

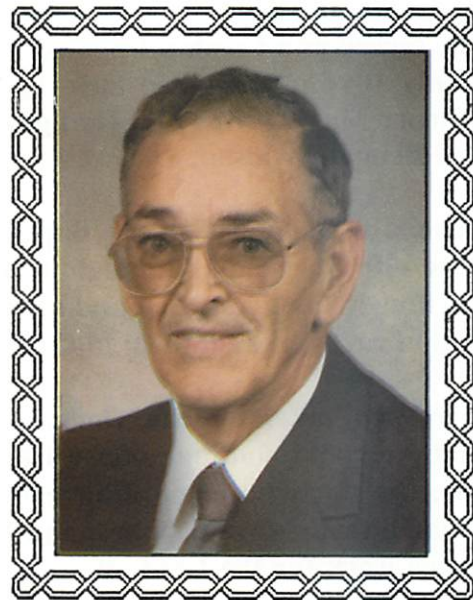


# FAITH

**"Without faith it is impossible  
to please Him;  
for he that cometh to God  
must believe that He is,  
and that He is a rewarder  
of them that diligently  
seek Him."  
Hebrews 11 : 6**

**By  
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier**  
Not to be Sold

**In Loving Memory  
of  
Ben H. Davidson**



Born July 26, 1922  
with the Lord February 10, 1989

**IN MEMORIAM**

**MR. BEN HAROLD DAVIDSON**

**BORN**

**JULY 26 1922**

**WITH THE LORD**

**FEB. 10, 1989**

**It is with great joy that I dedicate this Biblical textbook in memory of my brother in the Lord, Ben Harold Davidson. God brought him through World War II, where he served as a Combat Engineer in the front lines. God kept him among the only 10 who remained alive in his division. He was married to Imogene Harper May 24th., 1941. God gave them two children, Mrs. Jackie Moody and Benny Davidson.**

**Ben served as choir director at Calvary Baptist Church, in Toccoa Georgia, and he and his wife Imogene and daughter often sang the Gospel message, as a trio, enriching many lives. Ben and his wife Imogene enjoyed doing youth work and God richly blessed them in their service for the Lord.**

**In 1982 the Lord led my late wife Dorothy, and I to settle in Toccoa, Georgia, so that we could continue our work for the Lord in our latter years. It was when we started a home Bible class that I met Ben and his wife Imogene. Ben had already several strokes, and I only knew him after he was incapable of active work for the Lord. However, he was desirous of his wife Imogene coming to the Bible classes. He did not want anything to interfere with this home fellowship around the Word of God.**

**As this Biblical Textbook entitled, "FAITH" is sent to many places around the world, I do it for the glory of God in memory of the late Ben Harold Davidson, a beloved brother in the Lord.**

**Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier**

# FAITH

BY

REV. DR. ANDREW J. LOSIER

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE AND BIBLE CENTER INC.

NOT TO BE SOLD

# FAITH



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**Founder and President  
of  
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## P R E F A C E

This study on "Faith" is a practical application of faith, -exposing the misled ideas and practice of useless faith, as far as the Living God is concerned. The author, having traveled around the world on three different occasions has observed "Homo Sapien" practicing all sorts of blind faith, wrong faith or no faith, due to many circumstances. Some of these religious faiths have been dealt with in the teaching of true principles of faith, as a contrast to the wrong approach in the practice of faith. As you will observe, faith is an important key to the Christian life upon Planet Earth. God has purposely hidden the eternal realities from us, with the purpose of teaching us to utterly depend upon Him. You will also observe as you study this all important subject of faith, that it is a Divine attribute given to those who dedicate their lives to the Lord. In our earthly dealings, most everything is based upon assets which are tangible and visible. However, when we study "Faith", it is based upon things which are not seen with the naked eye, and in the eternal realm.

This "Faith" which comes from God can only be attained, as one seeks the will of God, and is born again by the Holy Spirit. Christ has removed the barrier of sin, when he paid the debt of sin upon Calvary's cross. Therefore, the Triune God, in providing so great salvation, by grace, at a tremendous cost to the Godhead, is greatly concerned in establishing eternal faith within the saints of God. As was manifested in the study of the author's Textbook on "Prayer", so "Faith" is the means of our complete trust in our Creator as Savior, Lord and Master. Allow God to mold and make you according to His will, glorifying His Name through your complete trust in Him. The attributes of God are tremendous, Love, Righteous, Just, Holy, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Veracity, Eternal Life, Sovereign, Impeccable, and Immutable. No one or nothing can compare to our Almighty God, and it behooves us to take advantage of His eternal teachings through the living Word of God. "For the Word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight, but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Seeing, then, that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest who cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb.4:12-16. May this study of the Biblical "faith Principles" be a source of great help to you, as you walk, being led of the Holy Spirit, and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

Rev. Dr. Andrew J.Losier

## **F O R W A R D**

It gives me added pleasure and joy to introduce to you Pastor Joe Hasket, of the Independent Calvary Baptist Church of Toccoa, Georgia, U.S.America. I have known him to have a tremendous passion for lost souls and the desire to build up the saints in the most holy faith. Pastor Joe has a great desire to send forth the Printed Page of God's Word to the ends of the earth, while there is still time. He knows what "Faith Principles" are necessary to speed the Gospel light around the world, to "The Regions Beyond". He has traveled to both Africa and Eastern Europe in teaching and presenting thousands of Bibles, New Testaments and Christian Literature to those who have been deprived of God's Word. He knows the hunger for the Printed Page that many have, where they have previously not seen a Bible. Pastor Joe Hasket is not only a pastor but an evangelist and teacher of the Word of God. Pastor Joe is also one who has a vision for the lost, where the fields are white unto harvest and the laborers are so few. He has a vision for doing great things for the Lord through the "Printed Page. His desire is to see the great and mighty things that the Lord can do through His powerful Word. The following Scripture is very applicable to my brother in the Lord. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Ephesians 3:17-21. I therefore introduce to you Pastor Joe Hasket, a great and faithful brother in the Lord. I count it a privilege to have him write the Foreward to this textbook on "Faith".

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When it comes to the subject of "Faith", I know of no other person alive today that is more qualified and able to write on this subject than Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier. He has demonstrated this Biblical principle of "Faith" in his life and ministry. Dr. Losier knows how it works, he knows what makes it grow and who can enjoy it. We also find a man whose faith and trust is in God and how God has used him and allowed his life to be molded by the principles of "Believing Faith".

As we run our race of "Faith", we face the same obstacles and distractions that all of our fore fathers faced. Tough times demand "Tough Faith", and the more we trust God, the stronger our "Faith Muscles" become. If you and I are going to win the race and reach the goals God has set for us, we must understand what it means to "Live by Faith". I believe that Dr. Losier in writing this book helps us to understand and gives us some basic principles about the subject of "Faith".

There are some important factors involved and that are necessary for the "Life of Faith". first we must have the revelation from God's Word, this is the promise that he wants us to claim. Secondly, this revelation comes as the result of a growing relationship and a day-by-day walk with God, Thirdly, our response is to understand his will from the Word of God, to delight ourselves in it, and to act upon his will through the Word of God. Then fourth, his reward is to give us the inner witness and peace that he is in control and that all will turn out just like he promised. The world would look at Dr. Losier and other fellow believers and say, They act a bit peculiar, but they sure do have self-confidence!" BUT it is not self-confidence; it is the inner witness of God in the heart. As God first witnessed to the saints of the past, and now they witness to us today as Dr. Losier has so wonderfully done.

No matter what problem or challenge we might face, there is somebody in God's family of believers who can encourage us. People who live by faith live for the future. Believers do not sacrifice the permanent on the altar of the immediate. Those who live by faith, live "With Eternity's Values in View".

The material in this book contains the fruit of hours of meditation and thought. These writings come as a result of a man in whom the Holy Spirit has worked in his life to demonstrate the principles of faith in the ministry and work that God called him to do. I commend this book to everyone who reads and has a desire to study the principles of the faith life of the believers.

REV. PASTOR JOE F. HASKETT,  
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## OUTLINE

### CHAPTER ONE BLIND FAITH

- A. .... DUMB IDOLS
- B. .... VAIN IMAGINATIONS
- C. .... SELF DESTRUCTION

### CHAPTER TWO WRONG FAITH

- A. .... MISUSE OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE
- B. .... ASKING AMISS
- C. .... DEMANDING FROM GOD

### CHAPTER THREE SOURCE OF FAITH

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- A. EXALTING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST THROUGH FAITH
- B. .... ESTABLISHING THE SAINTS IN FAITH
- C. .... PREPARING FOR ETERNITY BY FAITH

## CONCLUSION

# CHAPTER ONE



## **BLIND FAITH**

## **CHAPTER ONE BLIND FAITH**

### **INTRODUCTION**

As we study the various "Blind Faiths" among religious people of all races, we should realize that all mankind came from one source. When God created Adam and Eve in His own image, they became the source of all human beings. As human beings worship, what ever it may be, it is in the very being of the creation of man that there is a desire to worship. We will be discussing the various religious systems, apart from true worship before the Living God. We will also note that the evil power of Satan does not discourage worship, as long as it does not involve the True and Living God. Yes, he may take even portions of the Bible to lead religious people astray and away from God's "so great salvation". He very successfully uses, these cults of all shades of partial truth, as a deceptive form of worship, but in vain of the whole truth as he leads the unregenerate astray. "But these things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and believing ye might have life through His Name." John 20:31. God the Holy Spirit has been given to those who believe for the purpose of discernment. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone into the world. By this know ye the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God; And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God; and this is that spirit of antichrist, of which ye have heard that it should come, and even now already is it in the world." 1 Jn.4:1-3.

#### **A. DUMB IDOLS**

Man, as a creature, created separate from animals, will always find someone or something to worship. As sin entered this world and man became totally depraved, he naturally was inclined to worship something. Abel was a man of faith and worshipped God, preparing the essential sacrifices to cover his sins. Having then been destroyed by sinful Cain, there seemed to be only evil forces in control, BUT GOD gave Eve another son by the name of Seth. "For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enosh: then began men to call upon the name of the Lord." Gen.4:25b-26. Satan lost no time in blinding every person and generation coming into this world, BUT GOD always had witnesses that believed in the presence of the Living God. Satan's plans were to corrupt and control, dictating through the various types of "dumb idols" to be worshipped. He was excellent with counterfeits, as to what God's ideals were. He made it easy for his blinded worshippers, by allowing them to choose various shapes and forms of idols. Satan used the billions of demons to make the idols

seem real and even speak to the worshippers. The testimony from many heathen saved out of this darkness into God's marvelous light will testify of the presence of the demons within their idols. They will tell you that they talked to their gods of wood, and the demons were there to deceive. "To whom then, will ye liken God? Or what likeness will ye compare unto Him? The workman melteth and casteth an image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains. He that is impoverished that hath no oblation, chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh a skillful workman to prepare a carved image, that shall not be moved." Isa.40:18-20. The heathen have many gods and as with the Masai tribe, they had one of their gods as the pine tree. Because it was always green, they were deceived into thinking that their god dwelt within their personal idol. The oriental heathen worshiped buddha in all shapes and forms, and even have a sleeping buddha. When visiting Japan, a missionary friend took me to the largest buddha in the whole world. We could not find it at first and a worshipper of it, gave us the directions, and then added, "But please forgive us, as we have not had time to clean it. Imagine worshipping something that needs cleansing by the worshippers, who are in need of being cleansed from their own sins! Sometimes we think of faith as something to depend upon, when everything else fails, but this should not be the case. Faith is based upon substance and evidence from Almighty God. These dumb idols are the deception from Satan, who has various ways of blinding his subjects to the realities of life. He causes their temples of worship to be controlled by lust and profit. While in Japan, I watched the worshippers come to their temple for various reasons. Some wanted to make certain deals in the business world, so they would rent certain stones and sticks and then drop them. If they fell a certain way, they were to make the deal, if contrary to that pattern, they were to refrain from such a deal. If the dropping of these objects were not favorable to the enquirer, they could keep on renting others until they got what they desired. Some would go through the process of buying temple money with real money and then burn it on the altar, hoping to get the necessary blessings that they desired. How sad it is to realize how these intelligent human beings can be so blinded in the worship of these dumb idols.

We in this so called civilized world, may not have such "dumb idols" as in these heathen lands, but we may have another type of idol in our life, such as fame, money, luxurious cars, comforts of life which we place above everything, or even a lustful life of selfishness. These may become dumb idols in one's life and need to be removed, and allow the Lord to have His supreme place in our lives. We as worshippers of the living God, "By Faith", have ample evidence in the Word of God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We can expect the Living God to reveal ample substance to justify our faith and trust with confidence. Don't let anything or anyone have precedence above your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name." John 20:31. Then spoke Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light

of life." Jn.8:12. Don't be deceived into accepting any of these dumb idols. "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal.6:7-8.

## **B. VAIN IMAGINATIONS**

It is amazing how that man can get involved with unreal images and imagine all sorts of things. Right now, our western world has become invaded with this lie of re-incarnation, mysticism, mythology, worshipping unreal images through demonology, taking a deceptive trip into mysticism through drugs. There is also a new fade of meditation which has become popular. It is supposed to take your mind off of the reality around about you and let your mind drift into the imaginary. Sometimes "Vain Repetition" becomes a "Vain Imagination". I had a friend of mine, approach me with several notebooks, which he wrote the name of "god" thousands of times, thinking that would gain him great merit before his god. It is but another way that Satan has of brain washing many who do not believe the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It along with all of these vain imaginations are useless and unimpressive before the true and living God.

Satan uses all sorts of forms of worship such as ancestral worship, which is related to re-incarnation. These forms of worship take away the personal responsibility of having faith in the living God. They falsely say that life is supposed to repeat itself in various forms of existence according to the good or bad that individuals do in their previous life, and as they continually repeat a new beginning through a new life, they gradually become a part of their godhead. A wealthy person under such a system is regarded very highly and respected. They are thought to have lived a very good life, prior to the present life, and were rewarded riches. This of course is another deception from Satan, and becomes a dumb idol and false religion.

One of the most dangerous approaches in our society today is the over emphasis upon environmental beliefs. It ties in with humanism and atheism. They prefer evolvement rather than a true systematic creation. They prefer adaptability rather than God's individual creativity. They reject "The Creator" and blindly accept explosive evolvement hoping to someday find all of these missing links. There should be billions of these links that produce the change of life, but they fail to find one. Again the Word of God is by passed, which declares, "All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fish, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory." 1 Cor.15:39-41. Imagination is based upon nothing, but faith in God is based upon solid evidence and tangible substance from an omniscient God.

Witchcraft and black magic with sorcery, as well as palm reading and all of this crystal ball imagination is but an added deception from Satan. He even counterfeits the working of the Holy Spirit by using demons to take part in seances. Demons always need some sort of a body or object to conceal their presence, and thus deceive the person. This is all a counterfeit faith based upon false evidence. That is why the demons cried out to Jesus Christ not to send them into abyss, but rather cast them into another being. Christ chose the swine in this one particular case, granting the demons a continual habitation in their wicked world, with their final judgement yet to come. (Matt.8:28-33.) Satan has his subtle ways of deception through objects and living creatures, encouraging the worshippers to imagine themselves greatly honored through their private gods. Demons need to indwell some sort of body in order to prevent returning to the abyss. Their final doom will be the lake of fire . Praise God, we who have been born again by God the Holy Spirit are protected from within. Yes, the believers can be harassed by the evil forces, but they cannot be possessed by these demons. Satan is the god of this world system, and it is obvious with the signs of the time, that the rapture of the saints cannot be far off, and the great tribulation will begin. But the total depravity of man will continue, and it is only by the grace of God that souls are saved out from the wrath to come, during those terrible days.

### **C. SELF DESTRUCTION**

This system of trying to impress their gods is widely used in heathenism. It is a form of personal torture to draw attention both before their false gods and their close contact with their gods, attempting to impress their fellow tribesmen. It is a demonic deception through human effort to attain merit. I briefly wish to illustrate some of these self destructive practices. Perhaps one of the most common practices of false worship is through self affliction or self deprivation. The following are a few methods by which the ignorant are blinded. It is amazing how much some will suffer to blindly worship in order to attain false promises.

### **MUTILATING THE BODY**

Africa, South America and many of the nations living on the countless islands around the world have practiced this mutilating of the body in many forms. One of the most terrible was the circumcision of the young girls, identifying them as belonging to certain tribes. With this terrible practice goes much witchcraft and evil worship. As a missionary in Africa for some 43 years, this was a constant struggle and obstruction as we attempted to establish Christian homes. There were many Christian girls who did not want to go through this heathen custom and would come to our mission for protection. We had one particular girl by the name of Sarah, who worked for us and loved the Lord with all her heart. Her parents tried every way to force her to this evil practice and finally deceived her by sending a note to her that her father was dying and begged

her to come home to be with him. We sent her with another of the girls for safety, but it wasn't long before the other girl came running back to the mission to tell us the sad story. Sarah was taken and stripped of her clothes and dragged to the ceremony where a group of wicked women did the cutting. I rushed to the scene with a group of church leaders to find that we were too late to save her from this terrible mutilation, but were able to rescue her at the threat of being personally speared or whipped. We did save her from having to go through many months of satanic brain washing of going through the wicked tribal customs, under the terrible satanic influence.

The cutting of the body in the form of tattoos and rubbing foreign material into the wounds is another form of worship by disfiguring the body. You may ask, how does this relate to worship and faith? As a matter of fact, it has a great bearing on their religious customs, and these cuttings differ according to the tribe. Their tribal witchcraft also enters into this ceremony, where Satan has his subjects demon possessed. There is also the cutting of the ear lobes and stretching them to great lengths, the piercing of the nose as well as the chest. The binding of the arms, legs and necks, as many tribes practice. In the orient they would even bind the feet of the women as part of their ritual and custom. One of the interior tribes of Africa would practice self hypnotism by looking at an object, and sometimes a mirror was used. When the spell is complete, they would have strong tribal men to take a whip and beat them until the blood would flow. This was their way of reaching to their gods, by self inflictions, but all in vain.

There are many forms of self torture which we could name and describe, such as forcing one self to climb great mountains, fasting as they traveled, paying tributes to some satanic priest who awaited their arrival. Then we could go into detail of those who lay upon beds of spikes, pierce their tongues with needles, have hooks piercing their backs and dragging a cart for great distances, also walking upon coals of fire, jumping from tree tops with an elastic binding around their ankles. Some have even turned into a glutton as their form of worship, eating constantly and destroying their bodies. These are but a few of the various forms of blind faith, practiced in many parts of the world. It is a satanic deception in making them believe that they will have special merit in the life to come.

God always provides sufficient evidence to establish our faith. Although God does not always give us the full results, nevertheless we can fully depend upon God to honor our faith. Our faith as Christians is not a blind faith but rather a faith built upon God's Word. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders received witness. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of god, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Heb.11:1-3. The Bible records many acts of faith as our evidence and witness, and we can completely depend upon the wonder workings of our living God. This brings us to a very important issue. Unless God is the author and finisher of your faith, you will over step a life of faith which will lead you in the wrong direction. This we

will review in the next chapter. Man is totally depraved, apart from God and a new birth is absolutely necessary, giving "Homo Sapien" a divine spark, which brings a new life to be led by the Holy Spirit. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness, because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shown it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse; Because, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." Rom.1:18-25. "

God has clearly manifested himself to us through the Bible and there is no excuse whatsoever that mankind needs to be enslaved by the ungodly lusts and pleasures of the flesh, or be persuaded by the evil forces. The trend of the whole world, the flesh and the devil is to exalt self and worship whatsoever one pleases. This is all contrary to God and against the knowledge of God. "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" 2 Cor. 10:5. It is therefore imperative that we thoroughly study the Word of God, using the faith principles, based upon God's revelation rather than man's imagination. This can only be accomplished by having the new birth by the Holy Spirit, and allowing him to have first place in our lives. The natural man's faith in these useless idols, whether in religious blind faith or blind demonic worship, they all are without excuse before God. The only prayer of faith that God hears is their repentance from sin and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Study carefully the first three chapters of Romans and there you will find that all are without excuse before God, whether under the law or a law unto themselves.

