live an abundant life.**

**FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF  
CHRIST, FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD TO  
SALVATION FOR EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES,  
FOR THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO FOR THE  
GREEK. Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 16.**

## **Chapter 21**

+++++

### **The Renewing of the Mind**

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

The mind is where we store and process information and knowledge. Before we came to know Christ, our knowledge and understanding of God and His Word was imperfect and thus unfruitful. We were unable to process any knowledge of truth because Christ did not reside within us. Jesus is the personification of Truth. In order to process spiritual information and knowledge, we must be renewed in the “spirit of our minds.” (Ephesians, 4:22). To be renewed in the “spirit of our minds” means our attitudes and motives must be changed. Our motives and attitudes must be Christ empowered. When our minds become spiritually renewed we will be “Christ-like” and spiritually minded.

Before coming to the knowledge of the truth, our minds were conformed to and in bondage to the knowledge, reasoning and vain imaginations of this World. The Bible tells us “that to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” (Romans, 8:6). The carnal mind is enmity with God.

**As Christians, if we do not have peace, and if life seems to be throwing us a lot of curve balls, it is probably because we are somewhat carnally minded. True life and peace does not exist outside of the knowledge of God.**

**The Bible says, “the carnal mind is the enemy of God.” When our minds are rooted and grounded in the knowledge, reasoning and vain imaginations of this World, our thoughts can be considered to be enmity against God. The Bible tells us to be renewed in the “spirit of our minds.” The carnal mind cannot receive the knowledge of God because it does not understand or know how to process such knowledge.**

## **BEING SPIRITUALLY MINDED**

**It has been said “the mind is a terrible thing to waste.” Spiritually speaking, the devil takes a terrible toll on every person who has not been “renewed” in the spirit of the mind. The mind of the believer will not be established in truth and righteousness if they do not acknowledge or understand the principles of God’s Word.**

**A mind which has not been renewed by the Spirit of God through the power of revelation is a mind bound in spiritual darkness and depravity. True freedom of thought comes only through the Spirit of Liberty.**

**As Christians, we have the potential to be “spiritually minded.” When we received Christ as Lord and Savior, we also received the mind of Christ. Even though we have received the mind of Christ, we cannot and will not make decisions based on the righteousness of God if we remain carnally minded.**

**Christians will remain carnally minded when they fail to renew their minds to the truth. Carnal Christianity is a problem in many Churches. People can be born again, but unless their spiritual minds are renewed through the knowledge and understanding of God, their lives will remain somewhat fruitless.**

**The mind is like a personal computer. It can only act upon the information which has been downloaded into it. The advent of the Information Age has given us a wealth of knowledge and information. However, this information is useless without understanding and wisdom. If our personal computers (minds) are filled with carnal thoughts and information concerning spiritual things, our knowledge and understanding of God and His Word will be unfruitful.**

**We can reverse the curse of being carnally minded by downloading the knowledge and truth of God's Word into our personal computers (our minds). It is the truth which sets us free and transforms us into the image of Christ. If Christ sets us free, we are "free indeed." When our minds have been spiritually transformed, we will be able to walk in the "fullness" of Christ. We become one with Christ by obtaining godly information and refusing to walk in and be bound by the "works of the flesh."**

**If we are not continually walking in the Spirit, we will be fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. People who walk in the flesh are carnally minded. Their works are dictated and directed by the flesh. People who are spiritually minded will walk in the Spirit. They will, by nature, be fulfilling the "Spirit of the Law." In Christ, we live and move and have our being.**

## **NEW BEGINNINGS**

When we are born-again we become a new creation in Christ. New Life is imparted to us by the Spirit of Christ. We have been changed from death unto Life the moment we receive Christ as our Lord and Savior. We have been freed from the bondage of the Law of Sin and Death because we have been infused with the divine nature of Christ. After we are born again, Christ takes us in a new direction. We will no longer desire to walk in the ways of the past and fulfill the lusts of the flesh if we have truly been born again. However, just because we have been born again of the Spirit of Christ does not mean we are filled with all the knowledge and understanding we need.

Until we are renewed in the “spirit of the mind,” the carnal mind will continue to dictate and direct our lives. Until we have an impartation of the knowledge of God through revelation, the carnal mind will continue to control our thoughts. It is imperative that we “put to death” the works of the flesh so we can live for Christ.

When we are born-again it is our responsibility to seek and find the knowledge we need in order to become a faithful and productive citizen of the Kingdom of God. Many Churches are just social clubs void of godly knowledge, wisdom and understanding. Many Christians meet socially on Sunday and “eat, drink and be merry.” The only fruit, however, which can be seen in some Churches is a bowl of fruit sitting on the counter in the Church kitchen.

Many Christians will have a zeal for God when they are first born again. A zeal for God is admirable,

**however, a zeal without knowledge can be unfruitful and even dangerous. A zeal without knowledge will only lead to heartbreak, shame and frustration. The Apostle Paul had a zeal for God BEFORE he became saved, and tried to destroy the Church through ignorance. After Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus, he had to gain the knowledge of God before he could be an effective witness for Christ. He had to take time to pray, study and seek the Lord before He could be sent as an Apostle to the Gentiles.**

**On the other hand, knowledge WITHOUT zeal is fruitless and unprofitable. We may know the scriptures inside and out, however, if we do not have a zeal for God our knowledge will be unfruitful. According to the Bible, Jesus was consumed with the zeal of the Lord. Isaiah said Christ would be "clad with zeal as a cloak." When we are "clothed" with the Holy Spirit--we will be "clothed" with the zeal of the Lord. When we are clothed with the Holy Spirit--we will be clothed with the knowledge and understanding of God's Word. Then and only then will we KNOW the truth and produce godly fruit which transforms us into the image of Christ.**

**Christ met many zealous Jewish leaders when He visited Jerusalem. However, like Paul, their zeal was not a zeal with knowledge, but was a zeal inspired by Jewish tradition. Their faith was in their traditions rather than in the Word of God. They substituted the knowledge of God with the traditions of men. They taught that their traditions were honorable before God. In doing so they were shutting up the Kingdom of**

**Heaven to themselves and closing out the common people as well.**

**The traditions of men will always choke the Word of God and make it unfruitful. Today many Church leaders disavow the knowledge of God to their congregations by substituting truth with the traditions of men, just as the zealous Jewish leaders did.**

**A zeal accompanied with godly knowledge in the Church can and will be contagious. It can fill the entire congregation with righteousness, joy and peace through the power of the Holy Spirit. When we possess the knowledge of the Lord, we will zealously begin a new chapter in our life. Knowledge which is clothed in the zeal of God will establish the joy of the Lord within our hearts and minds. Knowledge informs us that “the joy of the Lord is our strength.” Knowledge tells us the joy of the Lord is available. A zeal WITH knowledge will take us to the place where we can believe and receive everything God has promised to us.**

**The “renewed mind” will take us to places in Christ which we never dreamed or imagined were possible. The renewed mind will set us free from all the oppressing thoughts and deeds of the past. It will take us on a journey of faith which says, “with God all things are possible.” When the carnal mind has been replaced with the knowledge of God and His Word, we will look at things differently. We will begin to see things through the eyes of God and not through the eyes of “carnal men.” We will be transformed into the “express image of the Lord Jesus Christ” which will enable us to serve God and perform the **GREATER WORKS** He said we could do.**



**The Bible tells us that God is omniscient. His knowledge, understanding and wisdom are infinite. With knowledge God created the universe. God understands the importance of knowledge and wisdom. That is why He shares His knowledge with those who diligently seek Him.**

**If our minds are not renewed and established in truth and righteousness, the will of God for our life will remain elusive. We will be unable to understand how the Kingdom of God operates, and we will fail in our attempts to please Him.**

**God is omnipotent. He possesses all power and authority. God understands the importance of power and authority and how they can change people's lives. That is why He imparts His power and authority to His people who earnestly and passionately seek Him. When we understand the principles of how power and authority works in the life of the Believer, we will be victorious in every area of our life.**

**BEHOLD, I GIVE YOU THE AUTHORITY TO TRAMPLE ON SERPENTS AND SCORPIONS, AND OVER ALL THE POWER OF THE ENEMY, AND NOTHING SHALL BY ANY MEANS HURT YOU.  
Luke, Chapter 10, Verse 20.**

## **Chapter 22**

+++++

### **Casting Down Imaginations**

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but they are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. 2*  
Corinthians, Chapter 10, Verses 3-5.

The Apostle Paul stated that “we are at war.” Although we live in the natural realm, the war we are fighting is not a natural war, but a spiritual one. Paul wrote in the Book of Ephesians that “the war we are waging is against principalities and powers of darkness; and spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Our enemies cannot be seen with the naked eye. Without knowledge we will fail to understand how our enemies plan to entrap us. That is why we must have spiritual discernment and insight into the realm of the spirit and how our enemy operates. Satan’s greatest weapon is his “power to deceive.” Because man was born into sin, the carnal mind is already a candidate for deception. Without the knowledge of God, people will

**remain in a state of deception under the power and control of the carnal mind and spiritual darkness.**

**Our mind is the most important physical thing we possess. It is the place where we make decisions based upon what we know, have experienced and what we have learned over the years. The knowledge we possess and how we use that knowledge will determine the outcome of many events which transpire in our lifetime.**

**When we reject godly knowledge and wisdom, we can be assured we will be facing many problems which we should not have to face in life. When we seek and find the knowledge of God, we can be assured we will be victorious over all the problems we face in life if we apply His truth to our lives.**

**The mind has been called the “fortress of the soul.” Spiritual battles are continually being fought to retain possession of people’s souls and minds. All spiritual battles are fought on the battlefield of the mind. We cannot win the battle for our soul without Christ. If we are not renewed in the “spirit of our mind,” we will fail to have a proper understanding of how we can defeat our enemies. With knowledge we will be able to use the principles of spiritual warfare which will assure us victory in every area of our life.**

**Knowledge is the key to understanding how our enemy operates, as well as the ways in which we can defeat him. Without knowledge of how to wage spiritual warfare, we will lose the war. God has given us all the weapons we need in order to defeat the forces**

**of darkness who are continually trying to hinder our walk with Christ.**

**The Apostle Paul said the weapons of our warfare are “not carnal.” Our weapons are MIGHTY in their ability to pull down strongholds which exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. Without the knowledge and power of God, we cannot penetrate the darkness which builds and sustains the strongholds which forcibly keep the carnal mind in bondage.**

**Carnal thoughts are the ENEMY of God. They are strongholds which stand in opposition to the knowledge of God and His Word. Carnal thoughts are always rooted and grounded in the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.”**

**Human logic is the enemy of our soul. There is nothing wrong with logic in a natural setting, however, logic is useless on a spiritual battlefield. When we are dealing with spiritual matters we must be spiritually minded, reasonable and responsible. Our enemy is going about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. We MUST be diligent, sober and constantly on guard bearing the WHOLE armor of God in the presence of our enemy.**

**In itself, natural logic is not necessarily evil. However, ANY logic which exalts itself against the knowledge of God is evil. Where human logic and reason are all that is relied upon, natural man will be void of faith. Faith always defies and supersedes human logic. Faith says that with God all things are possible; human reason and logic disagrees. Faith says we can; human logic says we cannot. If we are going to**

**trust and believe God, we must put aside ALL human logic and reason. The faith which gives us an overwhelming advantage over Satan comes from KNOWING, trusting and believing in the power of God as we are fighting spiritual battles.**

**When men are carnally minded rather than spiritually minded, natural reason and logic supersedes and super-impedes the Law of Faith. Casting down human reason which exalts itself against the knowledge of God will always lead us to victory and freedom in the Holy Spirit.**

**Natural reason will always reject the supernatural reasoning of God. Faith goes beyond natural reason and takes us into the realm where “all things are possible” and the supernatural triumphs. To natural man spiritual weapons do not make any sense. To Christians our weapons are MIGHTY THROUGH GOD when it comes to casting down and eliminating strongholds which keep the carnal mind in bondage. When the carnal mind has been TRANSFORMED by the renewing of the mind, faith will rule and reign in righteousness.**

**Many people try to understand the Bible by using human logic and understanding. However, the natural mind will always oppose the truths which are found in the Word of God. Human logic and reason can never UNDERSTAND that the knowledge of God can only be spiritually discerned. Spiritual knowledge cannot and will not be received nor UNDERSTOOD correctly or successfully by the carnal mind.**

**Doubt and unbelief are enemies of the soul. They are rooted and grounded in the depths of deception. Faith, on the other hand, is rooted and grounded in the concept of spiritual understanding rather than natural logic. The carnal mind will always DOUBT the Word of God. The spiritual mind will always BELIEVE the Word of God. To be carnally minded is DEATH. To be spiritually minded is LIFE. Our righteousness which comes by faith in God depends on us believing what God says, not on what the carnal mind dictates.**

## **DECEPTION**

**If we are going to be successful in winning the battle for our soul, we must realize how beguilement affects and infects our daily life. If we fail to recognize the role beguilement plays in everyday life, we will be unable to recognize the enemy when he comes to deceive us. Deception is a weapon of the enemy which is designed to draw us into sin and depravity through the power of beguilement.**

**When we understand how our enemy operates, we will be on constant alert if we desire to walk in freedom. Sooner or later the enemy will place before us an opportunity which looks good. In reality, however, it is an attempt to invade and conquer territory within our minds.**

**Some Christians lose many battles because they fail to have the knowledge and understanding of how they can overcome the enemy. Christians must realize the BATTLE FOR THEIR MIND is also the battle for their soul. If Satan can control the mind he can destroy**

**the soul. Without the knowledge of Truth, people lose the battle for their souls.**

**One of the greatest weapons a natural army possesses is the weapon of deception. Deception in warfare is taught at military academies around the World. Satan is a master of deception. Through beguilement the serpent in the Garden of Eden convinced Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit. Adam also ate of the forbidden fruit, thus causing the entire World to fall into sin and chaos.**

**If we are going to be successful at discerning the deception of the enemy and how we can defeat him, we must use ALL the weapons we have at our disposal. Our only hope for defeating our enemy lies in the knowledge, wisdom and understanding we find in the Word of God. A good book on spiritual warfare will empower us with the knowledge we need to defeat our spiritual enemies.**

**The Bible says many people “deceive themselves.” (James, 1:22). Most people cannot grasp the concept of self-deceit. Even the Science of Natural Psychology teaches the reality of self-deception. People subconsciously deceive themselves and usually never become aware of the fact that they have deceived themselves.**

**Many Christians also deceive themselves. Self-deception is a byproduct of a carnal mind. Many Christians do not need the enemy to deceive them. Their minds are already deceived and open to deception because they are carnally minded. Only the knowledge**

of God can free someone from the relentless, clinging grip of carnality, spiritual darkness and deception.

## **STRATEGY**

The first rule of spiritual warfare deals with strategy. If we are going to win the battle of the mind, we must have a plan to defeat the enemy. Our enemy is out to defeat us as well. Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy and he is very good (bad) at what he does. However, we have the knowledge of God and the weapons of warfare which He has given us. They are more than sufficient to destroy the works of our enemy. We have a bigger stick than he has. In other words, our weapons are much more powerful than our enemy's weapons. The enemy, and his strategies, weapons and strongholds are no match for the knowledge and power of God when used properly.

Satan has been using the same strategies for millennia, and unfortunately he is very proficient and successful at what he does. However, as born-again Christians, there is no weapon Satan can form against us that will prosper if we possess and utilize the knowledge and wisdom God which has given us.

We must put on the "whole armor of God" for our strategy to work. Strategic weapons only work when they are used and applied correctly. If we do not put on the WHOLE armor of God, we are leaving ourselves vulnerable to the deception of the enemy. They will invade and conquer valuable territory in our minds with their fiery darts if we do not use godly wisdom and understanding.



**The knowledge of God will give us strategies which we can use to defeat our enemy. Finding, reading and studying a good book on Spiritual Warfare would be a good investment for those who are seeking more information regarding the “Weapons of our Warfare.” God’s power is unlimited. He has given us HIS armor and His weapons in order to free us from the stumbling blocks found entrenched in the carnal mind. There is no weapon our enemy possesses which can match the power God has imparted to us by and through the Holy Spirit.**

**When we cast down human reason and carnal thoughts, we MUST replace them with GOD THOUGHTS. Our minds must be spiritually transformed and renewed in the “spirit of the mind” in order for us to think like Christ thinks. We cast down imaginations when we choose to believe what God says and REFUSE to accept what the enemy says. When we replace human logic with the knowledge of God, we will find ourselves free from oppressing, depressing and distressing thoughts. Anything contrary to the Word of God has NO PLACE in the mind and/or heart of the believer.**

**A WISE MAN IS STRONG, YES A MAN OF KNOWLEDGE INCREASES STRENGTH; FOR BY WISE COUNSEL YOU WILL WAGE YOUR OWN WAR, AND IN THE MULTITUDE OF COUNSELORS THERE IS SAFETY. Proverbs, Chapter 24, Verses 5-6.**

## **Chapter 23**

**+++++**

### **Proverbial Knowledge**

The Book of Proverbs is also known as the Book of Wisdom. The word “wisdom” in all its forms ARE found in Proverbs one hundred and twenty-seven times. The Book of Proverbs could just as well be called the Book of Knowledge. The word “knowledge” in all its different forms is found in Proverbs sixty-seven times. The Book of Proverbs says “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” It also says “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” Although these two words have different meanings, many times they are interrelated. We can have knowledge without wisdom, but we cannot have wisdom without knowledge.