"There is a way which seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14:12. The Bible has been given to us so that we may know the true and living God. God used Moses to reveal himself to the people whom he brought out of the land of Egypt. "And God spoke all these words saying, I am the Lord thy God, who have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I, the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third



and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments." Exod.20:1-6. We are also reminded that there is but one God in three persons and none other. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Deut.6:4-5. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." 1 Tim.2:5-6. "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Gal.4:4-5.

It is important as we conclude this chapter that we understand there are many false faiths, and forms of worship to be found in this world. "This know, also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trusebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying the power of it; from such turn away." 2 Tim.3:1-5.

There are not many ways to approach God the Father, for we are told from the Scriptures, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God, our Savior, who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man, Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." 1 Tim.2:3-6. May I also quote a very important truth from the Bible. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Eph.4:4-6. May we especially note that there is but one faith and that faith is in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us now consider a study on these wrong faiths, which are many.

## **QUESTIONS CHAPTER ONE**

- 1. Explain mankind's desire to worship.**
- 2. Explain John 20:31.**
- 3. Name some dumb idols.**
- 4. Are dumb idols able to respond to their worshippers?  
Who makes possible such belief?  
How do the dumb idols seem to be alive?**
- 5. Write briefly on Isaiah chapter 40.**
- 6. Write briefly concerning various forms of the worship of Buddha.**
- 7. What types of dumb idol worship is found in western civilization?**
- 8. Write briefly on re-incarnation, mysticism, mythology.**
- 9. Give some various types of self destruction.**
- 10. Name some ways that the body is mutilated through false worship.**
- 11. Explain Romans 12:18-25; 2 Corinthians 10:5.**
- 12. Why is environment beliefs dangerous?**
- 13. Explain 1 Corinthians 15:39-41.**
- 14. Explain why the demons in Matthew 8:28-33, desired to go into the herd of swine.**
- 15. Read carefully the first three chapters of Romans and write briefly on your conclusion as to what is meant by such teachings.**
- 16. Write a brief essay on various types of "blind faith.**
- 17. Why is Christian Faith not blind faith?**
- 18. Give a brief testimony as to how you were delivered from blind faith.**

## CHAPTER TWO



## **WRONG FAITH**

## **CHAPTER TWO WRONG FAITH**

### **INTRODUCTION**

There can be a variety of ideas about "Faith", even we as believers may differ as to the principles of faith. These principles are thoroughly dealt with in this chapter. There are obvious conditions to be reckoned with as we practice faith, which are based upon God's Word. Just because you quote certain Scripture references, does not necessarily mean that God is going to grant your requests. There is a possibility of one misusing God's resources, or asking amiss, and even demanding from God without the necessary requirements. These are mentioned and briefly treated in this chapter. It is of the utmost importance that we use the faith principles, based upon God's revelation as found in the Bible. "As ye have therefore, received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him, rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Col.2:6-8. "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb.11:6.

Faith is a necessary ingredient in the Christian's life, and in fact it was necessary in accepting the gospel. Did you note what the Scripture said, "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb.11:6.". God could have given us a mere instinct and pattern of life without a choice, but he chose to allow us to make the decision. You and I must accept that God is and is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. God wants subjects of his, which were created in the likeness of God to trust him and obey his commands. God even provides the faith in which we practice as believers. These resources that God provides are to be used to glorify the Wonderful Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Do not use these resources at our disposal to exalt self or for personal gain.

#### **A. MISUSE OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE**

As human beings, we attempt to excuse ourselves in the light of certain "Wants" that we may desire. An alcoholic may even quote the Scripture that Paul the apostle suggested to Timothy, who had stomach trouble, to take a little wine. (1 Tim.5:23.) Paul was referring to an non alcoholic wine. How does one come to such a conclusion? Anyone with a little knowledge of chemistry, understands, the after effect of alcohol on a tender spot would irritate rather than relieve. Pure grape juice, which was also called a grape wine would soothe the ailment. Sometimes the requests are made before God on a basis of wants, rather than

needs. We must be careful as we practice our faith that we are abiding according to the will of the Lord and seeking to do the will of God rather than our personal wants.

There is a very direct and positive verse of Scripture that has been used and misused many times. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" John 15:7. It is very easy to skip over the conditions required and demand the results that one wishes to acquire. Reading this verse in the context will help you to understand that this portion of Scripture is dealing with fruit bearing, and receiving the strength to do so, from the vine. Note what the Lord said prior to this verse. "I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." John 15:5-6. This gives us the clue and the principles upon which we ask what we will. We use this faith promise for the purpose of bearing fruit in the work of the Lord. If your request is for that purpose and not for a selfish reason, the Lord will do what you wish, as you abide in Him. This "abiding in Christ" can only be attained as we are led by the Holy Spirit. God the Father has sent the Holy Spirit at the request of God the Son and is for our admonition. The Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth as we allow him to keep on filling our lives.

Another important feature of our asking what we wish consists of "What is the purpose of our petition"? The Lord Himself would have liked to have "By Passed" that bitter cup of the crucifixion, but He prayed. "And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." Matt. 26:39. Certainly, if the Father heard anyone's prayers it was the prayer of his Eternal Son. Since Christ came into this world to become the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, certainly the Father could not grant what the Lord wished was possible. The Lord was aware of this purpose for his incarnation, but expressed his natural human feeling with such a request. If one does have a desire for certain answers to their prayers, we must always add, as Christ did, "Nevertheless, not as I will, but as God the Father wishes".

Don't misuse the resources available to us as Believers, but rather desire the perfect will of God to be accomplished in our lives. We do not wish that we force the Hand of God, as this verse describes. "And he gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul." Ps.106:15. This is something that we should always be aware of as we pray the prayer of faith. Our knowledge of the Bible is very important to us as we live the Christian life. For as we walk in the light of God's Word, we discern the guidance available through God the Holy Spirit. Here are a few guide lines that we gain with the faith principles in studying God's Word.

#### **1. Cleansing power for rich Christian fellowship. (1 Jn.1:7.)**

- 2. Guiding power by God the Holy Spirit. (Rom.8:14.)**
- 3. The Holy Spirit teaches principles of faith. (Jn.16:13.)**
- 4. Knowledge of the Bible brings discernment. (Rom.11:33-36.)**
- 5. Keep short accounts with God, and have him destroy the "Wood, Hay, and Stubble in your life while we are still in this world. (1 Jn.1:9; 1 Cor.3:9-17.)**
- 6. Spend much time in prayer by faith believing. (Heb.11:6; Rom.12:12.)**
- 7. Assemble together with one accord. (Acts 2:46.)**

Permit the Holy Spirit to search your hearts and be willing to allow the cleansing power to sweep over your soul for glorifying the Lord in a life of faith. Don't be disobedient to the will of God but in all things, seek the mind of Christ in your daily life. We have eternity promised to us and sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, therefore let us be mindful of the will of God for our lives. Practice a life of faith according to God's Word. Do not abuse the privileges which the Lord has given to each of us as believers.

#### **B. ASKING AMISS**

Usually when one, by faith, asks "amiss" it is because sin is reigning in a believer's life, or the lack of maturity as a believer. This does not necessarily have to do with how long one has been a Christian, but rather refers to the growth according to the knowledge of God's word. Some believers grow faster than others because they are feasting upon the Word of God consistently. But the misunderstanding of God's principles, usually occurs when not understanding the doctrines of the Bible. This lack of growth sometimes occurs when one misunderstands the principles of "Grace". Since one feels secure in Christ Jesus, one is apt to live loosely and worldly and become confused in the wonder working of Almighty God. The children of Israel had that same problem as they sinned against Jehovah. They were instructed from the Word to confess and make things right. When God would punish them for their wrong doings and send them into captivity, they would complain to God and here is his answer. "Yet if they bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn and pray unto thee in the land of their captivity, saying, We have sinned, we have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly" 2 Chron.6:36. You may by faith ask certain things from God and do not receive what you ask for. This may disturb the young believer greatly and he may even think that God does not care. That is not so, for God is mindful of his own. The Word of God sets forth the reasons for your unanswered prayers. However, if you do not live the Christian life in the

knowledge of the Word of God, there is no way that you will be able to apply God's principles, if you are unfamiliar with them. "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." Jas.4:3. Beware of such an attitude and requests in your Christian life. Always allow the Holy Spirit to lay upon your heart certain petitions. You may be asking for the wrong things because of the following conditions in your Christian life.

1. You may be out of fellowship with God because of your unconfessed sins. 1 Jn. 1:9.
2. You may be grieving God the Holy Spirit. Eph.4:30.
3. You may be so conformed to the world that God the Holy Spirit cannot control your life by giving you a complete filling. Eph.5:18.
4. You may lack knowledge of the Word of God and living on skim milk from the Word. 1 Cor.3:1-3.
5. You may not be exercising your faith through prayer. Ja.4:2.
6. You may be asking amiss. Ja.4:3.
7. You lack victory with the necessary faith when tested. Jas.2:2-4.
8. One of the chief causes in a faithless life as Christians is the cares of this world and the believer's involvement with excess worldliness. This definitely will cause the believer to be out of fellowship with the Lord, grieving the Holy Spirit and a lack of understanding of the perfect will of God for their life. Also as we go through this present life as believers we must continually grow in the knowledge of the Bible. Sometimes the failure to assemble together with fellow believers may cause this condition, or we may be spending little time in the study of the Word of God. Or our reading of the Bible is a mere form and routine just to appease our conscience.

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Let us consider what the Holy Spirit has to say through the Book of James. "From where come wars and fightings among you? Come they not here, even of your lusts, that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not; ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain; ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." Ja.4:1-3. One of the main ways that Satan has of disrupting the fellowship within churches is to cause friction among the believers. All sorts of differences

of personalities tend to cause splits, divisions, cliches, and schism within the church body. This ought not to be so, if the believers are in the right relationship with God. One can be so busy finding fault with his fellow believer, that he has no time to spend talking with God. "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is no occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not where he goeth, because darkness hath blinded his eyes." 1 Jn.2:9-11. Yes, a believer can dwell in darkness and miss the great blessings of God. That is why the Bible teaches that some Christians will be "Saved yet as by fire". (1 Cor.3:15.) God's promises are "Yea and Amen" and when God speaks, he cannot deny himself or does he need to change his mind on any matter, He is the "Immutable God"! "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Heb.13:8. When a believer is living in sin and darkness, it is obvious that he does not wish to talk to the Living God, nor can he by faith, request the things to glorify the Lord. There are but two alternatives, either he does not practice the prayer of faith, or when he exercizeth his faith, he prays amiss. One can best understand the wrong Christian attitude and action, from the example of a politician trying to get into office. He will do everything possible against his opposition in order to attain certain offices in a government. So the lustful Christian will do all within himself that is possible to down grade those that seek the same prestige within the church. He walks by deceit rather than by faith. Here are a few suggestions to maintain a faithful walk in the Lord and with our fellow believers.

1. **Love the brethren for they are members of the body of Christ, and continually pray for each other. (1 Pet.3:8; 1 Jn.3:13-14;)**
2. **Avoid those who cause division among you. (Rom.16:17.)**
3. **Spend quiet time alone with the Lord. (Matt.14:23; Matt.20:17;)**
4. **Assemble together with those of like faith. (Heb.10:23-25.)**
5. **Continually draw near unto God, knowing that Christ is our Eternal High Priest in the heavenlies. (Heb.10:22.)**
6. **Hold fast the true testimony of our faith. (Heb.10:23.)**
7. **In honor preferring your fellow believer. (Heb.10:24; Rom.12:10.)**
8. **Confess your short comings and sins before God often. (1 Jn.1:9.)**



- 10. Continually maintain God's Word in your heart. (Ps.119:11.)**
- 11. Study the Bible diligently and understand the marvelous plan of God. (2 Tim.2:15.)**
- 12. Give Christ first place in your heart. Rom.12:1-2.**

In order to grow in faith as believers, we need to avoid the wrong kind of prayer requests and not pray amiss. God is not a God of confusion, but is consistent in all his affairs. He desires to teach us his principles set forth in the Bible. We live our daily life as believers for Almighty God and in his providence. Remember, "Trust in the Lord with all with all thine heart, and lean not upon thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Prov.3:5-6. You will remain a babe in Christ, regardless of the years, if you are not a workman, using the tools furnished to you in the Bible. You will not know how to use the tools that God has provided, if you remain on only the milk of God's Word.

### **C. DEMANDING FROM GOD**

It is one thing to claim the promises of God and another thing to demand God to do what you want him to do. There are a few principles to be remembered in our prayer of faith and I wish to list these for your admonition.

- 1. We must thoroughly understand the attributes of our Almighty God as found in the Bible, for Christ has already prayed for our unity. (Jn.17:21-26.)**
- 2. As you pray, seek to abide in Christ as you make your prayer requests, desiring to better understand the Divine viewpoint. As believers we are set apart to do the will of God in order that we might live fruitful lives. (Jn.15:7-9; Jn.17:17.)**
- 3. Sometimes we demand an answer to our prayers immediately, but God waits the opportune time. (Ps.90:4; 2 Pet.3:8.)**
- 4. As Spirit filled believers, our prayers should always be, "Thy will Be done". (Matt.6:10; Matt.12:50; Matt.18:14; Matt.26:39;**
- 5. God's will has brought eternal life to us and God's will guides us through a life of faith. (Jn.1:12-13.)**

6. **God who dwells within us through the Holy Spirit will guide you in your prayer life of faith. He is greater than every situation. (Jn.16:13; Rom.8:14; 1 Jn.4:4.)**
7. **Let the mind of Christ dwell in you as you request of God the Father your various desires. Your demanding nature will be changed into a spiritual outlook through the Holy Spirit. (1 Jn.4:9-13; Phil.2:5; Rom.8:27; Rom.12:2; 1 Cor.2:13-16.)**

The untaught believer has many problems in his Christian walk. Coming out from a demanding world of people, he naturally desires to use the same principles in the Christian way of life. Before he became a Christian he depended upon strategy, determination, pressure and the like, now it is a walk of faith under the righteousness of God. Following the principles set forth in these seven points just mentioned, it will give him a tremendous understanding of the powerhouse of God. This will develop, by the help of the Holy Spirit, into an established spiritual life. Anything less than a dedicated life to God's Divine principles cannot be tolerated by God. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor.6:19-20. "Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men." 1 Cor.7:23; "For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, from your vain manner of life received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot," 1 Pet.1:18-19.

I have previously mentioned that God sometimes will give you the desire of your heart, but with the consequence of "leanness of soul". We must not approach our God with a demanding attitude, but rather with a contrite heart, acknowledging that we are "sinners saved by grace"! There are certain believers who believe that they have the power to demand God the Holy Spirit to do what they wish. They consider him as merely a great power house at their disposal. This is far from the truth of God's Word. He can be grieved and put to the side in the believer's life. In disobedience to the Holy Spirit, there are cases when the power of the Holy Spirit is quenched. It is a dangerous situation to be a carnal Christian, which presents the possibility of the quenching of the Spirit and eventually causing the sin unto death. The Holy Spirit is given to us for our own protection, our guide and teacher. (Rom.8:26; Gal.3:1-5; Jn.16:13; Rom.8:14.) Seek to be led by the Holy Spirit, rather than try to demand from him your selfish desires. Rather than be a demanding Christian submit to a commanding God who loves you and always wants to do exceeding abundantly for you who obey his voice.

May we always remember that we as those who are born again of God the Holy Spirit are of "The Royal Family of God" and we approach our Heavenly Father with our petitions by faith, but always according to the will of God who

understands our every need before we ask. His great love for us goes back into "Eternity Past", before the foundations of the world. In his omniscience, our Eternal God knows the end from the beginning, and all of the eternity to come. By faith we can rest assured that as we exercise our faith, trusting in our Heavenly Father, that his will in all things is all we need. We have the evidence necessary for us to practice "Faith Rest" and know that God will provide the best! Our loving Father will always do more than we could demand, so let him be in command!

In our further study of "Faith Principles", Christ must be our all in all, having the preeminent place in our lives. "Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers - all things were created by him, and for him; And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the first - born from the dead, that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all the fullness dwell;" Col.1:15-19. When we understand such eternal truths from God's Word, we can only say, "But by the grace of God I am what I am; and his grace, which was bestowed upon me, was not in vain, but I labored more abundantly than they all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed." 1 Cor.15:10-11. All is of grace, for Christ is the author and the finisher of our faith.

Biblical faith is the crux of our new life in Christ Jesus. This demands our complete commitment and submission to our Heavenly Father. Regardless of our wants, or even our needs, we can completely depend upon our Heavenly Father. We come by faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, allowing God to be in command, rather than our demand! We are to do all things in our new life by faith for the glory of our Mighty God, regardless of the circumstances. As the simple but meaningful chorus goes, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of the earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace." By faith, take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there! Don't become frustrated or faithless, but depend upon the Holy Spirit to guide you and comfort you. Always remember that he is interceding for you and Christ our great high priest has entered the Holy of Holies in our behalf as our Mediator and head of the whole church body. (1 Tim.2:5.)

Our every request, as we approach God should be in an absolute faith that nothing is too hard for our Living God. "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb.11:6. If you lack anything in the category of faith, do not blame God, but rather blame your ignorance concerning the character of God. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea

driven with the wind and tossed."Jas.1:5-6. God has made ample provision for us under every circumstance and is always ready to hear our requests when in the right relationship with God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we approach our Heavenly Father, it should always be up to God the Father to have the final word. Yes, make your requests known to God, but the final decision should be according to his will, and not our will. The Biblical sequence of prayer should always be to God the Father, in the name of God the Son, and by the guidance of God the Holy Spirit. Some of the hindrances have already been mentioned, therefore, take heed as to how you exercise your faith. When praying, distinguish between your wants and your needs. Always place God's work and his will first and exercise the faith principles set forth in the Bible. Since becoming a child of God, our life is not of a fatalistic determination, but rather based up the providence of God. No one needs to tell God about the future, for he knows the end from the beginning. The Triune God is "Alpha and Omega" and is not subject to anything in the world, or the ages to come. Let God command you life, rather than you try to demand from God, who is the source of all life! Be mindful of the needs of your fellow believer, knowing that we all are members of the body of Christ.

## **QUESTIONS CHAPTER TWO**

- 1. Why do we need to understand God's principles of faith?**
- 2. Explain briefly Colossians 2:6-8.**
- 3. Why is faith so important in the believer's life?**
- 4. Name some ways that faith is misused in the Christian's life?**
- 5. Do we have "choice" or "instinct" in our Christian life? Explain**
- 6. Explain some conditions involved in using John 15:7.**
- 7. Explain the principle of "purpose" in our prayer**
- 8. Explain Matthew 26:39.**
- 9. How do we attain the "perfect will of God" in our christian life? (Romans 12:1-2.)**
- 10. What guide line do we have in exercising "faith"? Name seven such steps with scripture.**

- 11. Name five reasons or conditions that may exist in a christian life when asking for the wrongs things.  
James 4:1-3.**
- 12. What is one of the chief causes in the faithless life of a Christian?**
- 13. How can we maintain a faithful life in the Lord? Name twelve ways that this is possible.**
- 14. Write briefly on "growing in faith as believers".**
- 15. Name seven ways that we can avoid demanding from god.**
- 16. What are some problems that an untaught carnal believer has in the life of faith?**
- 17. What attitude should believers have toward the Holy Spirit?**
- 18. Why is it necessary to use the faith principles by the Holy Spirit?**
- 19. Explain Rom.8:26; Gal.3:1-5; John 16:13; Rom.8:14.**
- 20. Write briefly on "faith necessary to achieve God's command"**

## CHAPTER THREE



## SOURCE of FAITH

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **THE SOURCE OF FAITH**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God, who gave himself a ransom for our souls, we become utterly dependent upon Almighty God for all things. As in Acts 17:28; we read, "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring." Since we are completely dependent upon Almighty God, we must also consider that God is our source of all that is in life, even our faith. We must understand to separate between our position in Christ Jesus as Savior, Lord and Master and our experience and conditions under which we live a life of faith, glorifying our Lord Jesus Christ. Upon the authority of God's Word, we become aware of our resources and the conditions required. Apart from the Lord Jesus Christ, we are nothing and the Lord reminds us. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." 2 Cor.4:6-7.