While the Book of Proverbs instructs us on the virtues and importance of knowledge and wisdom, the entire Bible gives us all the information we need regarding the knowledge of God. All we need to know about God, as well as how we are to conduct ourselves as Christians, is found in the Bible. We need to possess godly knowledge, understanding and wisdom if we are going to please God and walk in faith.

The Book of Proverbs gives us insight into the importance and virtues of knowledge. Proverbs also gives us detailed instruction of how important knowledge is and how the virtues of knowledge can lead us to victory and freedom in Christ.

**Proverbs is a compilation of parables, poetry, short stories and maxims which teaches us the importance of knowledge and wisdom. Proverbs is a book which was inspired by God to give us insight into knowledge, wisdom and understanding. Because Solomon asked God for wisdom and knowledge rather than riches, God imparted wisdom and knowledge to him and gave him riches as well. Most of the Proverbs were written by King Solomon as he grew more and more knowledgeable concerning the things of God.**

**If we are going to be free from the pitfalls of sin and the snares of the enemy, perception and insight into the mind and heart of God is imperative. Knowledge can be a fortress of information which will establish the Kingdom of God in our hearts and minds. The fiery darts of the enemy cannot penetrate the mind where TRUTH is fully established and entrenched.**

**The Book of Proverbs is filled with the knowledge, wisdom and understanding we need as Christians. In order to build up Holy strongholds and fortifications in the “spirit of our mind” we must possess the “knowledge of God.” The Bible tell us to be renewed in the “spirit of our mind.” (Ephesians, 4:23). Without godly knowledge, Christians will be unable to operate effectively and efficiently in the Kingdom of God.**

**There are many promises given to Believers who acquire and use the knowledge of God properly. Some of those promises include wisdom, righteousness, long life, peace, and understanding, just to name a few. Proverbs tells us” the righteous are delivered through**

knowledge.” Knowledge is the first step to finding deliverance.

When we are FILLED with the knowledge of God, along with wisdom and understanding, we can be assured that we have all the information we need to be successful in life. If we reject the knowledge of God, we can be assured we will find ourselves in a deep, dark pit devoid of LIGHT and understanding.

**THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES ARE A COMPILATION OF SOME OF THE BEST PRINCIPLES REGARDING KNOWLEDGE FOUND IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS:**

The proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, King of Israel. To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment and equity; to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion—a wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, to understand a proverb and an enigma, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the Lord is the BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs, Chapter 1, Verses 1-7.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs, Chapter 1, Verse 7.

How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge. Proverbs, Chapter 1, Verse 22.

**Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me, because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord. Proverbs, Chapter 1, Verses 28-29.**

**When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you. Proverbs, Chapter 2, Verses 10-11.**

**By knowledge the depths were broken up and clouds drop down the dew. Proverbs, Chapter 3, Verse 20.**

**My son, pay attention to my wisdom; lend your ear to my understanding, that you may preserve discretion, and that your lips may keep knowledge. Proverbs, Chapter 5, Verses 1-2.**

**Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared to her. Proverbs, Chapter 8, Verses 10-11.**

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy one is understanding. Proverbs, Chapter 9, Verse 10.**

**The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered. Proverbs, Chapter 11, Verse 9.**

**A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims foolishness. Proverbs, Chapter 12, Verse 23.**

**Every prudent man acts with knowledge, but a fool lays open his folly. Proverbs, Chapter 13, Verse 16.**

**A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it, but knowledge is easy to him who understands. Go from the presence of the foolish man, when you do not perceive knowledge in him, Proverbs, Chapter 14, Verses 6-7.**

**The tongue of the wise uses knowledge, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness. Proverbs, Chapter 15, Verse 2.**

**The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the fool does not do so. Proverbs, Chapter 15, Verse 7.**

**The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness. Proverbs, Chapter 15, Verse 14.**

**He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Proverbs, Chapter 17, Verse 27.**

**The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. Proverbs, Chapter 18, Verse 15.**

**Cease listening to instruction my son and you will stray from the words of knowledge. Proverbs, Chapter 19, Verse 27.**

**There is gold and a multitude of rubies, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel. Proverbs, Chapter 20, Verse 15.**

**The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge, but He overthrows the words of the faithless. Proverbs, Chapter 22, Verse 12.**

**Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge; for it is a pleasant thing if you keep them with you; let them all be fixed upon your lips, so that your trust may be in the Lord; I have instructed you today, even you. Have I not written to you, excellent things of counsels and knowledge? Proverbs, Chapter 22, Verses 17-20.**

**Many people make decisions based upon the knowledge and understanding they possess. Others make decisions based on what they hear others say. Still others make decisions based on their selfish motives and attitudes. Our decision making process will be unfruitful and can be extremely dangerous without wisdom.**

**Most Christians make decisions based on “knowledge” which they have stored up in the soulish realm. They do not seek God and wait on Him for wisdom and understanding, when making important decisions. In failing to seek God for wisdom and understanding they find themselves burdened with many heartaches and sorrows. Many people search the scriptures for wisdom when they need to make important decisions. However, most of the time they improperly interpret what the Bible teaches. Truth must always be rightly divided and placed in its proper perspective.**

**Scripture is not always a “one size fits all” solution to solve all our problems. When we KNOW the truth, the truth will set us free. It is the truth we KNOW which can and will set us free from bondage. It is the truth which is understood in proper perspective**

**which gives us the knowledge and wisdom we need to make quality decisions.**

**As important as knowledge is, without wisdom and understanding we will fail. If we fail to use knowledge wisely, we will not be able to be faithful witnesses of the truth as we go into all the World to share the Gospel with others.**

**As we “grow” in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will become more than conquerors over all the works of the enemy. Possessing the KNOWLEDGE OF GOD and the KEY OF KNOWLEDGE will take us to places in Christ which we never dreamed were possible.**

**YOU HAVE DEALT WELL WITH YOUR SERVANT, O LORD, ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD. TEACH ME GOOD JUDGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE, FOR I BELIEVE IN YOUR COMMANDMENTS. Psalm 119, Verse 66.**



## **Chapter 24**

+++++

### **Praise and Worship**

*I will worship toward Your holy temple,  
and praise Your name for your loving  
kindness and Your truth, for You have  
magnified Your word above Your name.*

Psalm, 138, Verse 2.

Praise and worship are integral components, and are probably the most important part of our relationship with Christ. Our relationship with Christ cannot grow and be fruitful without praise and worship. God created man so He could fellowship with Him. We become joined together with Him through heart-felt praise, worship and fellowship.

The word “praise” comes from the Hebrew word “hallelujah.” “Hallel” means “praise” and “Jah” is another name for “God.” The Greek word for praise is “Alleluia” which means the same thing as “hallelujah.” The Latin word for praise is “laudare” which means “value or price.” The value of worship and praise cannot be compared to silver or gold. They are integral components and assets which help solidify our relationship with Christ. They are more precious than any treasures we can possess here on Earth.

Praise is something which we do with our lips, an instrument, or any other kind of joyful noise we can make. The Bible tells us to praise God in dancing

**before Him. Praise is usually acquainted with joyful sounds and festive, blissful attitudes. We should never allow our praise and worship to be hampered or inhibited by our circumstances. We should be willing to praise God in whatever situation we may find ourselves in. Victory will come when we praise and worship God in the midst of our circumstances.**

**If we are only praising God when things are going well, we are missing many opportunities for God's glory and power to embrace us. Praise is something we do with our lips, a musical instrument or other objects. The Bible tells us to make a "joyful noise unto the Lord." (Psalm, 98:4).**

**The Hebrew word for worship is "adlaudo," which means to become prostrate or bow down." The Greek word for worship is "prostuneo." "Prostuneo" means to "bow down, reverence or do "obeisance." The Latin word for worship is "adoritio." "Adoritio" means "adoration or exaltation." In other words, we can say that our worship is the act of "reverence, adoration and exaltation for our Lord." Praise is something we do with our lips or sounds we make on instruments or other objects, but "worship" is something we do silently within our hearts. Worship is also a condition of the heart. A "heart of worship" is an attitude of the heart which admonishes us to continually exalt and remain spiritually prostrate before the Lord.**

**Fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ is based upon our love and devotion for Him. Physically "bowing down" and "laying prostrate before the Lord" is an outward exemplification of our feelings for the Lord.**

## **TRUE WORSHIP**

*But the hour is coming and now is, when true worshipper will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.* John, Chapter 4, Verses 23-24.