This situation that exists as saints of God gives us the assurance that our position before God the Father is as sure as the Lord Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son of God. Some day in our glorified body, as the Lord himself presents us to the Father, we will be absolutely blameless and will enter into that glorious state, never to even have the taint of sin in our lives, as the Bride of Christ. God has provided so great salvation and that unconditionally which is the source of our faith and life on into eternity to come.

#### **A. AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH**

In the Christian life it is very easy to get involved in insignificant affairs of this present life and become entangled in a useless worldly routine. The Bible reminds us through many examples and evidence to refrain from being beset by the things which are seen. "For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Cor.4:15-18. This is where "Faith" plays an important part in our life. "For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then, face to face; now I know in part, but then shall I know even as I am known." 1 Cor.13:12. God has given us

ample evidence of how the cares of this world system can absorb all or most of your time, and leave you with very little time to devote to the eternal things. This causes us to draw little from a "Faith Rest" life which God wants to freely give to all of his children. "Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Heb.12:1-2.

Since the Lord Jesus Christ is the author of our faith, we certainly are completely dependent upon him for every ounce of our faith. There is no room for any of us as Christians to boast about our faith or feel defeated because we lack wisdom in applying faith. As the Bible says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." Jas.1:5-7. These are important statements concerning the use of faith, which comes from the Lord himself. If you are in the right relationship, with the Lord you will be given the right amount of faith for every situation which you face. God will give you both the faith through Christ as well as the wisdom to use that faith to the praise and glory of God.

## **B. BIBLICAL AUTHORITY OF OUR FAITH**

As we have reviewed the origin of faith, we also have the authority to use this faith from the Biblical standpoint. Perhaps the best way to describe this is to quote a series of examples from the Bible which should give us sufficient evidence. Let us choose out a few of the hundreds of acts of faith recorded in the Bible.

- 1. The creation of mankind in the image of God. (Gen.1:26-27.)**
- 2. The Institute of Marriage. (Gen.2:24.)**
- 3. The promise of the Messiah. (Gen.3:15; Isa.7:14.)**
- 4. The Flood and the sign of the Rainbow. (Gen.6:1-9:17.)**
- 5. God multiplied the languages upon the earth at the Tower of Babel. (Gen.11:1-9.)**
- 6. The separation of the chosen race of people for the preservation of the Messianic Hope. (Gen.12:1-9; Gen.15:1-18; Deut.32:8.)**



7. **The mystery of the King/Priest Melchizedek. Gen.14:18-20; Heb.5:5-10; Heb.7:1-28.)**
8. **The giving of the commandments, to the chosen race of people. Exod.20:1-17.**
9. **Giving of the Promised Land to Israel under Joshua. The Book of Joshua.**
10. **God's preservation of the Messianic lineage through Ruth and Boaz. The Book of Ruth.**
11. **Hannah's vow and faith. 1 Sam.1:9-28.**
12. **The unconditional Covenant of Abraham. (Gen.15:1-18.)**
13. **Unconditional Covenant of David. (1 Chron.17:11-13; 2 Sam.7:16,24; 1 Ki.9:5.)**
14. **The pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh. (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:1-6.)**
15. **The ruling nations revealed to Daniel. (The Book of Daniel)**
16. **The coming kingdom of a thousand years. (Isa.11; Isa.35:3-10; Isa.65:20-24; Zech.14:9; Rev.20:1-3.)**
17. **The mystery age of the age of grace, (The church Age).Matt.16:18.)**
18. **The rapture of the saints. (Jn.14:1-6; 1 Thess.4:13-18; 1 Thess.1:10.)**
19. **The great tribulation. Matt.24:15-24; Rev.6-18.)**
20. **The Battle of Armageddon. (Rev.19:11-21.**
21. **The Great White Throne Judgement. (Rev.20:11-15.)**
22. **The New Heavens and the New Earth. (Isa.65:17; Rev.21.)**
23. **New Paradise (Rev.22.)**

These are Biblical evidences of those fulfilled as well as those to be fulfilled in the fullness of time. This why the Word of God speaks about "Faith"

being of evidence and of substance or reality. Now let us discuss some of the conditions necessary in the practice of faith principles, in the believer's life.

### **C.     CONDITIONAL ACCESS OF OUR FAITH**

Our salvation is unconditionally promised by God's Word, based entirely upon the merits and finished work on Calvary by the Lord Jesus Christ. There is nothing that we can add to or take away from the complete salvation which God the Father offers through God the Son and becomes a reality by the new birth through God the Holy Spirit. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Jn.3:16. That is a definite and absolute fact based upon God's Word, without conditions, other than accepting God's provision "By Faith". "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb.11:6. But even your faith is a gift from God, through the Lord Jesus Christ. "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.:Heb.12:2.

However, there are responsibilities that the saints have in order to be in good standing before God the Father. We are saved by grace alone, and Christ's righteousness becomes our acceptability before God the Father. That positional truth never changes, but our daily walk with God through faith is determined by several important conditions, as follows.

- 1.     Confessing known sins before God, with forgiveness and cleansing from all unrighteousness by God. (1 Jn.1:9.)**
- 2.     Right relationship with fellow believers. (1 Jn.4:20-21; 1 Jn.1:7.)**
- 3.     Not grieving God the Holy Spirit. (Eph.4:30.)**
- 4.     Abiding in Christ and favorable to His Word. (Jn.15:7.)**
- 5.     Seeking to honor the will of God rather than the will of your wants. (Rom.8:27.)**
- 6.     Not quench the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. (1 Thess.5:19.)**
- 7.     Present your life a living sacrifice to the cause of Christ and not conformed to this world system but allow the Holy Spirit to keep on filling your life. Rom.12:1-2; Eph.3:17-19; Eph.5:17-18.**

These are important issues in our Christian walk, and as we strive toward such a goal, our prayer life of faith becomes meaningful, producing eternal fruit through the Holy Spirit, which is acceptable to the Lord. "For we were once darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light. For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth, proving what is acceptable unto the Lord." Eph.5:8-10. Your prayerful life of faith will then be controlled by the Lord as you walk the life of faith in the power of the Holy Spirit. If, as a Christian, you are living a life of sin or cluttered up with the affairs of the world, you cannot expect God the Holy Spirit to fill your life. Remember also that it is not that you get more of the Holy Spirit, but rather that he gets all of you. Study carefully and prayerfully those seven principles with the Scripture and apply them to your life. "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led by the Spirit, ye are not under the law." Gal.5:16-18. We have liberty in the Lord, but we are not to be lawless, but rather under the authority of the Holy Spirit.

By applying these seven issues to our Christian life, we meet the conditions necessary for our prayer life. Yes we can ask what we will, and it shall be done unto us, provided that we are abiding in Christ, seeking to do His will and walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. Your prayer requests will then be governed to bear fruit unto God the Father. Your prayers of faith will also be backed by the intercession of both God the Holy Spirit and God the Son. "Likewise, the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom.8:26-28. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 Jn.2:1-2.

Yes, there are conditions as saints of God in our life by the prayers of faith. The faith principles by which we live are very important as to how we approach our Heavenly Father. As members of the body of Christ, we need to be aware of the unity that is necessary for our spiritual life. Our approach to God the Father must always be in the name of God the Son, and led by God the Holy Spirit. Since we have been bought with a price of the Eternal Son of God, we are no longer our own. Since we are under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it is essential that we fulfill the conditions necessary to ask for the right things "By Faith" and according to the will of God. Although we are pilgrims in this world with our citizenship in heaven, we are dependent upon the complete help from

God during our journey through this present life. Our faith should always seek the Divine viewpoint so that we do not ask for the wrong things. We have God's promises from the Bible and it is necessary that we abide by the Word of God. The more that we understand of the Word of God, the more spiritual we become, for the word of God knows our every thought and intent. "Let us labor, therefore, to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the Word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight, but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. Seeing, then, that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb.4:11-16.

### **QUESTIONS CHAPTER THREE**

- 1. Name some of the ways in which we are totally dependent upon God .**
- 2. Explain Acts 17:28.**
- 3. Write briefly on 2 Corinthians 4:6-7.**
- 4. Explain 2 Corinthians 4:15-18.**
- 5. Who is the giver of our faith? Explain Hebrews 12:1-2.**
- 6. What does James 1:5-7 tell us if we lack anything?**
- 7. Name some examples of Biblical Faith fulfilled and yet to be fulfilled. Give Scriptures.**
- 8. Name three unconditional covenants. Two in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament.**
- 9. What are the requirements for approaching God in the prayer of faith? Give seven requirements and the Scripture.**
- 10. Explain Ephesians 5:8-10.**
- 11. Explain Galatians 5:16-18.**
- 12. Write briefly on Hebrews 4:11-16.**

## CHAPTER FOUR



## LITTLE FAITH

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **LITTLE FAITH**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Lord himself is always thoroughly aware of every thought, word and deed of his creation of mankind, and certainly he is mindful of those who become believers in the finished work of Calvary's cross. As Christ spent those brief years with the disciples, he recognized their "Little Faith". The Bible clearly sets forth those important principles to guard against this lack of sufficient faith. Sometimes, we as Christians want to use our faith, only when all else fails. This we have dealt with as a "Prayerless Approach". Sometimes our faithlessness is due to the weakness of the flesh, the lack of Biblical knowledge, or allowing the cares of the world to control our lives. Whatever the case may be, our cure from these obstacles can be found in the precious Word of God. God never limits one in the exercise of the amount of faith, but rather, this lack of faith comes to believers as they fail to draw upon the mighty faith which God makes available to them.

#### **A. PRAYERLESS APPROACH THROUGH POOR FAITH.**

Young Christians in the faith, or those older untaught Christians, are often ignorant of the faith principles involved as members of the "Royal Family Of God". Their former religious life or way of life was so patterned to pay for anything that was so desired or required, rather than do without it. The heathen offered cattle sheep and goats to the witch doctor. The religious person went through a form of worship but knew nothing about a loving Heavenly God. As carnal babes in Christ, we often neglect our dependence upon God even when all seems to be going well. When everything seems to be going well, one can fail to keep in close touch with the heavenly Father through prayer. Suddenly, they are faced with a problem, or set back and they panic and do not know which way to turn. They may even cry out to God and blame him for their terrible situation or problem. Since they previously spent very little time in communion with God, with a prayerless life, their approach to their Heavenly Father seems unreal. The fellowship through prayer has been neglected and the panic approach is frustrating and disturbing to one's Christian walk in the Holy Spirit. It causes one to push panic buttons, rather than to trust in the Lord regardless of circumstances.

As believers and members of the Divine family of God, we need not to be anxious about the cares of this life, for our Heavenly Father watches over us. Listen to what the Lord said to his disciples. "Therefore, I say unto you, Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than food and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor

gather into barns, yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto his stature? And why are ye anxious for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin, and yet I say unto you that even Solomon, in all his glory, was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of "Little Faith" Therefore, be not anxious saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Be, therefore, not anxious about tomorrow; for tomorrow will be anxious for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is its own evil." Matt.6:25-34. The whole crux of the Christian life is to be in constant communication with our Heavenly Father, living the "Faith Rest" Christian life as members of the "Household of Faith".

Prayerlessness and faithlessness go side by side and cause one to be out of fellowship with the Lord. Although we might continue to pray, our prayers are often canceled before the throne of God. However, when a saint is out of fellowship with the Lord, then, prayerlessness is usually the results. There are many causes of lack of fellowship with our Heavenly Father, as has been already dealt with. May we just mention a few of the very important ones.

1. **Grieving the Holy Spirit. (Eph.4:30.)**
2. **Conformed to the system of the world. (Rom.12:2.)**
3. **Unconfessed sin. (1 Jn.1:9.)**
4. **Not allowing the Holy Spirit to keep on filling your life with the things of God. (Eph.5:8.)**
5. **Quenching the power of the Holy Spirit in ones life. (1 Thess.5:19.)**
6. **Lack of prayer in one's daily life. (1 Thess. 5:17.)**
7. **Neglecting to assemble together with other believers of like faith. (Heb.10:22-25.)**

Since Christ is the author and finisher of our faith, there is an ample supply of faith available. We need to constantly pray for one another that we might continue to draw our faith from the great storehouse of God. Peter was faced with the onslaughts of Satan, but Christ upheld him in prayer. "And the



Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not. And when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." Lk.22:31-32. Peter thought that in his own strength that he was strong enough. "And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death." Lk.22:33. But the Lord knew his weakness, "And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me." Lk.22:34. We all know the results, as Peter denied his Lord three times before the cock crowed. (Lk.22:54-62.) Peter was zealous for the Lord prior to this and even attempted to walk on the water, which he did as long as he kept his eyes upon the Lord. (Matt.14:24-33.) Peter cried out, "Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, why didst thou doubt? " Matt.14:30b-31. There is faith sufficient for all believers in the presence of Almighty God. May we claim the promises of God! We are reminded from the Bible, to ask for more faith, as the apostles did. "And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you." Lk.17:5-6. However, as we offer the prayer of faith, we do need to have a purpose or reason for a particular request and not to blindly exercise our faith. The disciples of Jesus had trouble exercising their faith and the Lord had to rebuke them. They could do nothing to help the epileptic son of a certain man. "Then the Lord answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you?" Matt.17:17a. "Then came the disciples to Jesus privately, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief; for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Move from here to yonder place; and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit, this kind goeth not out except by prayer and fasting" Matt.17:19-21. Note three important features in what the Lord said to his disciples.

- 1. There are various amounts of faith. vs.17, & vs.20.**
- 2. Faith must be accompanied by prayer and sometimes by fasting as well. Vs. 21.**
- 3. Christ did not remove the mountain, for their was no purpose to do so.**

There is another important truth that should be considered and that is the time when Christ desired some figs from a certain fig tree. "Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he was hungry. And when he saw a fig tree along the way, he came to it, and found nothing on it but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward forever, and presently the fig tree withered

away. And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also, if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea, it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing ye shall receive." Matt.21:18-22. Note this particular illustration, with the following important truths.

- 1. Christ had a need to satisfy his hunger. vs.18.**
- 2. There should have been figs on the tree, as the leaves indicated this. vs.19.**
- 3. Naturally the fig tree would not wither immediately, but with the word from the Creator, he over ruled the natural. vs.20.**
- 4. The fig tree is an emblem of Israel, and therefore Christ had a double reason to demonstrate as they rejected him as their Messiah. His authority was challenged in Matthew 21:23-27.**
- 5. Prayer and our belief are necessary, remembering not to ask amiss, or for selfish reasons. (Jn.15:7-8.)**
- 6. Even though we have faith to remove obstacles or mountains in our Christian walk, it all must be done with the Divine viewpoint in Divine love. 1 Cor.13:2.**

May we be reminded that prayer requires faith and faith is an incentive to pray. Man's extremity is God's opportunity. Spend much time in prayer, maintaining an attitude of prayer as we walk in the light of God's precious word. (1 Jn.1:7.) God has revealed his righteousness unto us through faith. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For in it is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Rom.1:16-17. Faith becomes the link to our heavenly citizenship and gives us endless care from our future heavenly home! Many of our loved ones who have already reached the place called "Paradise", continually grow in the knowledge of our Heavenly Father and in favor of our loving Lord. There is an important encouragement that we may have as we pray the prayer of faith, and that is when the Lord gives us results. We may start out with little faith, but that little faith may grow as we practice faith and experience the great and mighty things of God through prayer. (Jer.33:3.)

The carnal Christian and the babe in Christ, fail to use the mighty weapon of prayer, and flounder around through this present life, continually defeated with

a fruitless life through a poor spirit. This causes a poor weak faith which always leads to a defeated Christian life. Such a one often attempts to live religiously by their own limited good works, but become failures. They may even go through a form of godliness, denying the power of God and also be fruitless toward God. They become very similar to those mentioned in one of Christ's parables. "Hearken: Behold, there went out a sower to sow. And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit." Mk.4:3-7. These prayerless Christians with poor faith develop into fruitless lives, which brings discouragement and a continual lack of faith. May I remind you that your faith must be flavored with the Divine love from God the Holy Spirit to be effective for the praise and glory of God. In chapter 13 of first Corinthians, this particular truth is often confused with human love, rather than a part of the package elements of the fruit of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law." Gal.5:22-23. Note some important factors related to this Scripture.

- 1. Love is mentioned at the beginning of these characteristics that we should have from the Holy Spirit.**
- 2. Since these are part and parcel of a single fruit, "Faith" is included as an important factor that comes from God the Holy Spirit.**
- 3. This fruit is based upon the principle of "Grace" and not according to "Law". s.23.**
- 4. We have our life in the Holy Spirit, therefore we are also to walk in the Spirit. Gal.5:25.**
- 5. Our faith is to be used for the glory of God rather than our "Vainglory". Gal.5:26.**

May we as believers desiring God's perfect will done in our lives, "By Grace", avoid a prayerless life. May we desire to be fruit bearing and so glorifying our Heavenly Father. May our prayer life be in harmony with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This can never be accomplished by the will of the flesh. Always remember God's Word. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, from your vain manner of life received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Pet.1:18-19.

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

There is no way that we can boast, as to our faith, for all that we will ever be is by the grace of God. Even our understanding of God's Word, comes as a gift from the Holy Spirit, who guides us into all truth. As believers we are completely dependent upon God, who alone sustains us. The more we understand about the Bible, being taught by the Holy Spirit, the greater will be our faith in our loving God. Knowledge as to what God can do is essential as to what our walk of faith will accomplish. The Lord Jesus Christ desires to accomplish great things through us, as we yield to his will for our lives. "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jer.33:3. You exercise the faith which is available to you, through the knowledge of the Word of God, and God will accomplish those great and mighty things in and through your life. We can gain knowledge of the Bible, but wisdom and discernment must come through the help of the Holy Spirit. "Now unto him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages" Eph.3:20-21a.

## **B. WEAKNESS OF THE FLESH.**

As we continue our study of the Bible we are admonished, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes; fear the Lord, and depart from evil." Prov.3:5-7.

What the Lord has begun in making us new creatures in Christ Jesus, so he will absolutely complete without a shadow of doubt! The Lord Jesus Christ wants to present us to our Heavenly Father as blameless. "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ, that in everything ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you; So that ye come behind in no gift, waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Cor.1:4-9. Note the following truths from these passages.

- 1. Your position before God is based upon "Grace", given to you by the Lord Jesus Christ. vs. 4,**
- 2. Our witness as well as knowledge must be enriched by the Lord. vs.5-6.**

3. **There will be rewards awaiting for our faithfulness, when the Lord raptures us home to those prepared mansions. vs.7. (Jn.14:1-6; 1 Cor.3:9-16; 2 Cor.5:10.)**
4. **The Lord Jesus Christ will present us "Blameless" in "The Day of the Lord." (1 Cor.1:8; 1 Thess.5:23; 2 Pet.3:14.)**

Let me remind you, as a student of the Word of God, to allow the Holy Spirit to establish you in the Christian life. The flesh is weak, and totally depraved apart from Almighty God. Paul the apostle, being led by the Spirit reminded us of the weakness of the flesh. He being led of the Holy Spirit showed us the strife between the two natures. the flesh and the spirit. "For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I understand not; for what I would, that I do not; but what I hate, that do I. If then, I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now, then, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would, I do not, but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." Rom.7:14-20. This revelation from the Holy Spirit will help us to understand the weakness of the flesh and the necessity of the Holy Spirit to prevent "Little Faith", by allowing the Holy Spirit to prepare us for greater faith. Note some important factors in Romans chapter seven verses 14-20.