True worship is worship which is rooted and grounded in “spiritual correctness.” True worship comes from a heart which is sincere and devout. The pure in heart will worship the Lord with a loving and contrite heart. True worship comes from a heart which is filled with the love of God. It cannot come from a carnal heart, but a heart that is established, rooted, and grounded in faith and love.

A sincere Christian will seek to worship the Lord continually. They understand the importance of worship and will do everything they can to make sure they take time to lay prostrate before the Lord in their hearts. Only the pure in heart will see God. Only the pure in heart will worship Him in spirit and truth.

On one of my trips to “heavenly places,” I found myself standing before our Lord Jesus Christ. He showed me the wounds in His hands and His feet. Suddenly, without forethought I fell prostrate before Him and found myself lost in worship. I do not have words to explain what was happening. All I know is that at that moment in time there was an intimacy between me and my Savior I had never experienced

before. We were one in Spirit. I was worshipping Jesus in spirit and in truth. The Truth and I were one, and nothing could intervene or come between us.

Since that heavenly day in “heavenly places,” I have longed to worship Jesus again this same way. It was truly a heavenly moment with our Lord Jesus Christ. Many people have had similar experiences when they have been taken to heavenly places. I wrote about many of the experiences I had in heavenly places in my book entitled “In My Father’s House.” Many of the experiences which I and others have had are available to all Believers.

When we are worshipping Jesus, we are worshipping the Truth. Jesus is the Truth, the Life and the Way. He is the WAY which leads to true worship in “heavenly places.” We cannot worship Christ with our flesh because it has the propensity to be corrupt and nefarious. We can only truly worship Him in “spirit and truth.”

## **VAIN WORSHIP**

*He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. And in vain they worship me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”* Mark, Chapter 7, Verses 6-7.

**The concept many people have of worship is not Biblical. The Scribes and Pharisees worshipped God in vain. They were more interested in their own traditions than their “reasonable service” to God. They were prone to giving God lip service rather than worshipping Him in spirit and in truth. Worship which is not heartfelt is worship which is unfruitful and demonically inspired. Demonically inspired worship is idolatry.**

**The Scribes and Pharisees replaced true worship with their traditions which were erroneous and unbiblical. They were more interested in “serving self” rather than serving God. Their traditions were an unsavory stench in the nostrils of God. If people do not honor God, THEY CANNOT PLEASE HIM. If people do not love God, THEY WILL NOT BE SEEKING TO WORSHIP HIM. We will never be able to worship God in Spirit and in Truth if we do not love Him.**

**We are commanded to praise and worship God. When we worship God in spirit and truth, we are obeying His commandments. When we do not obey the commandments of God, and follow the traditions of men instead of God, our worship is “in vain.” We dishonor and alienate God when we follow man made traditions and customs. Worship becomes empty, shallow, and useless if we are not worshipping God in spirit and in truth. When we worship God in spirit and truth, He will be “glorified,” and we will be “sanctified.**

## **HEAVENLY PLACES**

*After these things, I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number,*

*of all nations, peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.*

Revelation, Chapter 7, Verses 9-10.

On one of my trips to “heavenly places” I was taken to a place where I saw a sea of people dressed in white robes on their knees before the Throne of God. I looked to my left, then to my right, and saw nothing but a sea of people. It reminded me of some of Rinehart Bonnke’s Crusades which I have seen on television, except the multitudes of people were much greater. The people were all singing praises and worshipping God as He was sitting majestically on His Throne. It was one of the most amazing sights I saw during my “heavenly trips.” As the people were praising and worshipping God, the scene reminded me of a nest of baby birds with their mouths opening and closing waiting for their mother to feed them.

True praise and worship takes us to heavenly places where we become intimately submissive and responsive to the move of the Holy Spirit. There is no greater expression of our love for and devotion to Christ than praise and worship. Finding ourselves lost in worship as we become one with Christ should be the goal of every Christian.

Praise and worship is not just for the praise and worship team. Understanding the importance of praise and worship corporately AND individually will lead us into a greater relationship with Christ. When we worship Christ corporately, we are worshipping Christ in solidarity and unity with others. We become one with Him corporately when we all come together in one mind and in one accord.

When we worship Christ individually, we are solidifying and strengthening our personal relationship with Him. Our personal relationship with Christ is more important than our corporate relationship with Him. We are ALL part of His body, and His body is not complete without each one of us. Our personal relationship with Christ will lead us into a corporate relationship with others in the body of Christ.

## **THE POWER OF PRAISE**

*Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand. Psalm, 149, Verses 5-6*

Praise gives us the power to overcome our circumstances. When the Children of Israel would go into battle, many times they would send their “praise warriors” out in front of the army to confuse and confound the enemy. Praise confuses the armies of darkness. The enemy cannot penetrate our “sacrifices of praise.” It is not normal for people to praise God when things are going wrong. However, that is exactly when we should be seeking God through sacrifices of

**praise, prayer and worship. For Christians, when all else fails, we can exult and be victorious in our circumstances through the “power of praise.”**

**Praise lifts us up into the presence of God. The armies of darkness have to flee where the Presence of God prevails. God dwells in the praises of His people. Where the presence of the Lord is, there is freedom and liberty from the schemes and tactics of the enemy. Praise is a buckler and shield to those who trust in Him and His saving and delivering power.**

**When we magnify and praise God, our problems become insignificant. God is greater than our problems, and our victory is found “in His presence.” In His presence is fullness of joy, and His joy becomes our strength when we praise Him in the midst of the battle. We know that “all things will work together for our good because we love Him and we have been called according to His purpose.”**

**Praise honors God. It is the voice of our spirit crying out in faith and adoration to honor the ONE who shed His blood at Calvary to free us from our sins. Praise will take our focus off our problems and upon God who has all the answers to our problems. Our sacrifices of praise become the victory which overcomes all the plans and schemes of the forces of darkness. “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” (Psalm. 150:6)**

**PRAISE THE LORD! SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG, AND HIS PRAISE IN THE CONGREGATION OF THE SAINTS. LET ISRAEL REJOICE IN THEIR**



**MAKER; LET THE CHILDREN OF ZION BE  
JOYFUL IN THEIR KING. LET THEM PRAISE HIS  
NAME WITH THE DANCE; LET THEM SING  
PRAISES TO HIM WITH THE TRIMBLE AND  
HARP. FOR THE LORD TAKES PLEASURE IN HIS  
PEOPLE. Psalm, 149, Verses 1-4.**

## **Chapter 25**

**+++++**

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

*And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.* Jeremiah, Chapter 3, Verse 15.

Knowledge without understanding is unfruitful. Albert Einstein once said “Any fool can know—the point is to understand.” The Apostle Paul said “Knowledge alone puffs up (makes one prideful).” I knew a minister once who was very intelligent. He probably possessed more knowledge than anyone I ever knew personally. He could quote scripture after scripture, however his understanding of what he was quoting was sometimes unproductive and ineffectual. Knowledge without understanding profits no one. Knowledge can be accumulated by anyone. However, godly understanding and wisdom can and will only come by Holy Spirit revelation and inspiration.

I am inclined to believe that many Christians are being fed an improper diet of the Word of God by carnally minded preachers who **THINK** they “know the truth.” They are feeding their congregations with a diet of carnally induced knowledge which leaves them with a lack of wisdom and understanding. The Bible tells us to “**KNOW** those who labor among us.” Preachers are responsible for what they teach and preach and will give an account for what they have fed to their

**congregations. Believers are responsible for what they believe. It is the responsibility of every individual to make sure what they believe is the truth.**

**I read a quote from someone who said “the greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, but the illusion of knowledge.” In the Church the “illusion” of knowledge can and will be more counterproductive than no knowledge at all. If knowledge is not based upon the truth, it is carnally inspired. Carnally inspired knowledge in the Church is demonically inspired and caters to the physical senses. We cannot gain any spiritual understanding from knowledge which is inspired by deception and illusion.**

**Many doctrines are misinterpreted and misrepresented by ministers in the Church who are not fully rooted and grounded in faith. When THEIR characterization of the truth is misunderstood, they tend to teach the people a gospel which has no power to transform them into the image of Christ. When people are not fed a proper diet of TRUTH, they become disillusioned and many of them fall by the wayside.**

**There are many ministers who do not believe or accept the “entire Bible” as truth. They pick and choose what THEY believe. They will only preach what THEY believe to be true in the Bible. In doing so they are leaving their congregations without the “whole counsel of God.” Unfortunately, this causes the people not to excel beyond and above the “novice” stage of Christianity. Many of those people will end up falling by the wayside. If you find yourself in a church where the “whole truth” is not being taught, you may want to pray and ask the Lord what you should do. If you find**

yourself in a church where social justice doctrines are more important than a relationship with Christ, you need to find another church.