1. **The laws of God are spiritually understood and present the requirements of our Holy God. vs. 14.**
2. **We do not understand the mighty workings of God apart from the Holy Spirit for the flesh is weak. vs.15.**
3. **To do that which is right according to the law, the flesh is weak and God had to send his Son to fulfill the law in our stead. vs. 16. (Rom.7:2-)**
4. **The flesh is weak due to indwelling sin, making one totally depraved. vs.17-18.**
5. **Sin that dwelleth in us as a natural person prevents us from having any merit before God.**

The Lord, being the author and finisher of our faith is obviously what the Holy Spirit desires us to understand in these passages. Whatever faith we might have must be received from the Lord Jesus Christ, by "Grace" alone. "But by the

grace of God I am what I am; and his grace, which was bestowed upon me, was not in vain, but I labored more abundantly than they all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed." 1 Cor.15:10-11. The important issue here stated and given by the Holy Spirit, is the utmost dependence that we should maintain before the Holy Spirit. That wonderful eleventh chapter of Hebrews gives us evidence of marvelous faith among those who were absolute weak, but through their weaknesses, they became strong in the Lord. (Heb.11:34.) Paul recognized the source of his strength when he was battling over the thorn in the flesh. "For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" 2 Cor.12:8-9. Paul was able to refrain from complaints as to the thorn in the flesh, for he could say through the Holy Spirit, "Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then am I strong. 2 Cor.12:10. Faith is very dependent upon the giver of faith and therefore we become strong in the Lord as we depend upon strength from the Lord. The Holy Spirit used Paul the apostle to encourage all believers of all times. "Now I exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man, but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men, Rejoice evermore,

- (1) Pray without ceasing, In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
- (2) Quench not the Spirit.
- (3) Despise not prophesyings.
- (4) Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
- (5) Abstain from all appearance of evil.

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." 1 Thess.5:14-24.

Let us practice the faith which the Lord Jesus Christ offers to us, and you can rest assured that your faith will increase as the needs arise. A prayerless life is also a faithless life. May our approach to God be with thanksgiving and praise as well as requests to an all hearing God, and be a continual factor throughout our lives. Your prayer life can be hindered when you or I do not have the right relationship with fellow believers of the household of faith. Your relationship with your immediate family circle is very important, and specifically with your wife. "In like manner, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered." 1 Pet.3:7. Your prayers of faith should bring results. Perhaps you have been discouraged with a prayer life and become prayerless as you approach God. Your family relationship may cause a

prayerless life through the weakness of the flesh. "Give ear to my prayer, O God, and hide not thyself from my supplication.: Ps.55:1. "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, rejoice. Let your moderation be known to all men. The Lord is at hand." Phil.4:4-5. It is essential that the head of the household maintains family devotions, and meets the countless problems that a growing family faces. This assembling together as a family is necessary in maintaining the principles of faith.

The Word of God reminds us of our utter dependence upon Almighty God for all things. As Christians we are "Bought with a Price"! It would be next to impossible for us to stand against the wiles of the Devil, the world and the flesh, had not God provided us with the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit. We can easily excuse ourselves by saying, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak". How true that is, and that is the reason why "By Faith", we depend upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The faith which the Lord offers to us is not the problem, but rather the conflict that we face between the Divine viewpoint and the human viewpoint. We may experience "Little Faith", because we are enslaved to walking in the flesh fulfilling the lusts thereof, rather than walking in the Spirit. "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Gal.5:16. Our faith and trust in God gives us an insight of the things of eternity. "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Cor.4:18.

## **1. THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MANKIND.**

God through his Word, reckons us so weak that we all fall short of the requirements which God demands. "As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one; There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Rom.3:10-12. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Rom.3:23. The best that we could do in the flesh, falls far short of what God demands. "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Isa.64:6. Such statements from the Bible, certainly do not exalt the natural man, but reminds us that we must depend upon God to provide our every need, both in this present life and eternity to come. That is why the Lord must of necessity supply our very faith. It also reminds us, that all glory and honor and praise are due unto God. We who are Christians should not be boastful of any accomplishments. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." 2 Cor.4:7.

If we as believers recognize that the flesh is weak and learn the lesson, not to lean upon one's own understanding, we then will rely upon the God given faith, making possible a victorious life in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. The

liberty which God has by grace granted us, is based upon the finished work of the Lord on Calvary's cross and his righteousness, accepted by faith. This liberty which is by faith is a walk in newness of life. "Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death, that as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection; Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him, knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once; but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God." Rom.6:4-10. Our strength is not in our flesh, or what we are able to do or not to do, but we are completely dependent upon the Lord Jesus Christ because of the weakness of the flesh. This provides us with the mighty power of the Eternal God!

## **2. ALL MANKIND BORN SPIRITUALLY DEAD.**

All mankind is born spiritually dead and a dead man cannot accomplish anything, therefore we are totally dependent upon God's provision, even in our faith which is a gift from God. By faith our identification is through our God given faith in Christ Jesus. "But after faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Gal.3:25-27. These facts are essential for us to reckon with as those who were formerly spiritually dead. This is why we need to walk worthy of this high calling in Christ Jesus, with all meekness, knowing we are nothing but dead vessels apart from Christ. "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation to which ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Eph.4:1-6. There is no question about the oneness in Christ as being a reality and not a ritual! We who were dead spiritually have been made alive by the new birth through the Holy Spirit. If you are a believer with "Little Faith", remember that you need not stay in such circumstances, being made a new creature in Christ Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith. (Heb.12:2.)

We have been redeemed and set free from the wrath to come upon the ungodly. The law was given to reveal the demands of God, and since we were spiritually dead, it would be impossible for us to claim life from God by the law. "For if they who are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of no effect, because the law worketh wrath; for where no law is, there is no transgression. Therefore, it is of faith, that it might be by grace, to the end



the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all." Rom.4:13-16. Although we are weak through the flesh and once were dead spiritually, we have been made alive in Christ through faith in Christ, who provides the victory. "He that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him, knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once; but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God." Rom.6:7-10. Christ has made us alive spiritually, and may we exercise our faith, which is also a gift from God.

### **3. BLINDED BY THE GOD OF THIS WORLD.**

Every soul coming into this world, potentially is a target of Satan and regardless of the circumstances, he will brain wash them with his deception. "But if our gospel be hidden it is hidden to them that are lost, in whom the god of this age hath blinded the minds of them who believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Cor.4:3-4. We who have had Christian parents can be thankful for the Bible teaching that we have received. It is of great importance that our children are taught the glorious gospel message, as well as the foundational truths of the Bible. When the children are deprived of the gospel or neglected in being taught God's word, they become easy targets for Satan to brain wash them and claim them as his own. Satan would like to imprison them as faithless subjects of his wicked realm. Satan desires that his subjects have no faith, or blind faith. Once these precious souls accept the glorious gospel message, it is impossible for Satan to brain wash them. However, although Satan or the demons cannot indwell a believer, these demonic forces can harass all of us who have put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. We can thank God for the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us forever!

It is very important for all believers to activate the faith given to us and hide God's word in our hearts that we may not sin against him. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee; Oh, let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hidden in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Ps.119:9-11. It is imperative that we accept God's word by faith and never doubt. "Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is condemned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith; for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Rom.14:22-23. We are all guilty of this, sometime in our lives, and need the strength of Almighty God to overcome this weakness. May we take God at his word, never doubting but always trusting! May we always remember, "Faithful is he that has promised."

To become strong in the Lord and withstand the devil, we need to apply the whole armor of God. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Eph.6:10-11. Be ready at all times with the truth of God's word, which is the Sword of the Holy Spirit. Proclaim that glorious gospel, using that shield of faith which will quench the fiery darts of the wicked. Make sure that your priorities in life are the things that are eternal. "For the love of money is the root of all evil, which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things, and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, unto which thou art also called and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." 1 Tim.6:10-12.

It is expedient that our faith continually grows as we reach toward maturity in Christ Jesus. "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith groweth exceedingly, and the love of everyone of you all toward each other aboundeth. So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure." 2 Thess.1:3-4. We need to be sound in the faith (Tit.1:13.), so that we can combat the evil forces. We need not lack in anything as we have a continual High Priest before God the Father, even the Lord Jesus Christ, who continually intercedes for us. As we approach our heavenly Father, we come by faith and full assurance. "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh, and having an high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised)," Heb.10:19-23. Let us consider God's escape route by faith from that terrible brain washing by satan. "Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him. God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with diverse miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will?" Heb.2:1-4.

## **C. CONFORMITY TO THIS WORLD**

### **INTRODUCTION**

We as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are in this world, but we are not to be of the world system. The Word of God declares us as pilgrims and sojourners, since we have become citizens of heaven. (Phil.3:20-21) As the Lord was about to go to the cross, he talked to his Father in great intercessory for his own. "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name; those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." Jn.17:12-18. These words from the Lord himself certainly differentiate the believers from the worldly people. Our brief study will deal with this unique situation. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Heb.11:1. The Bible gives us substantial evidence that we are different and a peculiar people in this world, and should be different from the unregenerate ones. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from where also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our lowly body, that it may be fashioned like his glorious body, according to the working by which he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Phil.3:20-21.

#### **1. REJECTING WORLDLY SYSTEMS**

We as believers are in this world but we are not supposed to be of this world's system. The history of the nations gives us sufficient evidence of the corruptness, greed and selfishness of "Homo Sapien" when given power. God in his sovereignty is always in control of the nations and world affairs, and we cannot ignore those who are in authority. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou, then, not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same. For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain; for he is the minister of God, an avenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore, ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath but also for conscience sake. For, for this cause pay ye tribute also; for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render, therefore, to all their dues:

custom to whom, custom; fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor." Rom.13:1-7. This scripture does not mean that every government or the politicians are doing the will of God, but rather that God is in control and can remove them from office when God chooses to do so. God does not always react immediately to those who oppose his principles, but in his time he removes and replaces, according to his will. Note, concerning God's revelation to Daniel. "Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever; for wisdom and might are his, and he changeth the times and the seasons; he removeth kings, and setteth up kings; he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to those who know understanding; He revealeth the deep and secret things; he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him." Dan.2:19-22.

It is obvious from the revelation by the Holy Spirit, that was given to Daniel, that God is in control. The whole history of the four great empires of the world were portrayed to Daniel, even to the revival of the Roman Empire which is yet to come. "Behold, the nations are like a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance; behold, he taketh up the coasts as a very little thing." Isa.40:15. The marvelous thing about God's evaluations is, he puts so great value upon an individual soul, that he does not wish for one soul to perish. The Lord is not slack concerning his promises to us. (2 Pet.3:9.) The Lord was confronted with the pharisees, concerning, whether he should pay tribute to the Roman Government, trying to catch him either way that he answered. "Show me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a denarius. And he said unto them, Whose is the image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God, the things that are God's." Matt.22:19-21. As Christians, it is very important that we abide by the laws of the country in which we live, as long as our worship of the living God is not refused. It then is better to become a martyr for the cause of Christ than to reject the Lord Jesus Christ. We render unto God the things which are God's. We do not compromise in any way with the things which belong to God. In God's time, such rulers are removed from office, when acting contrary to God's rules and regulations. Rulers of nations are eventually removed from office, when they deprive individuals from worshipping the true and living God.

Now we come to the very important issue concerning our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We reject the worldly systems as believers because they are under the power of the god of this world, by the name of Satan, that devil and wicked one. If we as Christians try to keep up with the styles and habits of the world, we cannot walk in the light of God's word. The results of such a life style will result in "Carnality"! Carnality will then hinder the filling by the Holy Spirit. The conclusion will be little or no faith in the Christian life. If you are prayerless, or faithless, do not blame God, but rather blame yourself for allowing the worldly affairs to be in control and your great concern and utmost care! The conformity

to the worldly pattern of thought and deed should not be the mode of life of the Christians.

There are so many ways that we can become worldly and I wish to name just a few of them, as a warning to you as a child of God.

- (1.) The luxuries of the world placed above the things of the Lord.**
- (2.) Copying the styles of the world rather than the decency of the Lord.**
- (3.) The pleasures of the world rather than God's pleasures forevermore.**
- (4.) Unequally yoked in worldliness rather than in godliness (2 Cor. 6:14.)**
- (5.) Holding the cares of this world above the eternal things of God.**
- (6.) The greed for fame, prestige, money, and position above God's commission.**
- (7.) Watching television and neglecting the study of God's Word.**
- (8.) Indulging in bodily delights rather than feasting upon the manna from God's Word.**
- (9.) Neglecting to assemble together with those of like faith.**

We as believers are to reject the worldly systems, taking pleasure in being ambassadors for Christ. (2 Cor.5:20.) We are to live, and move, and have our being in the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Acts 17:28.) We are daily involved with worldly affairs as we make our livelihood, but we also must make our stand for Christ and let it be known that we belong to Jesus. Always remember that as new creatures in Christ Jesus, we are just passing through this life and awaiting that glorious day when we shall be in the presence of the Lord, beholding him, "Face to Face"! Do not let yourself be robbed of the high calling that you have in Christ Jesus. If you are living a worldly life, you will be lacking the faith principles, set forth by Almighty God. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Rom.12:1-2. God gives us the freedom of choice in this life, and it is very important that we get the guide lines from the Word of God in determining our decisions. The perfect will of God can only be obtained in your life and mine, by complete surrender to the Lord above the things of this world. "I surrender all, all to him I owe, sin has left a crimson stain, but Jesus

washed it white as snow". I admonish you not to compromise with the worldly affairs, or the traditions of men.

## **2. ACCEPTING THE HEAVENLY VISION.**

As we place our thought, word and deed upon the things of eternity, the things of this world become insignificant as they only have a temporary relation to us as new creatures in Christ Jesus. There are a few important principles that we discover, in helping us to enlarge our little faith. We should be willing to eliminate many of these traits in our Christian lives which enslave us into a worldly life. Christ brought the heavenly image down to man, therefore we need to take upon ourselves a heavenly outreach. "The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." 1 Cor.15:47-50. The Lord has provided better things for those who have, by faith, trusted in the Lord. "But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Cor.3:18. We give out the Gospel message to those who are blinded by the god of this world, and the light of the knowledge of the glory of God enlightens them as they behold "By Faith" the face of the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Cor.4:6.) Let us examine some of the blessings as well as results that a believer receives when obeying God's word. "And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" Rom.12:2a. Obey God's commands and the blessings from God will flow into your new life in Christ Jesus.

- 1. God's goodness is poured out upon the believer. (Rom.12:2)**
- 2. God is very pleased and acceptable (Rom.12:2.)**
- 3. God's perfect will can be accomplished in the believer's life. (Rom.12:2.)**
- 4. God the Holy Spirit is able to guide and direct into all truth. (Rom.8:14.)**
- 5. The believer belongs to Christ and must accept his responsibility to the great commission. (Matt. 28:18-20.)**
- 6. The believer becomes more apt to be taught by the Holy Spirit. (Jn.16:13.)**

7. **Knowing the will of God, will strengthen the faith of the believer. (Rom.4:12; Rom.12:3; 1 Cor.12:9; 2 Cor.10:15; 2 Thess.1:3; Heb.12:2.)**
8. **The will of God makes available the filling by the Holy Spirit. (Eph.5:18.)**
10. **The will of God makes possible the giving of special gifts by the Holy Spirit.(1 Cor.12:11.)**
11. **Doing the will of God makes possible the receiving of special rewards at the judgement seat of Christ. (1 Cor.3:12-14; 2 Cor.5:10.)**

As believers, we are given the choice to serve our Lord whole heartily, or we can just drift along and have nothing to present to Christ, being faithless in this present life. God has certainly given us a rich inheritance in Christ Jesus. Our lives as Christians can be very selfish and self centered, or Christ centered. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And being found in the fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Phil.2:5-8. May we renew our mind and cause it to focus on God's Word! Have you accepted the heavenly vision? Are you fulfilling the great commission? Are you exercising your God given faith? Note what Christ said, "They are not of the world, as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." Jn.17:16-18. Jesus saith unto them, My food is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal, that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together, And here is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that on which ye bestowed no labor; other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors." Jn.4:34-38. The work of the Lord requires team work at all times, and all glory and honor to His Name!

As we accept the heavenly vision, may we also accept the heavenly call. "Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore the Lord of harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." Lk.10:2. "For we are laborers together with God; ye are God's cultivated field, ye are God's building." 1 Cor.3:9. May we exercise the faith that we have, seeking to do God's perfect will in our lives! As Christians we are to practice faith in all phases of our life. God has placed us in this world on a temporary basis, so that we might exercise our faith, which by grace comes from

our savior, Jesus Christ. He is the author and finisher of our faith, and if we lack faith, it is because we haven't drawn from the divine "Faith Bank". God wants us to realize that we have a tremendous treasure in this earthen vessel, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of this weak flesh. (2 Cor.4:7.)

God's work depends upon faith principles, which we as believers need to practice in our daily life. The word of God reminds us, "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin". (Rom.14:22.) May we draw daily from the storehouse of God, walking by faith and not fulfilling the lust of the flesh. May we unite our hearts together, as we pray for each other, not wavering, but by faith alone, trusting God's will to be done. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Heb.11:1. Without the knowledge of the Bible, it is impossible for believers to grow in grace and increase their faith! We rest upon the promises of God, having this assurance, "Being confident of this very thing, that he who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ; Even as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace." Phil.1:6-7. May we too encourage one another in the work of the Lord.

The neglect in the study of the Bible, will make your life prayerless and faithless. Do you want to increase your faith? Then increase your reading and studying the word of God. "So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom.10:17. The Bible is "God Breathed" by God the Holy Spirit, who will not only guide you into all truth, but will establish you in a life of faith. The way that we keep in touch with our source of faith is retain the Holy Scriptures within our heart. "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith." Gal.5:5. We feast upon God's precious word, which is filled with promises from God, which strengthens our faith. Your entire faith must have understanding in what you are trusting. God is faithful and has showered us with promises. If you do not know what those promises are, how can your faith be strengthened and increased? If you do not accept God's promises, that does not change the faithfulness of God. "For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightiest be justified in thy sayings, and mightiest overcome when thou art judged" Rom.3:3-4. God is absolutely faithful, and desires that we too be full of faith, glorifying his name.

God's word is full of the evidence of faith down through almost six thousand years of the history of man. It is important that we take heed to God's word in every aspect of it. "O Lord my God, in thee do I put my trust; save me from all those who persecute me, and deliver me," Ps.7:1. "I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower." Ps.18:1-2. In God will I praise his word; in the Lord will I put my trust; I will not be afraid what man can do unto me." Ps.56:10-11. "It



is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." Ps.118:8. "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For, therefore, we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men specially of those that believe." 1 Tim.4:9-10.

As we place our trust in our Heavenly Father, our lives take on a different aspect. You cannot grow in faith toward God, without trusting him. Each time that we depend upon God for all of our sufficiency, our faith increases. We learn to depend upon our Heavenly Father to guide and direct our life, through the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us. We are not promised an easy road through life, but we are promised the ever present help of Almighty God. "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For, therefore, we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe." 1 Tim.4:9-10. "In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed. Deliver me in thy righteousness." Ps.31:1

The most secure way of life is in trusting the giver of all life! As we understand the principles of faith, our confidence in the giver of faith becomes established. "Trust and obey, for there is no other way, to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey"! "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith." Gal.5:5. This world in which we live is but a passing event, compared to eternity with the Lord. May our faith look up to the soon coming Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Take God at his word, who hath already blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (Eph.1:3.) May our Christian walk be ruled by faith, each step of the way, resting in the promises of God. May grace, mercy and peace rest upon you, from God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **QUESTIONS CHAPTER FOUR**

- 1. What is the importance of faith in the believers life?**
- 2. When is it time to exercise our faith?**
- 3. Explain Matthew 6:25-34.**
- 4. How do believers get out of fellowship with God? Name at least seven causes.**
- 5. Who provides our faith?**
- 6. Write briefly on Matthew 14:30-31.**
- 7. Explain Matthew 21:18-22. Give six important issues involved.**
- 8. Explain Matthew 17:17-21. Concerning faith principles.**

9. **How often should we pray the prayer of faith?**
10. **Why is faith part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit? (Galatians 5:22-23.)**
11. **What do you understand as to "the weakness of the flesh"?**
12. **What do we glean from 1 Corinthians 1:4-9?**
13. **How is the weakness of the flesh overcome? (Romans 7:14-20.)**
14. **Explain 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-24.**
15. **Why is it so necessary to depend upon the Holy Spirit in overcoming the weakness of the flesh?**
16. **Write briefly on "the total depravity of man".**
17. **Why is all mankind born spiritually dead?**
18. **How is the "brain washing" of Satan overcome?**
19. **How can we reject the worldly system of sin?**
20. **Name 7 ways believers can become carnal and worldly.**
21. **How do we accept the heavenly vision? What are the results?**
22. **What are some of the results when believers obey god's word?**

## CHAPTER FIVE



## GREAT FAITH

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **GREAT FAITH**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

according to the Bible, there are different levels of faith, from no faith to the wrong faith, from little faith to great faith. Since all faith is a gift from God, no one can boast as to the amount of faith that they may have as we are completely dependent upon God for all of our faith and God's resources never diminish. The Bible reminds us that there are definite rules and regulations in order to make use of God's unlimited supply of faith. We as believers, are not classified on an equal basis, according to the Bible, concerning the amount of faith that we may have, but rather on the use of faith that we have. May I remind you that "Many are called, but few are God's choice". Christ spoke of John the Baptist in a very definite way. "For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." Lk.7:28. This is an amazing statement from the Eternal Son of God, and who of us can fathom the depth of such a statement? We who have been born since the day of Pentecost, have been gifted with the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit, who will remain with us forever. Never in the history of mankind was such a statement made as from the Lord Jesus Christ. "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Jn.14:16-17. That is why it is written, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." 1 Jn.4:4.

As we study the Scripture concerning "Great Faith", may we remind ourselves of what the Bible says as to greatness. "And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so; but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve." Lk.22:25-26. Christ has great concern for his followers and knows all about us as individuals. Take for instance, Nathanael, whom the Lord saw under the fig tree before Philip talked to him, and when he approached the Lord, "Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! Nathanael saith unto him, How knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. Nathanael answered, and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the king of Israel. Jesus answered, and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? Thou shalt see greater things than these. And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and

descending upon the Son of man." Jn.1:47-51. That will be a glorious day when we behold our Savior for the first time, as he appears in the clouds to rapture us and bring us to those heavenly mansions.

The Lord himself is our great example of doing the will of his Father who sent him. Christ's work on earth was not limited to a particular time, but always, "In Season, and Out of Season" to do the will of the Father. "But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore, the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. Then answered Jesus, and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do; for whatever things he doeth, these also doeth the Son in the same manner. For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that he himself doeth; and he will show him greater works than these, that ye marvel. For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and giveth them life, even so the Son giveth life to whom he will. For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement unto the Son; That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father, who hath sent him. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement, but is passed from death unto life." Jn.5:19-24. The Eternal Son of God came to minister, doing the will of the Father, and desires the saints of God to be like minded, using the great faith principles, glorifying Almighty God the Father.

#### **A. THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We are told in the Scripture, "Wherefore, be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, in which is excess, but be filled with the Spirit" Eph.5:17-18. This is a must in the lives of believers who desire to serve the Lord, which is "In fullness of Spirit". This will be a characteristic during the kingdom age. "Blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled." Matt.5:6. The beginning of the out pouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was very significant. "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit," Acts 2:4a Such a condition puts God in control, and when this happens "Great Faith" is the results. When Peter spoke to the Sanhedrin, the Bible records, "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit" Acts 4:8a. The apostle Paul at his conversion was immediately filled by the Holy Spirit. (Acts 9:17.) Paul was set apart by the Holy Spirit in speeding the gospel light to the regions beyond. (Acts 13:9) The filling of the Holy Spirit is always essential in the work of the Lord, regardless of the circumstances. It is a requirement for faith at all levels. The filling of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life is hindered when one's life is cluttered with worldliness. This filling of the Holy Spirit is a normal Christian process. As our lives are used in the service of the Lord, we keep on being filled by the Holy Spirit. There are certain

requirements in being filled by the Holy Spirit and may we consider some of these areas. There has to be some stipulations from God in order for the believer to have these special blessings from God through the Holy Spirit. As members of "The Royal Family of God", there are requirements necessary within the household of God for a continual fellowship. When necessary, the Lord has to chasten his children, whom he loves. "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto sons, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him; For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? " Heb.12:5-7. When we as Christians abide in the teachings of God's word, then we become eligible for the filling of the Holy Spirit, and we can expect great faith from the Eternal Living God. There is no shortage of "Great Faith Supplies" in God's realm. Don't let your way of life deprive you of this greater faith!

## **1. THE RIGHT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.**

Since we are no longer our own, and have been bought with a price, it is necessary to surrender to the Lordship of Almighty God and allow one's body to become a living sacrifice for the Lord. May we ask ourselves, "With whom are we keeping company"? "Be not deceived: Evil company corrupts good morals. "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame" 1 Cor.15:33-34. If you are desiring to have greater faith, it is imperative that you fellowship with God's children who desire to serve him. This demands obedience to God as we walk in the light of his word. "This, then, is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth; But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin." 1 Jn.1:5-7. If you are desirous to have greater faith in the work of the Lord, you have to come out from among the worldly and disobedient. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Be'lial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Cor.6:14-18. Since Christ is the author and finisher of our faith, it is only reasonable that we separate ourselves from worldliness, trusting him for greater faith.

Let us be faithful to our precious savior, the Lord Jesus Christ and not lose out in obtaining God's gift of great faith. May we be able to say, "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ, that in everything ye are enriched in him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you; So that ye come behind in no gift, waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye maybe blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Cor.1:4-9. This is of the utmost need in our Christian walk to keep an unbroken fellowship with the Lord, keep on being filled by the Holy Spirit, who keeps on strengthening us through a life of great faith. "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal.6:7-8. "If there be, therefore, any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any tender mercies and compassions, fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." Phil.2:1-2. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth; But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." 1 Jn.6-10.

## **2. SURRENDERING ALL TO ALMIGHTY GOD.**

There is a beautiful hymn, which is rarely sung. but has a great message for the believer who desires to be completely yielded to the Lord-

"All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.  
All to Jesus I surrender, humbly at His feet I bow;  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken, take me, Jesus, take me now.  
All to Jesus I surrender, make me Savior, wholly thine;  
Let me feel the Holy Spirit truly know that thou are mine.  
All to Jesus I surrender, Lord I give myself to Thee;  
Fill me with thy love and power, let thy blessings fall on me."

This expresses a yielded life to the Lord, making it possible for the continual filling of the Holy Spirit. A great evidence of faith is manifested among those who will accept such a challenge. The surrendered life to the Lord is the life that understands and desires to maintain a walk of faith. These lives of ours, as believers, are to be instruments of righteousness, in the Hands of God. "Neither

yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Rom.6:13.

Since God the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer, there is no excuse for not being filled by the Spirit. However, you must not grieve him, or quench his power in your life, otherwise it is impossible to be filled by him. As I have said before, "It is not that you get more of the Holy Spirit, but rather that He gets all of you". If you fellowship with the unrighteous, you are depriving the Holy Spirit of His rightful place in your life. We are members of the body of Christ and we need to remind ourselves that Christ, who is the head of the body, desires to supply every member with sufficient faith for every task. "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Rom.12:3. Yield your life completely to Christ and allow God the Holy Spirit to have full sway in your life and I can guarantee you on the authority of the Word of God that you will not only have sufficient faith, but also establish a great faith in your Christian walk.

### **3. FAITHFUL LIVING BY THE WORD OF GOD.**

Our authority in exercising the principles of faith, are based upon the Word of God. "So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom.10:17. Christian faith is by no means wistful thinking, but is based upon substance and evidence recorded in the word of God.(Heb.11:1.) As we study the Bible, we constantly realize that we are reading about faithful men down through the ages. There is nothing impossible with God and we can trust his word "Thus saith the Lord"! Stephen was chosen as "A man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit". (Acts 6:5.) Faith and the fullness of the Holy Spirit run parallel in the Christian life. The word of God reveals God's righteousness and his great eternal plan, which we accept by faith."For in it is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Rom.1:17.

We have a tremendous warning with the example of a great lack of faith of Israel. They rejected their Messiah and through their unfaithfulness have been scattered to the ends of the world. Of course, God had given Abraham and unconditional covenant, and God cannot deny himself, and Israel is at this present time, being regathered into her land. What was their failure? "But Israel, who followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they sought it not by faith but, as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone; As it is written, Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense; and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." Rom.9:31-33. God cannot lie and as he promised to Abraham "A City with foundations", Abraham believed God and it was counted as righteousness to Abraham. God does not ignore the sins of Israel,



and they have been punished down through these many years. Their final judgement for unbelief will take place during the 7 years of tribulation. (Rev.6-18.)

God's word is alive and powerful! (Heb.4:12.) We need to keep alert to the word of God and depend upon the Holy Spirit to keep on filling us, producing the fruit of the Spirit, (Gal.5:22-23.) and exercising great faith toward Almighty God. As pilgrims in this world, we need to be God's witnesses, to the saving grace of our loving Lord. The children of this world live by sight and take pleasure in the immediate present, and we need to show them through our faith, the eternal glories yet to come. We are to live by faith, rather than by sight, with great expectations, that some day we will be raptured out from the wrath to come. (1 Thess.1:10.)

## **B. CLAIMING GOD'S PROMISES**

Since it is impossible for God to lie or sin, according to his personality, we can depend upon his promises, as recording in the Word of God. We want to compare and examine God's promises of the past, and those of this present day, and also those which are yet to be fulfilled. These promises are God's way of testing us, as to "Putting our trust in Him"! This is the way that God desires to teach us, "To walk by faith, and not by sight". This walk of faith will keep us in the promises of God, enjoying the fullness of God.

### **1. GOD'S FULFILLED PROMISES OF THE PAST.**

Since our faith toward God is not "Wistful Thinking" or the vain imaginations of man, we can claim with great confidence, our future abode with the living God. We can also claim him as "Our Heavenly Father". There is countless evidence that our faith in God is not some weird idea of the natural man, but based upon substance and proofs of God's fulfilled promises in the past. Many of these factors have been written down in history, as well as recorded in the Bible. Our main source of truth is from the Bible, which in it's entirety is the Word of God. Let us take a glimpse of some of these important events according to the Word of God.

## **THE WORLD WIDE FLOOD**

One of the early signs of God's truth is "The Rainbow". It reminds us that this world will never experience another global flood, covering all of the land. Yes, we have floods in various places around the world but never world wide. The final resting place of Noah's ark has not been determined to date, but at various times parts of it had been seen and some of the wood has been found. My son Roger has climbed Mt Ararat several times in Dr. Morris' expedition, and has spotted one particular place where the Ark might be buried under 80 ft. of

ice. Perhaps God is keeping it a secret until the end times. Evidence of the world wide flood has been found at the North pole, where frozen flesh has been discovered of animals which once roamed the whole earth, before the world was thrown off it's axis. "The Rainbow" is sufficient evidence that another flood will not occur. (Gen.6:1-9:19.)

God does not intend to repeat another world wide flood, leaving some eight souls, as he did in Noah's time, for that is not according to his plans. However, the Bible declares to us other judgements which will be poured out upon this old world. Christ mentions these in Matthew chapter 24. As in the days of Noah, with unbelief, so it will be also in that day of the coming wrath of God. We accept this by faith, knowing that it will come to pass. This coming judgement of the great tribulation is set in the plan of God and will come to pass as did the flood.

### **THE MULTIPLICATION OF LANGUAGES**

The tower of Babel in ruins have been located, as evidence that such a place existed, and it also confirms God's records that nations with various languages were separated by God. "When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel." Deut.32:8. Man's language was given to him by Almighty God, who came to the garden of Eden and spoke with Adam and Eve. "And the whole earth was of one language, and one speech" Gen.11:1. Mankind, speaking one language, tried to establish human rule apart from Divine rule and so the Tower of Babel project began. BUT GOD, stopped that in a hurry with the confusion of languages. (Gen.11:5-9.)

### **GOD'S MESSIANIC PROMISE PRESERVED**

From the declaration by God that there would be the seed of the woman that would destroy the evil forces, (Gen.3:15.) it seemed that the total depravity of man and the evil forces were winning the battle. The flood stopped that possibility, temporarily, but the cause of Almighty God seemed hopeless, until God called one man by the name of Abram. (Gen.11:10-12:9.) Eventually Judah, the son of Abraham became the lineage through which the Messiah would come. "Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise; thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion's welp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up:he stooped down, he crouched as a lion, and as an old lion. Who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine, he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes. His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk" Gen.49:8-12. The history of Israel reveals the marvelous way

in which God preserved the tribe of Israel, keeping her separated from the other tribes, through her captivity into Babylon. The records of the Messianic lineage were kept, pointing to Bethlehem of Judea as the place where the Messiah would appear. "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting" Mic.5:1. The place of entrance of the Messiah was exactly as predicted. This meant that whenever the incarnation of the Son of God would take place, according to the Scripture, Bethlehem of Judea would reveal it. To set the records straight, we refer to Luke 2:1-7. These may have been hard sayings for Israel and had to be taken "By Faith", but we today have this great prediction as an actual fact and evidence, to encourage us in our faith of things yet to come. The Roman emperor did not know that he was doing exactly what God knew would happen, and Joseph and Mary were back in the prophetic place at the exact time, fulfilling prophecy. Faith is substance and evidence, based upon God's word.

### **THE VIRGIN SEED OF THE WOMAN**

From Genesis 3:15, we learn that the Messiah would be without the inherited sin nature of mankind. Then we have a further prediction that the Messiah would be born of a virgin. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isa. 7:14. This prediction was then fulfilled, and the Eternal Son of God came down to earth to become the Savior. "Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered, and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Lk.1:34-35. "But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Gal.4:4-5. Had the Messiah been born in the natural way, he would have inherited the total depravity of man, but since he was born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit he was without the sin nature. Christ was the only begotten, through the incarnation. However, a body was prepared for Christ before the foundation of the world, therefore the virgin birth was the manner in which the Eternal Son of God would enter this world, and pass through all the stages of manhood in order that the Creator would experience the growth as of the human being. The Lord Jesus Christ was 100% God and 100% man, and became the supreme sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. We accept this because God said it and it vindicate the righteousness of the Triune God. This again is added evidence in strengthening our faith.

## **THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH PREDICTED AND SENT**

It is of great interest to learn of the omniscience of God in the thoughts and intents of man. Since God knew that Israel would reject their Messiah, he postponed the kingdom until a later day and did not send Elijah to herald the king, but rather sent a substitute, John the Baptist. "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me; and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts." Mal.3:1. "But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias; for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife, Elizabeth, shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Lk.1:13-17. John the Baptist was born and heralded the Messiah. (Lk.1:39-80; Jn.1:15-37.) We could say much about the ministry of John the Baptist, being the spirit of Elijah. I have discussed John the Baptist's ministry in previous writings.

God's word never needs to be changed, for he is immutable! Yes, Elijah will come to herald the King of kings and Lord of lords, just before the kingdom will be set up for the thousand year reign of righteousness. "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and three score days, clothed in sackcloth.....These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy; and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and smite the earth with plagues, as often as they will." Rev.11:3-6. These two witnesses can be none other than Elijah and Moses, according to their previous ministry.

## **THE CRUCIFIXION FORETOLD AND COMPLETED**

The religious leaders of Israel, under the authority of the Roman government, were only interested in a Messiah who would deliver them from the heel of Rome. They failed to see the two phases of the coming of the Messiah. In order that Israel and the whole world be freed from the penalty of sin, God had to send his Eternal Son to become the supreme sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world." Jn.1:29. A direct prediction of that terrible crucifixion was predicted in Psalms 22:1-31; and also in Isaiah 53:1-12. As to the date of the crucifixion, God even recorded that. in the Book of Daniel. As Daniel was praying and understanding the prophecy of Jeremiah 25:11. Note in particular, "And this whole land shall be a desolation,

and an horror; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years." Jer.25:11. As Daniel was praying he also thought on the sequence of this captivity, namely. (Jer.25:12-14.) Daniel's sojourn in Babylon completed those 70 years and so he thought in terms of returning to his home land, and God through Gabriel gave him an important message, and here we have some very important events.

#### **The First Event**

The key verse to the whole plan of God was given. "Seventy weeks (490 years) are determined upon thy people (Israel) and upon thy holy city (Jerusalem), (1) to finish the transgression, and (2) to make an end of sins, (3) and to make reconciliation for iniquity (2 Cor.5:18-20.) (4) and to bring in everlasting righteousness, (5)and to seal up the vision and prophecy , (6) and to anoint the most Holy." Dan.9:24.

#### **The Second Event**

"Know, therefore, and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah, the Prince, ("Who saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure; even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid." Isa.44:28.) This was established as recorded in the Books of Ezra, and Nehemiah. The length of time was 7 weeks or 49 years. Then we have the following. "And after threescore and two weeks (434 years) shall the Messiah be cut off (crucified after 49 years plus 434 years, equalling 483 years). This is exactly the length of time that the Eternal Son of God came down from heaven and died on the cross. Christ died for our sins, as Daniel recorded, "not for himself".

There are many fulfilled prophecies that we could quote in proving God's absolute predictions, but let these suffice, as we claim God's promises, "By Faith", from fulfilled prophecy. Our faith as Christians is not something that we blindly hope for, but is established by God's word. Don't accept any counterfeit substitute, but be thoroughly convinced by what the Bible says. These predicted events, being fulfilled in the past, should give us confidence in our faith for the present as well as for the future. Establish yourselves, by the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells within you, as God's provision for "Greater Faith"!

## **2. GOD'S FULFILLING PROPHECY OF THIS PRESENT DAY THE BRIDE OF CHRIST**

The present day predictions, which began at Pentecost in fulfillment of Joel 2:28; has been a continual out pouring of the Holy Spirit for almost 2,000 years. It was the message that Christ gave to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again", which meant, being born of the Holy Spirit, making us new creatures in Christ Jesus.

(2 Cor. 5:17.) Never in the history of the Bible, has such a birth been made available by Almighty God. The Old Testament saints looked forward to such an event, but since Pentecost and until the rapture takes place, a "Heavenly Body"

is being formed, to become the bride of Christ. When this body of Christ is completed, our Heavenly Father will summons the trumpeters to blow those horns, sounding forth the trumpet for that great "Air Lift". The Eternal Son of God will come forth, in fulfillment of the Scripture, John 14:1-6; 1 Thess.4:13-18; 1 Cor.15:51-58. We do not know when this will take place, but the signs of the time, indicate that it cannot be too far off. The clouds are forming, and the predictions of the various event to precede this event are occurring.

### **ISRAEL RETURNING TO HER PROMISED LAND**

We are aware that Israel has been driven out of her land and scattered to the ends of the world, because of her rejection of the Messiah. Israel has suffered severely for this, but is still rejecting the Eternal Son of God, sent as the Redeemer. So, as Israel is being regathered back in her land in unbelief, she will have to face the great tribulation. April, 1945 Israel was reinstated as a nation, and the regathering has been taking place under great opposition. Israel has countless difficulties in reclaiming her land, BUT GOD, will bring it to pass in his own time. The preservation of Israel, in spite of her wanderings and persecutions, should encourage our faith in the promises of God. The middle East contains a wealth in minerals from the Dead Sea, as well as the great oil deposits. The Dictator of the world will be forced to make a seven year covenant with Israel for one of these reasons, or for some other necessary need that the United States of Europe will require. Nothing can interfere with God's mighty plans of all ages, as recorded in the Bible. God is fulfilling his promise to Israel that he would regather her back in her own land. Although all the nations of the world would be against Israel, yet will God bring to pass his promise to Abraham and to David.