Jeremiah said God would send pastors to His people who would teach them knowledge AND understanding, yet, the “entire truth” is hard to find in many churches. Does that mean that all people in those Churches are insincere about their relationship with God? NO, it does not. It does mean, however, that many pastors are misinformed and/or misinterpret what the scripture is saying. Because their understanding is unfruitful, they deliver messages THEY believe is true to their congregations. Inexplicitly their congregations will become saddled with partial truths and false doctrines which will keep them confused and in bondage in many areas of their lives.

## **RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE TRUTH**

*Study to show yourselves approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy, Chapter 2, Verse 15.*

The word “dividing” in the above scripture comes from the Greek word “orthopodeo” which means to “expound or handle.” The term, “rightly dividing” means to “correctly expound or handle” the Word of God. The Lord told me many of His ministers are handling His Word deceitfully. In other words, they were “adulterating” the Word of God. They were compromising the Word of God for their own gain by

**misinterpreting and misrepresenting the truth to their congregations. I wrote more about this tragedy in Chapter 13 of this book.**

**Paul told Timothy we must each study for OURSELVES if we wish to find ourselves with God’s “stamp of approval” on our life. Studying the Word for ourselves is one of the “keys to knowledge.” When others approach us with questions regarding our faith, we will then be able to respond to them with the truth. I have written about the “key of knowledge” in Chapter 8 of this book.**

**When we have the “knowledge of the truth” we will be able to share the truth with others and convince them our faith is real. If we have been diligent in our studies, we will always have answers to the questions others may have regarding our faith in God and love for Him. Knowledge is the key to giving a powerful testimony of our faith in Christ. Our testimony may lead others to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ if we are able to convince them Christ is real.**

**When we rightly divide the Word of truth, we will find the true Christ and the TRUTH found only in the Word of God. The eyes of our understanding will be enlightened and we will become rooted and grounded in the “love of Christ.” We will be able to comprehend “what is the breadth, the length, the depth and the height of His love which the Bible tells us surpasses all knowledge and understanding.” When we become “filled with His love,” we will find ourselves “filled with His fullness.” (Ephesians, 3:19).**

## **THE VISION OF THE BIBLE**

As I was writing this book the Lord gave my wife a vision. She said: "In the vision I saw a man dressed in a robe with a mitre (headdress worn by priests) on his head. He walked out of a building surrounded by a high porch. When he stepped out of the building onto the porch, a throng of people stood before him. He was carrying a Bible in his hand. He looked over the crowd then began tearing out pages from the Bible. He tore the pages out of the Bible page by page, and gave only one page to each person in the sea of people which stood before him. The people were desperately reaching out and grabbing for a page. As the people read both sides of the page which they had been given, they seemed to become confused and perplexed. The expressions on their faces began to change as they read the front and back of the page. After reading the page which each of them had been given, they lacked any knowledge whatsoever to understand what was written on the page. They all looked at each other making gestures like "Do you understand what this means? What does this mean? What are we supposed to do with this? We do not understand it?" They were all perplexed and could not understand the meaning of the scriptures they found on the page in their hands. One page did not give them ALL the information they needed. Suddenly they took the page which each one had been given and threw them into the air and went on about their business. The pages began to float slowly to the ground and were trampled underfoot by the crowd.

God is not the God of Confusion, but of peace.  
When and if we become confused, we will lack peace.

**Thus, confusion will rule and reign in our hearts. The people in the vision were confused because they were not getting the “whole truth.” They were desperate for help, but the man handing out the pages failed to give them what they needed. One page of the Bible gave them very little knowledge of the truth they were desperately seeking. Their understanding was fruitless because they had not been given the entire picture. The little knowledge which was given them only confused them more. When people are not exposed to the “whole counsel of God,” they will continue to remain in darkness and bondage.**

**A little knowledge is as useless as no knowledge at all. We cannot fully understand the Word of God if we are only exposed to one doctrine or just a small portion of a doctrine. When we only receive bits and pieces of information, the information we receive will be worthless and of no value to us. It is like trying to put a puzzle together with half of the pieces missing. When half the pieces are missing, we will only see half the picture.**

**We will not have faith if we do not understand that faith WORKS according to certain principles found in the Bible. The knowledge which we need to stand firm in our faith cannot be gained by “occasionally” reading only one or two pages in the Bible. We will be unable to increase our faith if we do not understand how our faith can be increased. One scripture in the Bible may give us the definition of faith. Another scripture on another page in the Bible may tell us how to increase our faith. However, without the “full knowledge of the truth,” our understanding will remain**

**unfruitful. We must seek the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, if we are going to be victorious warriors for Christ.**

## **LINE UPON LINE**

**Line must be upon line, and precept upon precept, before we will be able to understand the “knowledge of the truth.” (Isaiah, 28:10). When knowledge and truth have been adulterated and diminished, people will continue to remain carnally minded. When all the dots have not been connected, the narrative of God’s Word becomes disjointed and unrecognizable as truth.**

**Many ministers in churches today are not teaching the entire Bible which is resulting in a lack of knowledge and understanding among their congregations. When people fail to understand what they are hearing, they will cast aside doctrine as being unproductive and useless to them.**

**Every “jot and tittle” in the Bible must be weighed and rightly divided by those who seek to find and understand the truth. Truth is the only thing which can and will rescue and free people from bondage. If ministers are not sincere, the message they bring will be unprofitable and of no affect to their congregations.**

**Witnesses in a Court of Law are required to place their right hand on a Bible. They are required to “swear” before God and man that the testimony they are about to give is “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.” As Christians, we are all called to be “witnesses of the truth.” In many churches today the ministers lay their hands on the Bible, open it, and**



**read one or two scriptures. However, when they begin to expound on what they have just read instead of clarifying what is the truth, they pervert and adulterate the Gospel to their congregations.**

**In a court room, many people which have been called to testify have been known to lie on the witness stand by giving false testimony. In the Church where truth, and only truth, should be told, many ministers lie and subvert the truth of the Bible in order to propagate and promote their own agendas. Some ministers subvert the Gospel on purpose. Others do it out of ignorance. They all can be assured that “justice” will prevail when they stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ.**

**As men and women of God, we must ask ourselves “What does God think about how we handle HIS Word? Are we withholding the “key of knowledge” to our congregations? Are we preaching the truth?” If we are preaching the truth, people will be accepting Christ, growing in grace and mercy, and being set free from the bondage of sin. If people in congregations continue to remain in bondage, it is very likely that ministers are not serving them with a balanced diet of the Word of God.**

**There are many ministers today who are doing a powerful and outstanding work for the Lord. For all those ministers, I say to them “Amen” and “God’s Speed.” It is not my desire to criticize or condemn ministers. However, I am required to speak the truth to those who are disgracing themselves by teaching false and imperfect doctrines to those who God has placed in their care. As ministers of the Gospel we will be judged**

**for what we teach our congregations. If we are failing to preach the truth, we will be judged more harshly than those who are listening to and believing our fables. According to the Bible we will receive the “greater condemnation” if we have handled the Word of God deceitfully. (James, 3:1).**

**Once I read a story about a mother who fed her children a steady diet of meat, thinking meat was the “most nutritious” food they could eat. One day after reading a book about nutrition, she gained the knowledge that she needed to feed her children a mixture of many different types of food. The children had not been getting all the vitamins and minerals which they needed to fuel their bodies from only eating meat. Thus, they were becoming sickly and weak. She changed what she had been feeding her children and began to feed them a balanced diet. In a short time they became stronger and much healthier.**

**A diet of the entire “Bread of Life” will make God’s people spiritual healthy. Unless we have a proper diet of the Word of God, we will become spiritually sick and anemic. The Word of God is our “bread” and our “meat.” As ministers of the Gospel we cannot pick and choose what we want to feed to the sheep. Paul said many people in the Church were weak and sick, and many died prematurely. They were weak and sick, and many died prematurely because they had not “discerned (rightly divided)” the Word of God correctly. (1 Corinthians, 11:27-31)**

**When people fail to partake of the entire Word of God, or when the Word is taken out of context, it makes for a weak, sick and powerless Church. The**

**Word of God is made “of no effect” when the traditions of men and false interpretations of scripture are promoted. Jesus called the Church to be “THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.” The Bible tells us we are the “salt” which will make a difference in the World. If the Church fails to be seasoned properly, it will not be effective in promoting the Light of the Gospel to unbelievers.**

**When the “whole truth” is preached in the Church, the BODY will become edified and unified in faith. The Church will finally grow up into “a perfect man (Christ), unto the measure of His fullness.” (Read Ephesians, 3:11-16).**

**THEN THE LORD ANSWERED JOB OUT OF THE WHIRLWIND, AND SAID, “WHO IS THIS THAT DARKENETH COUNSEL BY WORDS WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE?” Job, Chapter 38, Verses 1-2.**

## Chapter 26

+++++

### The Knowledge of the Son

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ till we all come to the unity of the faith and the “knowledge of the Son of God” to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the “fullness of Christ;” that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from who the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verses 11-13.*

Jesus placed the “five-fold ministry” in His Church for the equipping of the saints. His desire is for the Church to be “built up” and FILLED with His fullness so we all can perform the “work of the ministry” together. When we all become “filled” with the fullness of Christ, we will come into the “unity of the faith” and the KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD.

The body of Christ must be properly equipped in order for it to perform and do the “work of the ministry.” Without proper “equipment,” the body cannot and will not function the way God designed it to function. If we have a car without a motor, we will be unable to drive the car anywhere. A car without a motor is useless. If there is no steering wheel in the car, we will be unable to make the car go in the direction which we need it to go. Without wisdom and understanding, the knowledge of God will not be of any use to us.

*For as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function, so we being many, are of one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them” if prophecy, let us prophesy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith.*  
Romans, Chapter 12, Verses 4-6.

Every individual in the body of Christ has been given gifts to accomplish the calling God has placed on

**their life. The body is a unit and is compiled of many different parts, each part having different gifts. Our gift(s) are not for our own benefit, but are to be used for the benefit of the entire body of Christ so the whole body can prosper. Each part of the body must be fitly joined together and unified in faith for it to work properly. When the entire body of Christ is utilizing and administering their God given gifts to the body, the whole body will prosper, become unified and be one in Christ.**

**The Apostle Paul told us to “pursue, love and desire spiritual gifts.” (1 Corinthians, 14:1). Paul was not only speaking to the five-fold ministry, but to the entire Church. Many people in churches today do not even realize they have a spiritual gift or gifts, much less what the gift is. If Christians do not know and understand God has given them a specific gift, they will not be able to fulfill the call of God He placed on their life. Again, we see the “key of knowledge” being withheld from the body of Christ by many leaders in the Church.**

**We are all individual members of one another in the body of Christ. When we all share the gifts and talents God has given each of us with others, the body of Christ will prosper and grow up into the head of the body which is Christ. Christ is the head of the Church. However, the Church is not yet fully connected to the head because everyone in the body is NOT fulfilling their part. When each member of the body comes together as one, the Church will be able to accomplish what God foreordained the Church to accomplish.**

Many people in churches today are being tossed about by every wind of doctrine because they are listening to every “wind of doctrine” which comes along. Many are succumbing to the lies and cunning craftiness of carnally minded preachers. They cannot expect to “grow” and “will not grow” in the grace and knowledge of the Son of God. They are listening to fables which will only lead them deeper and deeper into bondage. Many people in churches today are not being “set free” from bondage because they are not being fed the truth. It is the truth which sets us free. Rightly dividing the Word of God will ALWAYS lead to liberty and freedom in the Holy Spirit. A “form” of godliness will always lead people deeper into sin and bondage.

## **DREAM OF THE TORSO**

Several years ago the Lord gave me a dream regarding a torso. I was in a classroom teaching the Bible to a group of people. In the middle of my message two men came into the room pushing a hospital bed. Lying on the bed was a man who had no arms or legs. It was just a torso with a head attached. The man had eyes but no other facial features I could see. I walked over to the hospital bed, laid my hands on the torso, and prophesied to the torso. After prophesying to the torso, arms and legs immediately began growing out of their sockets. Hands then grew out of the arms and feet grew out of the legs. The man sat up and then stood up on his feet with a large smile on his face. He appeared to be full of the joy of the Lord. He walked over to me and grabbed my hand and thanked me. After he thanked me, he took a seat in the classroom with the other

students as I continued with my message. I then woke up.

The Lord showed me the man on the stretcher was a type and shadow of the body of Christ. This man was unable to do anything because he did not have arms and hands to reach out to grab (grasp) or take hold of anything. He was unable to go anywhere on his own without someone pushing him around in the hospital bed because he had no legs and no feet to take him anywhere. He did have eyes to see (understand) but he was unable to do anything until I prophesied over him. He heard and understood the WORD (knowledge) I gave to him. In doing so he was able to get up off the hospital bed on his own. He then reached out his hand which had grown out of his arm to shake my hand, and he thanked me for ministering to him.

This man represented the BODY of Christ. Many people in churches today can relate to this man. They do not have the knowledge or understanding of how the body was designed to operate. They have the propensity to understand and share the Word of God with others, and would do so if they only knew how to help them. However, they lack the knowledge and understanding which can help them stand on their own two feet. They lack the ability to reach out to others in the body of Christ with their God given gifts and callings. The Church has failed to teach people how to use the “gifts” they have been given so the “whole body” can become unified.

People cannot reach out to others without hands. They cannot take the Gospel to the four corners of the Earth without feet. We can send missionaries around



**the World and support other ministries with our tithes, offerings and prayers. However, there are people in local churches who need help and a better understanding of the Gospel. Many Christians fail to help those in need around them because they do not have enough knowledge, wisdom or understanding themselves. Pastors are failing to teach their congregations how to walk in the FULLNESS of Christ.**

**An army cannot win battles without proper training, arms and equipment. An army cannot win battles without knowledge and information about their enemies' strengths and weaknesses. An army cannot survive an attack of the enemy if they are not unified in their efforts to stand together and fight as a unit. Without unity in the body of Christ we cannot function properly together as an army.**

**God's people will continue to suffer without receiving godly knowledge, wisdom and understanding. They will not know or understand how to "reach" out to others with the gifts God has given them. Many have forsaken their gifts because they have not been properly educated by the Church on how to use their God given gifts. In many cases, they do not even KNOW they have been given gifts. A sound education concerning the gifts and callings of God is the key to spiritual freedom and stability in our lives.**

**We all become "joined and knit together" as one in Christ by utilizing the gifts each of us have been given to equip the Church for the work of the ministry. We will grow up into the head which is Christ and become "complete" in Him when we all have fulfilled the call God has on our life.**

**The gifts and callings of God are without repentance. God does not retract our gifts just because we have “missed the mark of His high calling.” He does not take the gifts back because we do not know or understand they have been given to us or how to use them. God’s gifts and callings will continue to remain on our lives whether we use them or not. The gifts and callings of God remain within us to help supply the essential needs of the rest of the body. We will be held accountable for the way we use, or fail to use, our heavenly gifts.**

**I have met with ministers who have failed God and are unable, will not, or cannot forgive themselves. Many of them continue to wander aimlessly without purpose in their lives because they feel they have failed God. They are like the torso on the hospital bed. They need therapy from the Word of God which will help them get back on their feet and begin again to start reaching out to others with the truth. The truth is that God desires for them to be set free from their own inhibitions and failures so they can reach out to others with the truth. Unless they forgive themselves, they will never be an effective witness of the truth again.**

**When we miss the mark of the high calling of God, we should not be running and hiding from the face of God as Adam did in the Garden of Eden. We have a Savior who died to forgive us of ALL our sins and cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness when and if we ask Him. When we fail God, we should be running to Him--NOT FROM Him. He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins when we sincerely repent of them.**

**God is the only one who is able to free us of our sins, shortcomings, failures and inhibitions.**

**God is always speaking to people who need a helping hand and a touch from the Throne Room. Knowledge and understanding will take us to places in Christ where we have never been before. In Christ, we can find the inherent knowledge of His will. His will is to always, without hesitation, be available to those who have failed Him in one way or another. He is always willing to forgive us when we ask Him.**

**When we have failed Him, and reach out to Christ repenting with contrite hearts, we will always find two nail scarred hands reaching out to us regardless of what sins we have committed. It is not our place to condemn those who have failed at one time or another. It IS our responsibility to lift them up and help them to get back on the right track. We have all failed God at one time or another and come short of His glory.**

**The “knowledge of the Son of God” will lead us to all the understanding and wisdom we need to fulfill God’s plan and purpose for our life. When the body of Christ is “fitly joined, and knit together” with one another by His love, we will find ourselves joined to Christ who is the Head of the Church.**

**“COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.”  
Matthew, Chapter 11, Verse 28**

## **Chapter 27**

+++++

### **The Knowledge of the Seed**

*“Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundred fold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has an ear, let him hear!”* Matthew, Chapter 13, Verses 3-9.