### **THE FORMATION OF THE COMMON MARKET OF EUROPE**

It is of great interest to the Christians as the united States of Europe are forming into a unity and eventually from somewhere a Dictator will emerge and without a battle will take over the entire world. He will be Satan's counterfeit Beast and no one will be able to make war against him. "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy." Rev.13:1. The key to the Book of Daniel is found in the Book of Revelation of Jesus Christ. These events recorded in Daniel and Revelation are yet of the future, but we already see the clouds forming in Europe as to this great federation of nations, which will take place during the tribulation. The revival of the Roman Empire has begun, "Keep looking up, for our deliverance is drawing near!

## **THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE**

This always was a puzzling issue among theologians, as to how was the revival of the Roman Empire to supersede the powerful Russian Empire with all of its satellites? Now it is clearly seen, with the mighty sovereign hand of God bringing it to pass. The armies of the north will be active, which we will discuss as to the future predictions recorded in the Bible. We must always remember that these people of Eastern Europe have been living all their lives under socialism, and without the word of God. It will be difficult for these people to accept the western way of life, and the freedom which we have enjoyed for these many years. Make no mistake, for Russia and her satellites have been under the control of Satan during this godless reign of communism.

## **A WORLD OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH**

One of the great signs, as we approach the last days before the Lord raptures us home is the removing of the Bible and prayer from the Government schools, effecting our youth. This has been the order of the day in godless countries like Russia, Cuba and China. A great event in China is taking place. The doors are partially open in China with the distribution of portions of God's Bible. The great country of freedom, known as "The United States of America" under the Kennedy's had the Bible and prayer removed from our Government schools. This was a legalized slap in the face that our courts and congress and president gave to God, ushering in perilous times. "This know, also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affections, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, dispisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying the power of it; from such turn away. For of this sort are they who creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with various lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." 2 Tim.3:1-7. Couple these statements with, "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." Rom.1:22-25.

These are statements from our Omniscient God, which declare the natural man as totally depraved, apart from the Lord. The world courts are legislating against the morals set up by God, in favor of the evil practices of the natural man. Just read the daily world news and it will convince you of the ungodly conditions, existing in these last days. "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the

cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. In like manner also filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, speak evil of dignities." Jude 7-8. Enoch, of the seventh generation from Adam declared what would come in the last days. "And Enoch, also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgement upon all, and to convict all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." Jude 14-15.

It is true that from the very beginning of "sin Cursed Man", these things have been prevalent, but in these last days, at the close of some 6,000 years of the history of man, we must consider a multiplicity of signs, including a world wide immorality. From a great evangelistic 19th century to our present corrupt world, the change has come, and the doors are closing. God has given hungry souls for the Word of God in Eastern Europe another chance to read the Bible after some 45 years of being deprived of that privilege. This too could be a sign of the end of the age, before the rapture of the true church.

### **THE DOORS FOR THE GOSPEL ARE CLOSING**

Another very important sign, is the shrinking of the permissions for missionaries to cover the world wide fields with the teaching of the Bible, as in the past. Yes, foreigners are still welcomed in many parts of the world, with a proviso that they come as specialists in the secular realm. Welfare is also accepted by many of these national leaders. We are having to rely upon the printed page in these last days, which is still reaching to "The Regions Beyond". The importance of these facts is to strengthen our faith, knowing that God kept his word in the past, and is keeping his word in these present days, and we can rest assured that God will keep his promises in the future. Have complete faith in our Mighty God. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 Jn.5:4. Let us examine some of these events that remain in the future.

### **3. GOD'S PROMISES OF THE FUTURE**

In order to help the saints to establish greater faith, we have listed but a few of the outstanding fulfilled prophecies, from the Bible. These should give us confidence and improve our faith, as we face the future. Now, let us look at some of these promises from God as to what the future holds. May we, "By Faith", make these promises real in our lives as Christians. We have sufficient evidence from the past fulfillments of God's promises to accept the future predictions. I may not know all that the future holds, but I do know the one who holds the future. It is a glorious future for all, who by simple faith have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. There are many pit falls through this life,



and we must not trust the arm of flesh to see us through life. Only Almighty God, who is from eternity to eternity, can deliver us. "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principakities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom.8:38-39.

## **THE RAPTURE**

The imminent return of the Lord could be at any time, for there are no events withholding this great "Air Lift", by the Lord himself. Who all will be included, as taking part, when the saints are caught up? Let us examine the Scripture. "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them who are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also who sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them who are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words." 1 Thess.4:13-18. There are several facts that need to be considered concerning "The Rapture". God has clearly given us all of the particulars necessary, and we accept them by faith. Let us take a look at what God has prepared for those saints of God.

### **1. THOSE SLEEPING BODIES**

There are some cults that would have us believe that the soul and spirit of the dead, sleep along with the body, but this is not according to the Scriptures. "Therefore, we are always confident, knowing that, while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight; We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." 2 Cor.5:6-8. As the body sleeps, the soul and spirit are present with the Lord. Also note. "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil.1:21. It certainly would not be gain if we remained asleep or in a coma! Paul also added, "For I am in a straight between two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better." Phil.1:23. The thief on the cross, who acknowledge Christ as the King of kings and Lord of lords woke up with soul and spirit in the Paradise of heaven.

Then, may we ask the question, "Why do the spirits of those who died have to leave Paradise and come with the Lord, at the time of the Rapture"? Those graves wherever that body was laid to rest, must be opened and those souls

coming with Christ will pass over their graves and their identification will be determined. They shall rise first and the saints of all ages will receive a glorified body, and be caught up with the Lord as he waits in the air for "we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thess.4:17. When the Lord returns for his own there will be some who will be alive.

## **2. THOSE WHO ARE ALIVE**

Those among the believers who will be alive at the time of the rapture will also be "Caught Up", to be with the Lord. "Behold I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." 1 Cor.15:51-53. All the saints will then proceed to heaven and dwell in the mansions of God the Father, where Christ has been preparing a place for his bride, for almost 2,000 years. This will be a grand surprise to many members of the body of Christ. They will never taste of death, as their bodies are changed into a glorified body like unto the body of the Lord. Those bodies, whether given to those who died or those alive, will defy gravity and space as they enter the heavenly realm, where a place is prepared for each, in the mansions of God the Father.

## **OUR HEAVENLY HOME**

"Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. and if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also." Jn.14:1-3. This is a very important passage of Scripture for us, as it clearly relates to that future "Air Lift" of the saints of all ages. You remember that Christ, being raised from the dead, descended into Sheol and led captivity captive. (Ps.68:18.) The dead of all the Old Testament saints were removed from Sheol by Christ and brought to Paradise. This is what immediately happened to the thief on the cross, who accepted Christ as Lord. (Lk.23:42-43.)

There will be room for all in those mansions, and the fellowship with the saints of all ages will be splendid! We will get to meet our forefathers and family, as well as the Old Testament saints. It will be a glorious re-union with all of eternity to enjoy it. The presence of the Lord Jesus Christ will be supreme, as we behold him face to face. The heavenly beauty will be so wonderful and be filled with songs of praise to Almighty God.

## **1. THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**

Perhaps one of the first events that will take place before Christ presents his future bride to the Father, will be the "Court of Rewards". You find these truths in the following Scriptures.

(2 Cor.5:10; 1 Cor.3:9-18.) The wood hay and stubble in the Christian's life which has not been confessed will have to be burned, and the Gold, Silver, and Precious Stones, will be polished for eternity. Our responsibilities for eternity will be determined according to our faithfulness to the Lord, during our earthly pilgrimage. There is no reason for us who are alive in Christ to have "Wood, Hay and Stubble" to be burned at the Judgement seat of Christ. How can we avoid it? By having daily bon fires of these selfish works of ours, on this side of glory. We need to use God's provision for clearing out this rubble. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth; But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from aLL SIN. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselkves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 Jn.1:6-9. This will take care of a great deal of the "Wood, Hay and Stubble" in our lives as Christians. All of this is preliminary to the bride to be, being presented to God the Father. The Bridegroom will be there in person with his friends among the Old Testament saints.

## **2. THE BRIDE OF CHRIST, WILL BE PRESENTED BEFORE GOD THE FATHER FOR APPROVAL.**

This will be a glorious day for the complete body of Christ, as the Father beholds his Son's future bride. "Even the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you; So that ye come behind in no gift, waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Cor.1:6-9. This is a manifestation of the grace of God. May we also notice from the Scriptures that we are being gathered together for almost 2,000 years, from all people of every color or race, by the approval of God the Father. (Jn.17:9-12.) There will be no refusal from the Father concerning the bride of Christ, for we were all chosen and given to the Son, by the Father. "Asa thou has given him power over all flesh, that he shouldgive eternal life to as many as thou hast given him." Jn.17:2.

We will have seven years in a "Heavenly Honeymoon", beholding all the glories and splendor of heaven, with the multitude of angels and the Old Testament saints. While we will be enjoying all of this, the count down for the tribulation to start upon the earth will have reached it's zero hour.

### **3. THE COUNT DOWN FOR THE TRIBULATION TO BEGIN**

One of the main reasons why the Rapture takes place before the tribulation begins, is the very fact of the Scriptures. This is found in Revelation chapter five, and gives us the clue as to when the tribulation will begin. "And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the scroll, and to loose its seals? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the scroll, neither to look on it. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look on it. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the scroll, and to loose its seven seals. And I beheld and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the scroll out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne." Rev.5:1-7. The complete bride to be must be gathered in heaven before this can begin. "And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were, the noise of thunder," Rev.6:1a. This will usher in the tribulation upon the earth, while we spend seven years in the Mansions of God. We are waiting for the Eternal Son of God to come and rapture us out from the wrath to come. (1 Thess. 1:10.) This clearly presents the pre-tribulation truth, which also holds to the imminent return of the Lord. All other views set dates as to the coming of the Lord and are entirely wrong.

The tribulation events as mentioned in the Book of Revelation cannot be spiritualized or place as past history. Note what Jesus said of those terrible days. "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no , nor ever shall be." Matt.24:21. Christ also makes mention that it is part of the prophecy written by Daniel. "When ye, therefore, shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whosoever readeth, let him understand). This statement has a two fold revelation.

- (1.) It is the culmination of the 70 times 7, completing the last 7 years. The first 69 have already literally been fulfilled, taking us up to the crucifixion upon the cross. The last week or seven years will be "Jacob's Trouble", and not the Churches' judgement. (Jer.30:7.)**
- (2.) Since it is "Jacob's Trouble" it refers to the Jews and not the church, and they will be the ones to flee to the hills for refuge during those last three and one half years of the tribulation.**

So it is very important that we "Rightly Divide the Word of Truth" (2 Tim.2:15.). That is why as you study various portions of the Word of God that you keep the thoughts portrayed in context, as well as understanding the plan of God. The body of Christ is separate from all of the other saints, as we are a special group of believers chosen to be the "Bride of Christ".

#### **4. THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB OF GOD.**

The future bride of Christ will be approved by God the Father and the marriage of the Lamb will be arranged, with a great wedding feast, with all the Old Testament saints attending and witnessing this great heavenly event. "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of saints." Rev.19:7-8. The Old Testament saints, which are the friends of the bridegroom, will be there. "And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they who are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God." Rev.19:9. "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice; this is my joy, therefore, is fulfilled." Jn.3:29.

All of the saints, both Old Testament and those New Testament saints will spend seven years in heaven, all in their glorified bodies, while the terrible tribulation continues upon the earth. Heaven will be filled with rejoicing as we are united with our families and meet the saints of all ages. There are some important events that we will experience in heaven.

#### **5THE CASTING OUT OF SATAN AND HIS ANGELS FROM HEAVEN**

After we the bride of Christ, will be in the mansions of the Father for three and one half years, the following will take place. "And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not, neither was their place any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, who deceiveth the whole world; he was cast into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Rev.12:7-9. We as saints will be present in heaven to see Michael and his angels battle against Satan and gain the victory.

This will spark off the "Abomination of Desolation" spoken of by Daniel and confirmed by Christ. (Dan.9:b-27; Matt.24:15-22.) Since Satan and his demons will be cast out of heaven, he now will cause hell to break loose on earth as recorded in the Book of Revelation. He will be given the key to the bottomless pit and great armies of demons will come forth to cause terrible disaster upon the earth. (Rev.9:1-21; Isa.14:12-17.)

## EVENTS TO FOLLOW

I will merely mention these events to follow as some of the great future events. This prophetic truth should strengthen our faith in the Lord, knowing that our heavenly Father is sovereign and will eventually bring in everlasting righteousness where sin will never show its ugly head again. (Dan.9:24.) May our faith be strengthened, knowing that Almighty God is the "Alpha and Omega", the beginning and the end. "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matt.5:18. Lets' list some of these important events to follow.

1. **The great battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19:11-21; Ezek.38-39; Zech. 14:1-5; Isa.34:1-2.)**
2. **Satan and all of the demons cast into the bottomless pit for the duration of a thousand years.(Rev. 20:1-3.)**
3. **The kingdom of righteousness established upon the earth (Rev.20:4-6; Zech.14:5b-21; Isa.11:1-12:6; Isa.25:1-26:15; Isa.32:1-20; Isa.34:1-35:10; Isa.52:1-12; Isa.60:1-22; Isa.61.**
4. **Satan loosed and makes his final attempt against the Lord with the armies of the world, and God sends down fire from heaven. Rev.20:7-10.**
5. **The great white throne judgement. Rev.20:11-15.**
6. **The new heavens and the new earth. Isa.65:17; Rev.21:1-8.)**
7. **The new Jerusalem. (Heb.11:8-10; Rev.21:9-27.**
8. **The new paradise Rev.22:1-5.**

May we claim God's wonderful and exciting promises of which the Lord has promised to the saints of all ages. The Bible gives us sufficient evidence to strengthen our faith and visualize the things which cannot be seen with the eye, but can be established within our hearts. As we understand the Bible, taught by the Holy Spirit, and it is "By Faith", the Lord will provide, who is the author and finisher of our faith. "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Heb.12:2. Knowing some of these future events under the new creation, should thrill our hearts through and through.

### **C. FAITHFUL IN LITTLE THINGS**

As we close the study of "Great Faith", may we be mindful that each of us as Christians must be willing to grow to maturity. We are to start as a "seedling" and develop into a fruit bearing tree. God did not intend us to be shade trees, but rather fruit trees, bearing much fruit, to the glory and praise of the Lord Jesus. "In this is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." Jn.15:8. For fruit bearing, growth is necessary, which also requires pruning. So, with the word of God, it is necessary for the saints to draw from the source of God's Word for growth, to produce fruit. The Holy Spirit is grooming each saint with knowledge of the Bible, so that the fruit remains. In the Christian life, we are often tested by God as to whether we are faithful in the little things. One can manifest great things in the little things, which will prepare us for greater faith in the great and mighty things of the future. Each of us as believers are stewards of the Lord Jesus Christ and are given responsibilities according to our talents and gifts. "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to every man according to his ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and dug in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents; behold I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents; behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he that had received the one talent came and said, Lord I knew thee, that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not spread, and I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth; lo, there thou hast what is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gathered where I have not spread? Thou oughtest, therefore, to have put my money to the exchangers, and then, at my coming, I should have received mine own with interest. Take, therefore, the talent from him, and give it unto him who hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matt.25:14-30. This is an amazing parable of the Lord Jesus Christ, the

Creator of heaven and earth. The Lord wants us to be profitable saints, using our talents and gifts in his service. Whatever calling you may have in the service of the Master, rest assured that God will provide every need. (Phil.4:19.) If you misuse the talents and gifts that God has provided for you naturally, how do you expect the Holy Spirit to give you added gifts to be misused as well? Each believer needs to take inventory of the resources that God has placed in our lives. Be faithful in the little things which are to be done for our Lord, and rest assured that there will be great and mighty things to be done at God's command.

### **FAITHFULLY WATCHING FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD**

The Word of God reminds us to be constantly alert in the work of the Lord. We are in this life upon Planet Earth but for a short time, but God expects us to be thoroughly acquainted with his commands and commission. "I charge thee, therefore, before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word; be diligent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine." 2 Tim.4:1-2 "Watch, therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the householder had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt.24:42-44. In all things, we should give the Lord priority in our lives, serving him in the little things of life, for his glory, praise and honor.

### **OUR CREATOR DEMANDS FAITHFUL SUBJECTS**

The Lord has given his all, even unto the death on the cross, therefore it is a small thing for the saints to be faithful unto the Lord, who has given his all for us. This faithfulness requires yielding to the Holy Spirit within each believer. "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised, and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works," Heb.10:22-24. May we judge our God as faithful, who has promised us everything in Christ Jesus, even to becoming joint heirs with the Lord. When we are faithful in the little things, we will be faithful in many things. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If, therefore, ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous money, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" Lk.16:10-11. May I admonish each of you to be faithful stewards of the Lord. "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."



1 Cor.4:1-2. Faith principles are of great importance to us as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **THE FAITHLESS UNREGENERATE**

Without faith in our Creator, it is impossible to please him. In the Eternal Son of God's ministry upon this earth in person, he was confronted with a great lack of faith. "Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you?" Matt.17:17a. We need to adhere to what Jesus said to Thomas, "Be not faithless, but believing". Jn.20:27b.

The unregenerate however, completely reject the things of God and walk in darkness. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Rom.1:18. "Because, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Rom.1:21. The unregenerate never learn not to lean upon their own understanding. Their whole mental capacity is surrounded with the brain washing from Satan. (2 Cor.4:3-4.)

### **FAITHFUL TO THE LORD**

We have been born into the eternal family of God, through the Holy Spirit, because God was faithful, who promised. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." 1 Thess.5:23-24. The Christian fellowship should be manifested in our lives with the divine love, drawn from the Holy Spirit. "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Cor.1:9. God the Father has accepted the faithfulness of his dear Son, and is satisfied that the debt of our sin has been fully paid by the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom he is well pleased.

Faith is a comforting trust, when you understand the characteristics of the one in whom you trust. As one studies the Bible, and understands the marvelous plan of God, one cannot go through life, hoping for the best when God offers "Faith Rest". God has a purpose for everything and knows the end from the beginning, without a shadow of doubt. We can absolutely depend upon God's word at all times. We may not understand some things immediately, but we know that all things will work together for the good of those who love God. (Rom.8:28.)

Faith is also based upon past evidence and there is nothing mystical about true faith in God. Our faith may vary as we use it among human beings, for there are always those who can give you great promises, but their word is worth nothing. There are others whom we can trust, as they have been tested before.

However with God we can always trust him, because the word that he speaks is thoroughly based upon his character and the complete fulfillment of every promise in the past. There is no reason to doubt his word for the present or the future, and this gives us confidence and comfort, as we lean not upon our own understanding, but rather upon the Almighty God, and his everlasting arms. God will do those great and mighty things for you.(Jer.33:3.)

It was faith that was necessary for salvation, and Christ both provides us with everlasting life, by grace, through the necessary faith, which he freely offers, and an everlasting inheritance which is incorruptible. He is the author and finisher of our faith, and it is by the grace of God that we are what we become through Christ Jesus. It would have been sufficient for the Lord to have granted us pardon from our sins, but in addition he has made us "Joint Heirs" with himself.