Jesus continues to explain the Parable of the Sower saying “the seed is the “Word.” Jesus said He is the sower, the field is the World and the people of the World. How we respond to, receive, and interpret the knowledge of God’s Word (seed) is the key to fruitfulness and abundant living.

The soil which the seed (Word) is sown into is the spirit of man. God loves the World (mankind) so

**much He sows the Spirit of His Son into the hearts (spirits) and minds of people through the teaching and preaching of the Gospel. The Gospel is the Word (seed) of Eternal Life.**

**At Calvary, Jesus (which means Savior), was crucified, and laid in the Tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. Joseph means “he will add to or multiply.” His Spirit (Word) was sown into the Earth when Christ died and descended into Hades. He preached to those in Abraham’s Bosom who were waiting for the promise of Eternal Life. Just as a seed which is planted in the ground, Jesus miraculously rose from the dead and became the first-fruits of all those who would come after Him. (1 Corinthians, 15:23)**

**According to the Parable of the Sower, the seeds (Word) were sown into different types of soil. As the seeds fell upon the ground, they fell to the earth without discrimination. “And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole World as a testimony to ALL nations, and then the end shall come. (Matthew, 24:14).**

**According to the Word of God, all the people who received the seed (Word) had different responses. They were given the KNOWLEDGE of the truth, but their perception and understanding of truth and dedication to bearing fruit varied from person to person. These same responses to the Word of God are happening over and over again today by people who receive the “seed.”**

**The Bible tells us much about seeds and how they are prophetic of the Word of God. The Bible tells us the “Word of God” is also called the SEED of**

promise. God's promises are seeds which are sown into the hearts of men and women today. The seeds we plant will produce fruit as they mature IF they are sown into good soil.

## **THE WAYSIDE**

*When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.* Matthew, Chapter 13, Verse 19.

God's will for mankind is that everyone on Earth should "hear" the Gospel. It is not His will for anyone to perish, but that everyone would receive Eternal Life. The seed (Word) is "good seed." There is nothing wrong with the seed, but the problem lies with the soil (heart) in which the seed is planted.

The "wayside" is a place which is beside a road or a path. The "path" is the road we are travelling on during our journey here on Earth. The seed which falls by the wayside is the seed which falls upon those who are dull of hearing (understanding). People are given the knowledge of the truth (Word), but they lack understanding. When they do not understand the truth, the enemy comes and immediately steals the seed (Word) after it is sown.

Our ability to understand the Word of God is directly related to our DESIRE to hear, receive, and act upon what He is saying to us. If people are not interested in "believing and receiving" from God, they

will not be interested in what God is saying. They will be more interested in doing what THEY want to do and the will of God will take second place in their lives. In other words, they are saying “It is my way or the highway.”

Many people fail to understand the Word when it is sown in their hearts because understanding what the Word means is not a priority to them. They are content with the way they are living and do not want any interference from an outside source. Others fail to understand the Word when it is sown in their hearts because they are selfish and prideful, and the truth interferes with their lifestyles and agendas. They are more interested in what God can do for them than what they can do for Him. These are the people who hear “without hearing.” (Matthew, 13:13).

### **THE STONY PLACES**

*But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word, and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.* Matthew, Chapter 13, Verses 20-21.

Stony ground is hard, rocky ground which will not allow the seed which was sown to sink into the ground and take root. Jesus said those who received the seed on stony places were those who received the Word

with joy but they failed to become rooted and grounded in faith. They had a zeal for God, but it was a zeal without knowledge. They also lacked understanding, the same as the people who received the seed by the wayside. Their hearts were hard (stony ground) and they failed to stand against adversity when their faith was tested by persecution and tribulation. They wanted the benefits of salvation, however, they were not willing to pay the price for them.

When our roots fail to go deep into the ground, they will be easily plucked up by our enemies. When persecution and tribulation arises because of the Word, people who are “hard of hearing” will fail. When tribulation and persecution comes in the near future, many Christians will fall by the wayside because they failed to become rooted and grounded in the Word.

A person with a hard heart will turn his ears away and refuse to listen when confronted with reality. A seed can be sown into the heart, but never establishes the heart in truth and righteousness because it has fallen on stony ground and the roots are shallow. The condition of the heart will determine how a person reacts to the Word of God when the Word is challenged by the enemy. When the Word is sown into hearts which are not pliable and not readily responsive to the truth, the enemy will always be there to challenge and take away what they have heard.

## **THE THORNY GROUND**

*Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this*



*world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.* Matthew, Chapter 13, Verse 28.

Thorns represent carnal thoughts, motives and attitudes. Jesus said those who received seed among the thorns HEARD the Word, but they too failed to bear any fruit. The cares and worries of this life choke the Word and cause it to be unfruitful in the lives of many individuals. Their focus will be on their problems--not on the solution to their problems. They are more interested in material wealth than they are in the Bible's hidden treasures of knowledge, wisdom and understanding. Like the seeds which fell by the wayside and on stony ground, they too lacked understanding and depth.

The Bible says, "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." (1 Timothy, 6:9).

The knowledge of God's Word is not a roadmap to fame and fortune. His Word leads us down a path of humility, grace, mercy and faith. The treasures of Heaven are much more valuable than earthy fame and fortune. Earthly treasures can instantly be taken away. Heavenly treasures last for eternity. Materialism will always oppose the treasures of righteousness, joy, peace and faith. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew, 6:21).

## **THE GOOD GROUND**

*But he who received seed on the good ground*

*is he who hears the word and understands it who indeed bears fruit, and produces some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.* Matthew, Chapter 13, Verse 23.

Those who received the seed IN the good ground were those who had the potential to bear much fruit. They hungered and thirsted for information that could free them from the bondage of sin. They understood what was required of them in order for them to become faithful servants of the King. They received the knowledge of the truth, and understood that Truth (Christ) was the most important virtue they could or would ever possess.

The Word of God is the seed. When His Word is sown into the hearts of individuals it will produce much fruit IF the ground in which it is planted is “good ground.” The soil which the seed is planted in makes “all the difference in the World.” Good ground will always produce good fruit when and if it is water and carefully tended.

If our hearts are pliable when the seed (Word) is sown into our life, it will take root and grow deeply and securely within our spirit, thus producing a great harvest. As we grow in His knowledge and grace, the Truth will transform us into the image of Christ.

Our motives and attitudes must embody the motives and attitudes of Christ if we are going to produce godly fruit. Our hearts and minds must be prepared to perceive and receive the knowledge of God so His plan and purpose for mankind can be revealed

and established within us through Christ. When the knowledge of God's Word has been established and grows in the heart of a Believer, it has the potential to produce a harvest of much fruit.

When the seed is sown into "good ground," it will grow and bring forth a bountiful harvest. Our response and dedication to God's Word will determine how much fruit we will produce. When we possess the knowledge of God, we can do anything and be anything which He tells us to do or be. When we hunger and thirst after the seed (Word) of His righteousness, we will become FILLED with the fruit of His righteousness. We will yield the fruit of His righteousness when we are FILLED with and walking in His Spirit. We become "Trees of Righteousness" when we are deeply and passionately rooted and grounded in the knowledge and understanding of His WORD.

## **THE MIRACLE OF THE SEED**

*Then God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields the seed, and the fruit according to its kind., whose seed is in itself, on the earth" and it was so. Genesis, Chapter 1, Verse 11.*

The most brilliant minds on Earth cannot understand, comprehend or explain how a seed works. All they understand is that you plant a "dead seed" in the ground, keep it watered, and the seed will begin to sprout. In due time, the seed will bear life-sustaining fruit. God placed the ability to reproduce within each seed. This process is known as the "Miracle of the

**Seed.” The “Miracle of the Seed” is a supernatural phenomenon to those who do not understand or comprehend the “power of faith” and how faith works. Faith is the catalyst which produces fruit in our life.**

**When God created the herbs of the field, the grass, and the trees, He placed within them the ability to reproduce by His Word. Seedtime and harvest remains from year to year because God has placed within all seeds the ability to produce life. This supernatural principle was placed in the seed by God IN THE BEGINNING. Seeds reproduce fruit from year to year because IN THE BEGINNING God commanded the first plants and trees to multiply and bring forth fruit.**

*While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and winter and summer, and night and day, shall not cease.*  
**Genesis, Chapter 9, Verse 22.**

**The Law of Seedtime and Harvest was established IN THE BEGINNING. This law governs the miracle of the seed and the harvest the seed brings. Every seed produces after its own kind. The miracle of the seed was established in the seed IN THE BEGINNING. God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after its kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth, and it was so.” (Genesis, 1:11).**