There is another important factor in the realm of faith, and that is the gifts which the Holy Spirit may give to individuals. These gifts include a measure of faith, as well as the fruit of the Spirit. We can desire certain gifts from the Holy Spirit, but it is entirely up to the Spirit of God to give the necessary gifts. When we use these natural gifts as well as the gifts which the Holy Spirit may give to us, our faith increases because we are fully surrendered to the Spirit and are encouraged with a life of faith. When you are fully yielded to the Triune God, then you can claim, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." Jn.15:7. When you are being led by the Holy Spirit, and walking in the light of God's word, you will not practice the wrong faith, but will develop a great faith, that will keep you in close communication with the Heavenly Father. Since the Lord is the author and finisher of our faith, it is very important that our knowledge of the word of God grows, and so will our faith grow. If we have little faith, then we also are admitting that we have little knowledge of the Bible. We cannot blame God, when we have little knowledge of the Bible, for we have been told, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim.2:15. As we know and accept the promises of God, then our faith also will increase. There is no short cut in acquiring great faith, but demands growth, according to our study of the Bible. God the Holy Spirit cannot remind you of faith promises, if you have not read of these promises in the Word of God. Sufficient faith for every trial and tribulation which comes into your life is available from God, through the working of the Holy Spirit. The working of the Holy Spirit is available through the Word of God. Let God's Word become a real part of your daily life, and I can assure you that there will be sufficient faith available by the grace of God.

As we close this aspect of faith, may we take God at his word and allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct you so that your faith may increase. There are many statements in the Bible that are hard to understand, and no one person has all of the answers. The important attitude that we should maintain is, "Nothing

is Impossible with God". Allow the Holy Spirit to keep on filling your life and and make possible a continual sweet fellowship with God, and with fellow believers. "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation to which ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long- suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, and through all, and in you all." Eph.4:1-6.

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#### **QUESTIONS CHAPTER FIVE**

- 1. Name the different levels of faith.**
- 2. From where do we get our faith?**
- 3. How does one attain Great Faith?**
- 4. Explain briefly John 1:47-51.**
- 5. Explain briefly John 5:19-24.**
- 6. What is the filling of the Holy Spirit? (Eph.5:17-18.)**
- 7. What is essential to attain "Great Faith"?**
- 8. What do you understand about 1 John 1:5-7?**
- 9. Explain 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.**
- 10. Why is it necessary for christians to surrender all to Him? What is accomplished?**

11. **What do you understand when christians speak about "Faithful Living by the Word of God"?**
12. **What evidence do we have to trust the future promises of God?**
13. **How does one strengthen their faith?**
14. **Where did all of the languages come from?**
15. **Why was the flood necessary? Why the rainbow?**
16. **Give sequence of the Messianic Hope from Genesis 3:15.**
17. **Why do we "By Faith" accept the Virgin Birth of the Messiah?**
18. **Explain why John the Baptist was the spirit of Elijah?**
19. **Why do the fulfilled prophecies encourage our faith?**
20. **Explain the prediction of the Messiah being "cut off". (Daniel 9:26; Isa.44:28.)**
21. **What prophecies are being fulfilled today?**
22. **Give a survey of future biblical events . Scripture.**
23. **Why is fulfilled prophecy so important in establishing our faith?**

## CHAPTER SIX



## **PURPOSE of FAITH**

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **THE PURPOSE OF FAITH**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

God had a purpose in withholding the eternal values from us as earthly people. He has shown us wonderful things upon this earth, in spite of this earth being under the curse of sin. We are told to "Have Faith In God" (Mk.11:22.) To understand the purpose that God had for us to practice faith, there is but one source from which we can draw our conclusion, and that is, "The Word of God". There are various things that the unbeliever has faith in, but we are admonished to look to Jesus, "Who by him do believe in God, who raised him up from the dead and gave him glory, that your faith and hope might be in God" 1 Pet.1:21. As God's creation, we need to also exalt God in adoration! In understanding the purpose of faith, let us examine faith in three categories.

#### **A. TO GLORIFY THE LORD.**

Since we are God's creation, we owe our all in all to him. Also being a free agent of choice, and entirely dependent upon him, as our Creator, we need to realize that our faith and hope should be completely in God. As a member of the human family, we need to discover that we have no virtue in ourselves, but "By Faith" we accept God's every provision for us for time and eternity. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Pet.1:3-5.

#### **1. CONTINUING IN FAITH**

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, "Through Faith", our whole life pattern should be changed as a Christian, and from now and throughout eternity we are totally dependent upon God. This infers that we must continue in faith toward our Almighty God and Father. Since our justification is through our individual faith, we are vessels sanctified by God. "And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Acts 13:39. Our faith is to be used in helping others to behold the glory of God, through the Lord Jesus Christ. "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them who are sanctified by faith that is in me." Acts 26:18. Faith is to become part and parcel of the saints life throughout this life and on into eternity. As we go through this present life

we are to develop a dependence upon God for eternity. Faith should become a characteristic in our lives as, an indication that the Holy Spirit is in control of our lives. We continually should produce the fruit of the Spirit. When we eventually behold the glory of the Lord, our faith will be established and continue to grow. Since our life is totally dependent upon God, the faith principles will never cease, but will continue to increase!

## **GOD'S MARVELOUS GRACE REVEALED**

With the continual exercise of faith, we learn to evaluate the love of God through the grace of God. God's righteousness is imparted to all who believe, through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For in it is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Rom.1:16-17. There is nothing that can be added to the finished work of Christ. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God, being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." Rom.3:23-25. This grace is necessary, for God must clear away the sin barrier to satisfy his righteousness, and that can only be done through the Godhead. "To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness, that he might be just, and the justifier of him who believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay, but by the law of faith. Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law." Rom.3:26-28. God's grace through his own provision, according to the law, establishes God's laws. "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid; yea, we establish the law." Rom.3:31. Therefore the faith principle of God, through grace, brings glory to God.

Since we live and move and have our being in the Lord Jesus Christ, faith becomes part of our life. In the new creation of God, where sin will be no more, our faith toward our Creator will be consistent. We will have then, learned to know that God does all things well and we can thoroughly trust him for the future. There will be no clamouring for anything, but by grace we will accept all that God offers without a doubt.

## **2. TO BE STRONG IN FAITH**

Perhaps we could say, "Simple Faith" could be classified as the rudiments of faith, and "Strong Faith" is prevalent among those mature Christians who have had years of experience in depending upon the all providing God. Abraham is a good example of this strong faith. "For the promise that he should be the heir of the world was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the

righteousness of faith." Rom.4:13. No one but God could practice the whole law. "Because the law worketh wrath; for where no law is, there is no transgression. Therefore, it is of faith, that it might be by grace, to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all. .... And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God." Rom.4:15-20.

Our strength is in the Lord and not in what we think we can do apart from depending upon God. "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Rom.12:3. Since Christ is the author of our faith, regardless of the amount, it behooves us to exercise our God given faith, to the glory of God. As believers, we do differ in the measure of faith and the extent of our faith, but what ever capacity you have concerning gifts, use them to the fullest degree according to the grace that is given to you. "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith." Rom.12:6. The source of our strength and power comes through "Faith" in the Almighty God, knowing that he alone is supreme! "Watch, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." 1 Cor.16:13.

There is another important feature about our faith, which is based upon the written word of God. We believe what is written and depend upon God to fulfill his promises. "We, having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that he who raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you." 2 Cor.4:13-14. Strong faith, will accept what God has written and promised, without wavering. "By Faith", we launch out upon the promises of God, knowing that he will do great and mighty things that we do not even think about. (Jer.33:3.) May our Christian life be a life of abundant faith. "Therefore, as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace." 2 Cor.8:7.

Our faith should always glorify the Lord, knowing that the Holy Spirit is at work within our lives. It is God who is our stronghold and by faith we enjoy a "Faith Rest" and leave all in his hands. "For it is God who worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Phil.2:13. Therefore, we have access to the greatest of powers. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." 1 Jn.4:4. Allow God to establish a strong faith in your life, not merely when you are discouraged, but also when you have mountain top experiences. We have been born of God through the Holy Spirit, who is our inward witness.



### **3. FAITH IS GOD'S PROVISION FOR PEACE.**

It is God who works within the believer's life to do his good pleasure, and as we study the marvelous promises of God, we establish a peace that passeth all understanding. Being born of God the Holy Spirit, our objectives and priorities should change. The more we learn from the Holy Scriptures, the more we enter into that "Faith Rest", concerning the present and the future. God gives us a "Peace that passeth all understanding"! We do not enjoy the trials that come our way, but we can better cope with these trials, when we have a fuller knowledge of God's word. We often quote, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom.8:28. Such a truth from God's word does not mean that everything is good, but all things work together and finally reveal God's goodness and will renown to the glory of God. We must exercise our faith when in the valleys, as well as when we are in the mountain top times of rejoicing. Suffering as children of God is part and parcel of being made ready for arriving in heaven, where we are already citizens. "This world is not my dwelling place", and we are but pilgrims and so-journers upon this earth. As the Lord said to the sea, "And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm." Mk.4:39. All storms of life can be calmed by the Lord as we face them with Christ at the helm of our lives. Take God at his word, practicing "Faith", regardless of the circumstances. As the father of John the Baptist, Zacharias, was filled by the Holy Spirit, he declared, concerning John, "And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest; for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Lk.1:76-79. Now that we belong to Jesus, and Jesus belongs to us, we enjoy God's peace that passeth all understanding. Christ has assured us, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Jn.14:27.

The more we exercise our faith toward God, through his word, the more we will enter into God's "Faith Rest", through the Lord Jesus Christ. "But now in Christ Jesus ye who once were far off are made near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us." Eph.2:13-14. Christ is the expression of the written word and provides us with assurance, through faith, with the peace of God which passeth all understanding.

There are many unregenerate in this world who are hungry to be satisfied with something better than what this world offers, and God's peace in our lives, as Christians, will be a great influence in their lives. God's word reminds us to, "Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you

wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." 1 Thess.5:22-24. "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."  
Heb.13:20-21.

## **B. BEING FRUITFUL WITH GOOD WORKS.**

We not only are to glorify our heavenly Father, through our faith, but the results of our faith should bring much fruit as we glorify the Lord. Being born of the Holy Spirit, makes possible the Divine love to flow through our lives, producing eternal fruit. This fruit must be of the Holy Spirit to remain. To bear fruit, the branch must continue in the vine. To be fruitful for the Lord, we must continue to draw our strength from the Lord, to bear fruit that will last throughout eternity. All believers are going to stand before the judgement seat of Christ (2 Cor.5:10.), and give an account of our faithfulness to him. There are two kinds of good works which are possible in our Christian life.

### **(1.) Good works for the glorification of self.**

In the Christian walk, it is so easy for one to desire prominent places, exalting self, rather than doing all as unto the Lord rather than for the praise of men. This ought not to be so with Christians, but it is very prevalent, "In honor preferring ones' self" rather than, "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cling to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation, continuing diligently in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them who persecute you; bless and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits." Rom.12:9-16.

If our good works are for the glorification of self, or desirous to hold certain offices within the assembly for your own prestige, then it becomes as "Wood, Hay, and Stubble" and will be burned at the judgement seat of Christ. This ought not to be so among the saints, but nevertheless it is so. The body of Christ has suffered much through this vain glory, when the saints want their individual rights, regardless of the consequences. Fellow believers, avoid such pitfalls of Satan! Place that self pride under the blood, and do all as unto the Lord. Make sure that your good works are done to glorify the Lord.

## **(2.) Good works for the glorification of the Lord.**

Those who practice good works for the glorification of the Lord, will have rewards before the throne of grace at the judgement seat of Christ. Whatever you are assigned to do, do all in the name of the Lord. We are aware, according to the Word of God, "That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." 1 Cor.1:29-31. When we glory in the Lord, rather in self, this becomes "Gold, Silver or precious tones, to be rewarded before the Judgement seat of Christ. The Lord will not be handing out these things as such but will be granting those who were faithful to him very important rewards as positions in the kingdom to come. When we do whatsoever to the glory of Christ, and not for the praise of men, it will be sufficient to hear the Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of thy Lord." Matt.25:23.

### **1. ABIDING IN CHRIST.**

As members of the body of Christ, we are totally dependent upon the Lord for sustaining strength to produce "Heavenly Fruit". "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing." Jn.15:4-5. As I often mention in teaching the Bible, Christians are not left here to be "Shade Trees", but rather "Fruit Trees". Note what the Lord said, "Every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." Jn.15:2b. Such a statement helps us to understand at least one reason why we are purged and pruned back, so that we can bear more fruit. God has left us in this present temporary life, to bear eternal fruit for his glory and honor. "In this is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue in my love." Jn.15:8-9. The Lord has prayed for our safe keeping in this wicked world, under the domination of Satan. We have been set apart and sanctified for witnessing to the saving grace of our loving Lord. "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy words is truth. As thou has sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." Jn.17:16-17. Christ desires that we, as the body of Christ, continually abide in him in order that we may bear fruit as well as glorify our Heavenly Father.

There is a note of caution that I must make, and that is, God the Father desires fruit that will remain. Yes, we can bear fruit that will perish, if we try producing in our own strength. Note what the Lord said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in

my name, he may give it you." Jn.15:16. Eternal fruit bearing can only be possible as we abide in Christ. "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." Jn.15:11. Therefore, fruit bearing for eternity, demands the heavenly source, which is through the Eternal Son of God.

## **2. THE NECESSITY OF THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

God has wonderfully provided us with an everlasting "High Priest", "After the Order of Melchizedek", who is in the presence of his Father from everlasting to everlasting. He is both King and High Priest, with every characteristic as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. The Christians, being the future "Bride of Christ", must necessarily, have the Divine spark, dwelling within them, which must be coessential, or coeternal, to be the bride of the Eternal Son of God. God wonderfully provided for this on the day of Pentecost, with the out pouring of the Holy Spirit upon the believers, making them new creatures in Christ Jesus. The marvels of God upon creatures of his creation, are beyond our comprehension with our finite minds. Let us briefly see what the Word of God reveals to us.

### **THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Israel was promised that Jehovah would give her a new heart, some future day. The Holy Spirit spoke to Ezekiel about the valley of dry bones, and even carried him away in vision to such a peace. As Ezekiel beheld those dry bones, "And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, prophesy upon these bones: and say unto them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones, Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord." Ezek.37:2-6. This was given to Israel as a sign of the resurrection, and was to have been accepted by faith. "Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost; we are cut off on our part." Ezek.37:11. This is but a reminder to all of us, that when one turns away from the word of God, so one's faith is weakened, and eventually losing its purpose in our life. God not only promised Israel the resurrection of their bodies, but also "A New Heart"! "And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people, and I will be their God; for they shall return unto me with their whole heart." Jer.24:7. "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh." Ezek.11:19. The Lord continues to plead with Israel, as he is at present regathering them into their land. "Cast away from you all your transgressions, by which ye have transgressed, and make yourselves a new heart

and a new spirit; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God; wherefore, turn yourselves and live." Ezek.18:31-32. "A new heart also will I give you, a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep mine ordinances, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God." Ezek.36:26-28.

You will note in the above statements from the Bible that God promised to give Israel his Spirit, as well as a new heart. Turn with me to the Book of Joel. "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; And, also, upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit." Joel 2:28-29. This is of great importance as to sharing his Divine being with "Homo - Sapien" upon whom he breathed the breath of life. Satan has been trying his best to indwell human beings completely, as he tried with the Antediluvians. God stopped that with the flood and promised the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit at a future date. There were occasions in the Old Testament, where we have the appearances of the second person of the Trinity, "walking with men", as in the cases of Adam and Eve, and Enoch. Then we have the actual appearances of Christ, as in the days of Joshua,(Josh.5:13-15). We also have the mysterious priestly king called Melchizedek. (Gen.14:17-20) This could only be the Eternal Son of God, as confirmed by the Holy Spirit. "For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him, to whom Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being, by interpretation, King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like unto the Son of God, abideth a priest continually." Heb.7:1-3. This is an astounding truth, which we accept without a shadow of doubt to be the Eternal Son of God. It is but another indication of God's desire to dwell among men. (Isa.7:14.)

## **THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Throughout the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, we do not have many references to the Holy Spirit. The reason why the Holy Spirit was not emphasized was because the very Son of God was in their midst. There are a few places where the Holy Spirit becomes a prevalent figure. But we can be certain that the Holy Spirit was ever present, as is seen in the following events. The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Godhead, and is not a powerhouse to be manipulated with the push of a button. Although he is that quiet voice behind the scenes, yet he has all the characteristics of God the Father and God the Son.

## **THE ANNUNCIATION OF JESUS' BIRTH.**

**"And the sixth month the angel, Gabriel, was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou who art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered in her mind what manner of greeting this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary; for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David. And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered, and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Lk.1:26-35.**

**"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was in this way: When as his mother, Mary, was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph, her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privately. But while he thought on these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary, thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus;" Matt.1:18-21a**

**The virgin birth of the Eternal Son of God, was the manner in which Christ entered the realm of created man. This body was actually prepared before the foundation of the world. Our first reference to such is found in the book of Genesis. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Gen.3:15. Natural birth is through the seed of the man, but the supernatural birth comes through the Holy Spirit and the seed of the woman. This is an important sign and clarified with the following Scripture. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isa.7:14. This of course was fulfilled in a marvelous way. "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Gal.4:4-5. An important statement was made by this Scripture, namely, "God sent forth his Son". This indicates that the virgin birth was the means by which Christ entered into this world to sacrifice himself for the sins of the whole world. The Eternal Son of God always existed and never had a beginning, nor will he have a termination! He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the ending, the Creator of all things that ever existed or ever will exist.**

## **ELIZABETH FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

It was after this announcement that Mary went to her cousin Elizabeth, to share the news with her. "And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah; And entered into the house of Zacharias, and greeted Elizabeth. And it came to pass that, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit." Lk.1:39-41. This again is an unusual occurrence, with the filling of the Holy Spirit, prior to the day of Pentecost. This was perhaps the Holy Spirit coming upon Elizabeth, as he had manifested himself throughout the Old Testament. The filling of the Holy Spirit, prior to Pentecost, would be for a particular assignment from God. The Holy Spirit would come "Upon" God's servants, but never indwelt forever as is the case of the Christians.

## **JOHN THE BAPTIST HERALDED THE MESSIAH**

Many are confused about the water baptism of John, thinking that it was "Christian Baptism". This is not the case, for John's baptism was an identification received for the coming kingdom. The Holy Spirit was recognized that baptism of the Holy Spirit would come. "I, indeed, baptize you with water unto repentance, but he who cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire." Matt.3:11. When the Lord Jesus Christ came to John, to be baptized, it was in fulfillment of the law, as the King of the kingdom took his place and identified himself as the King being heralded by John the Baptist. "But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Permit it to be so now; for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he consented to him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him. And, lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matt.3:14-17. How do we know that the Holy Spirit was not the issue with John the baptist's ministry? Let us listen to the testimony from those who were under John the Baptist's ministry. "And it came to pass that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper borders came to Ephesus and, finding certain disciples, he said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there is an Holy Spirit. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people that they should believe on him who should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve." Acts.19:1-7. The King and the kingdom were the issues, with John the Baptist.

## **REVELATION OF SIMEON BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

This is another marvel of God as to Simeon, who was promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death, until the Messiah was born. "And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child, Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." Lk.2:25-32. Here we have an excellent example of the Holy Spirit coming upon this Old Testament Saint.

### **THE INDWELLING NEW BIRTH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

When Nicodemus came to the Lord Jesus Christ and was approached by the Lord with the issue of a new birth, it was something strange to all. They were aware that one day God was going to give the Old Testament saints a new heart, but not a new birth, by God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit did not have Matthew, Mark and Luke to record this tremendous revelation, but after Pentecost, when John's writings occurred, it was a very necessary and important truth, to be placed on record.

#### **(a) New birth by the Holy Spirit.**

This was an amazing revelation to Nicodemus, who was well taught in the Old Testament teachings. "Jesus answered, Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." Jn.3:5-8. At the time of this narrative that Christ had with Nicodemus, the new birth by God the Holy Spirit was not manifested. Nicodemus had a preview of what would take place from the day of Pentecost, until the Rapture. All believers who died before the day of Pentecost were considered as "Old Testament Saints". This is an important factor to consider. Although I have considered the out pouring of the Holy Spirit in previous teachings, it bears repeating, in order to completely establish this important birth by the Holy Spirit. The Old Testament Saints were under the authority of the Levitical priests and under the Mosaic law. Their sins were temporally covered by the offering of sacrifices. They were promised the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, at a future time. (Joel 2:28.) The Lord Jesus Christ replaced the sacrifices and made way for the coming of the Holy Spirit. This



could only occur after the crucifixion, which took away the sin barrier, rather than merely covering the sins, as was the case with the Old Testament sacrifices. They were observed by faith, knowing that one day their sins would be removed, when God the Father would "lay upon his Son, the iniquity of us all".