**Jesus said if we have faith as a grain of mustard seed we could speak to mountains and they would have to obey us. The key to having faith which can move mountains lies in believing what God said we could do**

**“would come to pass.” Jesus said that the “seed is the Word.” Our faith must be rooted and grounded in the “Word of God” if we are going to be able to “move mountains.”**

**We can plant a seed into the ground and keep it watered, but WE have no ability to make the seed sprout and produce fruit. We can do our part to water the seed. However, it is God who gives the increase through the miracle of the seed which He created. We have been given the responsibility to plant and water the seed, however, we cannot MAKE the seed bear fruit. It is God who gives the increase.**

**When we become obedient servants to God, He will cause the seed to bear good fruit within us. The seed contains within itself the ability to produce fruit because God created it with the ability to multiply. However, the seed can only produce good fruit when it is sown into good ground. Good ground will always produce “good fruit.”**

**The Word of God works the same way as the seed. It miraculously produces fruit when it is sown into good ground. Just like seeds, the Word MUST be watered and warmed by the Light of the Son (like the sun) of God so “everlasting, life sustaining” fruit can be produced.**

**When it comes to having faith in the supernatural, the spiritual seeds which we plant by our words can and will produce a harvest of righteousness, joy and peace in the Holy Spirit. Jesus said we could change our circumstances by believing in the promises of His Word by SPEAKING to the circumstances. He**

told us to **SPEAK** to the mountain, and the mountain would have to **OBEY** us if we believe. I am not talking about a “name it” and “claim it” doctrine. I am talking about a “believe it” and “receive it” doctrine. I am talking about “believing what God said I can do doctrine.”

We **MUST** remember, however, that what we are believing God for **MUST** be according to His will. When we understand and apply the Word of God properly in the way His Word is intended to be used, our faith will always work. Faith comes by “hearing” the Word. Receiving comes by “believing” the Word.

We know Jesus was not saying we could nor even should command the natural mountains to obey us. However, if need be, even moving natural mountains is possible with God if we have enough faith to believe. You can find many stories of miraculous things which happened in the Bible because men and women of God chose to **BELIEVE** what God said, and by faith **OBEYED** the voice of God.

Faith is like a seed which is planted in the ground. It will grow wherever planted **IF** it is planted in “good ground.” As Christians, we are commanded to believe the Word of God and obey His voice regardless of what He tells us to do. God only responds to our faith. He does not respond to our fear, doubt, unbelief or begging. We must believe that God will do what He said He would do.

The key to bearing supernatural fruit is **PATIENCE**. The farmer does not expect to plant his seeds one day and go out to the field the next day and

**reap a harvest. However, the farmer will go to the field periodically to pull up any thorns, thistles or weeds which may have grown around and are choking the plants.**

**Like the seed which fell on thorny ground, thorns, thistles and weeds will prevent the crop from producing fruit by surrounding and choking the life out of the plant as it tries to grow. That is why we must keep the ground (spirit) free from everything which hinders the seed from growing and producing godly fruit within our hearts.**

**When we are trusting God for a great harvest, we MUST patiently wait for Him to produce the harvest. While waiting for a harvest, we must make sure we are keeping our fields (hearts and minds) free from the things which hinder and keep us from producing a harvest of godly fruit. We must pull up the weeds, thorns and thistles which the enemy continues to sow in our hearts to choke the Word and make it unproductive and of no affect in our life.**

**The knowledge of the “miracle of the seed” and how faith works is important to understand if we are going to believe God to perform the miraculous in our life and in the lives of others. Faith WORKS BY LOVE. If we are not rooted and grounded in the LOVE OF GOD, we will have a problem producing any godly fruit and/or operating in the miraculous.**

**In the Kingdom of God, the seed (Word) will reproduce when planted in fertile or good ground. We can plant the seed into the ground. However, only God can perform the miraculous which causes the seed to**

**produce and give increase. The seed must have water. Jesus is the “Living Water.” The seed must have sunlight. Jesus is the “Son of God” and He is the “Light of the World.”**

**If we are not adhering to godly knowledge (the Word), we will fail to bear godly fruit. If we fail to seek and understand the KNOWLEDGE of the Word of God, we will continue to remain unfruitful. If we are going to be fruitful and multiply, we must be “rooted and grounded” in faith. There will always be a crop failure if our faith is not rooted and grounded in the Word of God.**

**The knowledge of how to obtain faith is given to us in God’s Word. When our hearts become saturated with the fruit of His righteousness, there will be no room for doubt, unbelief, fear or worry. The cares of this World and the deceitfulness of riches will have no place in the heart which is established in the knowledge and understanding of the Word of God.**

**When we have the knowledge of God’s love, it will assure us that He is willing and able to keep us safe and secure in the cleft of the ROCK. When we receive the Word of God with thankfulness and an open heart, we will be assured that we will never be in lack of the things which He has promised to us. The harvest will come in abundance when the seed which has been planted sprouts and grows into full maturity. The seed will always reproduce itself.**

**The KEY to “living by faith” is directly related to our relationship with Christ and how we respond to His Word and His voice when He speaks to us. If we do**



**not KNOW or understand the will of God for our life, it is because our carnal minds continue to influence and hinder our thinking and understanding. If we are going to live by faith, we must CAST DOWN all thoughts, imaginations and natural reasoning which exalt themselves against the KNOWLEDGE of God.**

**We can possess the KNOWLEDGE of God, yet continue to have a lack of understanding. The KEY to KNOWLEDGE is found in our desire to earnestly seek, listen to, and adhere to the Word of God. When we lack understanding it is because we are not hearing (listening) to what the Spirit of God is saying to us. The KEY to understanding the Word of God is REVELATION. We will never be conduits of God's love, grace, mercy and power until and unless we listen to and obey what He is saying to us. We MUST listen for the voice of God and seek to be filled with the fullness of Christ with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

**“HE THAT HATH EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR (understand) WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING.”** When we open the eyes of our heart (understanding) and listen for His voice, we will HEAR what the Spirit is saying. When we open the eyes of our heart (understanding) to receive knowledge and wisdom, we will abound in His love, grace, mercy and faith. We will be changed into the express image of Christ and will become sowers of the seeds of His promises along the pathway of life. We will be rewarded with a HARVEST OF SOULS because we have been quick to HEAR, faithful to OBEY, and patient to RECEIVE.

**LET NO ARROGANCE COME FROM YOUR MOUTH, FOR THE LORD IS THE GOD OF KNOWLEDGE, AND BY HIM ACTIONS ARE WEIGHED. 1 Samuel, Chapter 2, Verse 3.**

**The Bible states that “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 23. If you do not know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, or if you are not sure of your salvation, or where you will spend eternity—please pray this prayer now and ask Jesus to come into your heart:**

**Heavenly Father I come to you in the name of your Son Jesus. I admit I am a sinner and I am in need of a Savior. I believe Jesus is your Son and that He died on the Cross at Calvary for my sins. I believe that three days later you raised Him from the dead. I realize it was for me Christ died on the Cross so that I could have eternal life. I am sorry for all the sins I have committed. I ask you to Please forgive me of all my sins. Jesus, I ask you to come into my heart and life now and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I also ask you to baptize me in the Holy Spirit. I desire to walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit to never be the same again. AMEN.**

**Signature and date:\_\_\_\_\_**

**After you have prayed this prayer you need to get a Bible and study it daily if you do not have one. Ask God to give you the knowledge, wisdom and understanding you need to help you please Him. Ask Him to help you find His plan and purpose for your life. Find a Church or a body of believers who can help you**

**grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. God Bless you.**

**BOOKS BY DON RANDOLPH**

**It is Written-Exposing the Works of the Flesh in the Church**

**I AM- A Prophetic Look at End Time Events**

**Spiritual Warfare-And the Craft of Deception**

**The New Jerusalem-Rebuilding the Tabernacle of David**

**A Message to the Churches**

**The Story of the Cross**

**Two Trees in Eden**

**The Vagabond Spirit**

**A Cry in the Wilderness**

**Prophetic Poetry**

**The First Nations Initiative**

**Wisdom Speaks**

**Tongues of Fire-1896**

**The Knowledge of God**

**BOOKLETS BY DON RANDOLPH**

**In My Father's House**

**A Message From The Seven Stars**

**The Storm**

**The Path Least Travelled**

**Who Told You That You Were Naked**

**Visions of Rapture-Poetry**

**The Rose of Sharon-Poetry**

**The Wisdom of the Ages-Poetry**

**Email address: [donrandolph@gmail.com](mailto:donrandolph@gmail.com)**