**(b) The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit forever.**

Man was originally created in the image of God, and lost that status when sin entered the human race and all became "Totally Depraved". All the progeny of Adam and Eve became dead spiritually. In order to restore mankind to a living hope, spiritually, we needed to have the touch of God. This took place on the day of Pentecost and will continue until the Rapture, making believers new creatures in Christ Jesus. Nicodemus was told, "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water (the word) and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Jn.3:5. As the Lord was getting ready to go to the cross and return to the right hand of God the Father, he said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Jn.14:16-17. This is an amazing fact, that those who are born again, have the Holy Spirit indwelling them forever. This is the special "Divine Spark" that is being given to all who believe, from Pentecost until the Rapture, preparing them for the gathering together to become the bride of Christ.

### **TO THE JEW FIRST**

This fulfillment of Joel 2:28; for the Jews was manifested exactly on time, as Christ declared. "But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit is come upon you;" Acts 1:8a. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven like a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:1-4. There were 120 disciples in that house at the time and they were Jews. The great revival of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit began in Jerusalem. "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things." Lk.24:47-48. The giving of the Holy Spirit was the source of power given to the disciples to evangelize the world. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8. Now may we verify the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Samaritans.

## **TO THE SAMARITANS**

The day of the Passover was a specific day for the Jews, as they remained in Jerusalem to celebrate their deliverance from Egypt. They remained in Jerusalem for the completion of the ceremonies, which brought them up to the time of Pentecost. The question can be asked, "What about the Samaritans and the Gentiles"? "Would they also have the outpouring of the Holy Spirit"? Yes, they too had a similar experience. "Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit." Acts 8:14-17. This was a tremendous evangelistic campaign by Philip, and the apostles in Jerusalem sent Peter and John to come to Samaria to establish these facts.

## **TO AFRICA**

As Philip was sent to preach the Gospel to the Samaritans, so he was also sent to reach Africa through the Ethiopian Eunuch. "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto certain water: And the eunuch said, See, here is water: what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." Acts 8:35-38. God did not forsake Africa, but had poured out the Holy Spirit through the Ethiopian Eunuch, who brought the Gospel to Africa.

## **TO THE GENTILES**

God used Peter to bring the message to the Gentiles through Cornelius, who was a Gentile. But Peter fearing what the Jewish Christians would think, he took along with him Jewish witnesses. "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.....While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Spirit as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."

Acts 10:34-48. Through the seed of Abraham, many nations are being reached with the glorious Gospel message.

### **TO THE OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS**

The ministry of reaching the Old Testament saints who were baptized with John the Baptist's baptism, was given to Paul. "Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, he said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.....When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve." Acts 19:1b-7. God has ways and means of fulfilling his word past our understanding!

May this help us not to be confused as to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. God has given us this evidence so that we might not be confused as to the various groups of saints, from the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. We of the age of grace are especially blessed by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit forever. Our bodies have become the temple of the living God. (1 Cor.3:16.)

### **CONCLUSION**

We have taken this fruit bearing of good works from a different angle, showing you that to be fruitful and be acceptable to God, it is necessary to depend upon the Holy Spirit, exercising faith, according to the knowledge of the Bible. The whole word of God has been given to us so that, we may understand, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." ROM.10:17. May we always remember the importance of fruit bearing. God wants us to be a profitable witness, bearing much fruit, through the Holy Spirit. By this, we bring glory and honor to Almighty God. Faith should always be accompanied by an attitude of action without doubting God in any way. "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works; show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well. The demons also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham, our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac, his son, upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness; and he was called the friend of God." Jas.2:17-23.

## **C. FULL DEPENDENCE UPON GOD**

Since all faith toward God, must come from God, we are totally dependent upon the Eternal Son of God for every phase of our Christian life. We are now, as believers, in this world but not of it. Our reality is in the things which are not seen, for they are eternal in the heavens, in Christ Jesus. This all must be accepted "By Faith", based upon the promises of God. "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Cor.4:18. That is why we must exercise faith according to our knowledge of the word of God. The storehouse of faith through Christ is sufficient for our every need, and every circumstance, guaranteed by Almighty God! God does not wish to short change any of the saints, in the realm of "Faith", and he has therefore made ample provision. However, if you attempt to solve your problems in your own way, you will fail. Place your full dependence upon God, as he has promised. "Trust and obey, for there is no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey". Look to the source of your help, "By Faith". We, by faith, present our petitions in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. In ourselves, we have no merit before God whatsoever. That is why we present our case before God the father, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The important issue as we come to our Heavenly Father, by faith" is "By whose Authority"? Since we have no merit in ourselves, we come in the Wonderful Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are fully dependent upon God to give us this access unto the throne of God. There is but one way, truth, and life, and that is in Christ Jesus. (Jn.14:6.)

### **1. ABIDING IN CHRIST.**

Believer's faith is not a blind faith, or a wistful faith, but a faith which is established in the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ himself has testified that he abides completely in the Father, and it becomes necessary for Christians to completely abide in Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ is equal with God the Father, but submissive to the will of the Father. Christ said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do; for whatever things he doeth, these also doeth the Son in the same manner. For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that he himself doeth; and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and giveth them life, even so the Son giveth life to whom he will. For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement unto the Son; That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father, who hath sent him. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement, but is passed from death unto life." Jn.5:19b-24.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the source of our life, being born by God the Holy Spirit. We have a very good illustration of this as the Lord himself explains. "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. In this is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." Jn.15:1-11.

Since Christ is the author and finisher of our faith, we are entirely dependent upon him for every aspect of faith. It is important that we keep in fellowship with the Lord. Don't let sin have dominion over your life, but confess your sins and shortcomings to the Father, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and your sins will be forgiven and you will be cleansed from all unrighteousness. (1 Jn.1:9.) There is no reason whatsoever that we have "Little Faith", for the Lord will freely give you sufficient faith to meet every need, and to bear much fruit for the Lord. The Father is glorified as we produce much fruit in the service of the Lord. However, may we remember that the only way that your fruit will abide forever, is through the everlasting Holy Spirit.

## **2. THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

The natural man is boastful of what he can do and is very egotistical, but this should not be so among Christians. We are new creatures in the Lord Jesus Christ, being born again by the Holy Spirit. We are under the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and his commandment is, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Jn.15:11-13. The law of Christ is based upon different principles than the Mosaic law. This love which is to be displayed in believers' lives can only come from the fruit of the Holy Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law." Gal.5:22-23. As Christians we are to exercise our faith, which is part and parcel of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. This is but another indication that we are entirely dependent upon God for every aspect of our new life in Christ Jesus. That Divine

love must flow through our lives to others. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." Gal.6:2-4. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is one complete gift to each Christian, and is dependent upon Divine power to accomplish the bearing of this eternal fruit.

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS MEASURELESS.**

When we become a Christian, we receive a new nature in the spiritual realm. The Christian growth comes as we feast upon the Word of God. Positionally, we are complete in the Holy Spirit, as he is never given by measure. "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God; for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him." Jn.3:34. As the Triune God cannot be divided by measure, so each personality in the Godhead cannot be given by measure. The Holy Spirit is ready to impart unto each believer the full portion of himself, dwelling eternally within the believers. If you are lacking the fruit of the Holy Spirit, then you need to let go the cares of life and let him have his way with you. This does not mean that we are to become careless, but rather, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that he might exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." 1 Pet.5:6-7.

Being sealed by the Holy Spirit, we have God's guaranteed protection against the wiles of the devil, as well as protection against the possibility of the indwelling of evil spirits. Our faith is protected by the Holy Spirit, and we are able to discern the "Divine Viewpoint". Since God is not a respecter of persons, we each have a perfect right to the fullness available through God the Holy Spirit. As we are led by the Spirit, may our walk in the Spirit be by faith. He is our Comforter and ever present help, giving the believer eternal protection.

### **FRUITFUL FAITH**

Another important factor to consider is the element of faith as we bear fruit of the Holy Spirit. When a Christian is conformed to the Bible, and has a working knowledge of God's truth, then the issue of trust becomes real. You either have the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your service for the Lord, or you are quenching the power of the Spirit in your life. Our complete life should be directed by the Holy Spirit. This cannot happen, if one neglects the study of God's word. God has given the Scriptures for our admonition. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim.3:16-17. It is God's provision for our newness of life to be led by the Holy Spirit. "But this I say, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other,

so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led by the Spirit, ye are not under the law." Gal.5:16-18.

For you to be fruitful through your Christian life, as unto the Lord, it must depend upon the fruit of the Spirit. If this is lacking in your Christian walk, it is because you have lost touch with the Holy Spirit and have kept him from occupying your entire life. You grieve the Holy Spirit within your life by not surrendering your all to him, and your faith wavers as you approach your daily burdens. "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, by whom ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you." Eph.4:30-32. As we allow the Holy Spirit to keep on filling our lives, then our faith is strengthened, manifesting the fruit of the Spirit.

### **3. OUR FAITH IS SECURELY KEPT BY GOD'S GRACE.**

There is always the possibility of our faith wavering, when we face difficulties in our Christian walk. God has provided ample provision and protection, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. This is not based upon your worthiness, but upon the grace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ. "Oh the love that drew salvation's plan, Oh the grace that brought it down to man! Oh the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary!" "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Rom.12:3. The measure of faith available to each of us is found through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, through the knowledge of the word of God. Every Christian is securely sealed by the Holy Spirit, so it is a matter of obtaining greater faith, as we obtain greater knowledge of God's word. All that we are able to accomplish in this life, for the glory of God, is based upon the grace of God. "But by the grace of God I am what I am; and his grace, which was bestowed upon me, was not in vain, but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed." 1 Cor.15:10-11. The Holy Spirit led Paul to pronounce such a statement, admonishing us all, that, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." 2 Cor.4:6-7.

### **CONCLUSION**

Therefore, we have seen some of the purposes of faith, which must come entirely from God. However, this is not blind faith that we are to practice, but rather faith based upon the word of God, with much evidence from the saints of

**God. The Almighty God, who is our Heavenly Father, through Christ, wants us to trust him without a shadow of doubt, resting in his promises. The faith that is given to us as individuals involves the Triune God. Our complete and full confidence is in our Heavenly Father. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Eph.3:14-21.**

**May each of you be strengthened by the knowledge of the Word of God, establishing greater faith based upon the promises of God. The evidence of faith from among the Biblical characters should cause us as believers, to go from strength to strength, exercising our faith in Almighty God. As we live by faith in this present world, we are acknowledging the Living God in whom we can trust. Always remember, that faith is part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit and cannot be separated from love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, and self-control. "For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then, face to face; now I know in part, but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Cor.13:12-13.**



## QUESTIONS CHAPTER SIX

1. **How does one continue in faith?**
2. **How do we practice faith?**
3. **Name some reasons for the purpose of faith. Give scripture bearing on this subject.**
4. **Name some ways that we may be able to increase our faith as Christians.**
5. **Upon whom does god freely give His Grace?**
6. **Explain how one can be strong in faith.**
7. **Explain 2 Corinthians 4:13-14.**
8. **How does faith give you inward peace?**
9. **What do you understand about "Faith Rest"?**
10. **How does faith help us to be fruitful with good works?**
11. **Why do some Christians ask "Amiss"? Why do they ask God for the wrong things?**
12. **How can we make sure that our fruit in this life remains throughout Eternity?**
13. **Explain the necessity of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.**
14. **Write briefly on "The Promise of The Holy Spirit".**
15. **Give Scripture references as examples of the presence of the Holy Spirit before the Day of Pentecost.**
16. **What difference do you detect between the presence of the Holy Spirit amidst the Old Testament Saints and from Pentecost until the Rapture.**
17. **Give Scripture references as to the various groups of people experiencing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the days of Pentecost.**

- 18. Write briefly as to our full dependence upon God as to our Faith. Explain Faith and Grace versus Law.**
- 19. Explain The Fruit of The Holy Spirit.**
- 20. How do we get the filling of the Holy Spirit and how often can we be filled by him?**

## CHAPTER SEVEN



## VICTORIOUS FAITH

## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **THE VICTORIOUS LIFE OF FAITH**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God. "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb.11:6. To have the victory in your Christian life you must completely rely upon God for every phase of your life. By faith, we are entering into an eternal realm with complete dependence upon God. There are three angles upon which I want to project the principles of "Victorious Faith" before you.

Our faith should always be toward God, as the very rudiments of faith have come from God. God knows that it is impossible for us to approach him apart from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. One must be willing to acknowledge that we cannot earn this right of access to God and must rely upon the grace of God through the provision that the Lord has made for us. "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus. By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh, and having an high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised," Heb.10:19-23.

#### **A. EXALTING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST THROUGH FAITH.**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

As we draw to a close this important subject of "Faith" , our conclusive remarks are of great importance. God the Father has placed all authority in the hands of his Beloved Son, in whom he is well pleased. Therefore let us consider the following truths as we continue to study the faith principles, according to the word of God. God has given us access into the very "Holy of Holies", through his Eternal Son, even providing sufficient faith, as we take God at his word. Therefore, let us exalt the Lord Jesus Christ, giving him the pre-eminent place in our thoughts, words and deeds. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." 2 Cor.4:6-7. May we always bear in mind that in ourselves, we are nothing and Christ our Savior is our all in all!

## **1. CHRIST IS THE SOURCE OF FAITH.**

"Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Heb.12:1-2. Christ, being the source of our faith, we need to exalt him in our Christian walk of faith. Our amount of faith is determined by our knowledge of the Bible. For wisdom in the use of this knowledge of the Bible, we must depend upon the Holy Spirit. God the Holy Spirit desires to guide us into all truth and has been appointed to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ through our yielded lives. We must also remember that Christ is the living Word of God, who is manifested in these last days. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness overcame it not.: Jn.1:1-5. In Christ is our all in all and therefore it is important that we give him first place in our lives. He is the living expression of the word of God, and the exact image of God the Father.

## **2. CHRIST THE PROVISION OF OUR SALVATION.**

The incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ was planned before the foundation of the world. A body was prepared for him to enter this world, 100% God and 100% man. Nothing short of these two natures could provide so great salvation. It was God's secret way of dealing with sin from the very foundation of the world. "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world." Matt.13:35. God is gathering together saints of all ages for his new creation, of which we are selected to be the bride of Christ. "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory. And before him shall be gathered all the nations; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matt.25:31-34. We have the promise of entering into that kingdom of righteousness, which is eternally established, which we accept by faith.

It would have been sufficient for Almighty God to have allowed his Eternal Son to die for our sins and maintain us as merely creatures, but God has destined us to be with his Eternal Son, and to be joint heirs. "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also who shall believe on me through their word; That

they all may be one, as thou Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them, that they may be one, even as we are one. I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me; for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." Jn.17:20-24. The Lord Jesus Christ has elevated us to a Divine level, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, as we were chosen before the foundation of the world. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." Eph.1::3-4. Our Almighty God is immutable and the foundation of Christ is secured for eternity. "Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his; and, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." 2 Tim.2:19. Our security is in the Lord, who has established faith within our hearts.

### **3. CHRIST THE SUPREME JUDGE OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.**

God the Father and God the Son are equal in all things. It behooves us to realize that the Father hath put all authority into the hands of his Eternal Son. "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement unto the Son." Jn.5:22. In the two final resurrections from the dead, the Lord Jesus Christ will be upon his throne and pronounce the destinations of all, those who by faith accepted Christ as their Savior into the eternal realm of Paradise, and those who rejected Christ as their Savior into eternal living death. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself, so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgement also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth: they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Jn.5:25-29. Before the Judgement seat of Christ, for those who are redeemed, Christ will be the judge, giving rewards to those who faithfully served him during their life upon this earth. (2 Cor.5:10.) Then, Christ will be seated on The Great White Throne as he passes judgement upon all of the ungodly of all ages. God the Father has made his Eternal Son, the supreme judge of the living and the dead of all ages. (Rev.20:11-15.)

## **B. ESTABLISHING THE SAINTS IN FAITH.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Since Christ is the author and finisher of our faith, the saints need to be established in the things of God. We have Old Testament examples of how the Son of God was the ever present help to the saints of the Old Testament. It is true, that the method of God's presence during the Old Testament times varied, according to his good pleasure, nevertheless, God's message got through to the people. There were many signs and wonders through which God revealed himself for the purpose of establishing individual faith. We have sufficient evidence in the Bible to strengthen us "By Faith" in our Almighty God. There are three separate witnesses which I wish to explore, which are necessary in establishing the saints in the most holy faith.

#### **1. THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD.**

The Bible in it's entirety is the Word of God and is alive and powerful. "For the word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Heb.4:12. There may seem to be some sections of the Bible that are not too pleasant to read, but all has been necessary in showing the "Total Depravity of Man"! In the Bible, God has set before all mankind, two methods of life, the one by the grace of God, accepting God's complete restoration of man, to God through Christ, by faith. The other, mans' attempt to yield sufficient righteousness according to the law of God, which can only end in judgement. We all with our human effort of good always falls short of the glory of God. "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Isa.64:6. Apart from God's grace, through faith, it would be impossible for us to approach God.

What is the purpose of the Written Word of God? There are many reasons for the printed Word of God, and may we just name some of them.

- (1.) The Word of God gives us a clear record of the various beginnings. (Especially the Book of Genesis)**
- (2.) The Word of God establishes the creation of man as separate from the animal world, and in the image of God. (Gen.1:26-27.)**
- (3.) The Word of God reveals that man fell into sin and became totally depraved. (Rom.3:23.)**

- (4.) The Word of God reveals the complete plan of God for all ages. (Dan.2:19-23.)**
- (5.) The Word of God gives mankind a "Messianic Hope". (Gen.3:15; Isa.7:14; Gal.4:4-5.)**
- (6.) The Word of God, reveals God's desire to dwell among men. (Isa.7:14; Isa.8:8; Matt.1:23; Rev.22.)**
- (7.) The Word of God reveals the grace of God and his mercy and peace. (Jn.1:14-17; Acts 20:24; Rom.1:5; Rom.4:16; Rom.5:15; 1 Cor.1:3; Eph.2:8; 1 Tim.1:2; 1 Pet.1:2.)**
- (8.) The Word of God reveals the only way of salvation through the Eternal Son of God. (Jn.3:16; Jn.5:24; Jn.3:18,36; Jn.14:6;)**
- (9.) The Word of God reveals the absolute purpose of God to put away all sin forever and establish eternal righteousness, where sin will never show it's ugly head again. Dan.9:24.**
- (10.) The Word of God reveals the final judgement upon all the unregenerate people of all time, before the white throne judgement. (Rev.20:11-15.)**
- (11.) The Word of God reveals the final judgement upon all fallen angels including Satan. (Rev.20:10.)**
- (12.) The Word of God reveals the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit in those who believe. (Jn.14:16-19; Joel 2:28; Acts 2:1-8.)**
- (13.) The Word of God tells us that we will have a glorified body like unto the Eternal Son of God. (1 Jn.3:1-3; 1 Thess.4:13-18; 1 Cor.15:51-57.)**
- (14.) The Word of God tells about the coming kingdom of righteousness upon this earth. Rev.19:11-16.**
- (15.) The Word of God tells us of a Holy City from heaven and a new heavens and a new earth. (Rev.21:1-22:5.)**
- (16.) The Word of God tells us of an "Eternal Paradise) (Rev.22:1-5.)**
- (17.) The Word of God gives us many witnesses, proclaiming great faith among saints of all ages. Heb.11:1-40.)**



All of these wonders of wonders which are recorded in the Bible are but a few of the marvelous revelations which we have in the Bible. These recorded events in the Bible must be accepted by faith, trusting God's word. We need not to be in doubt about these things of the future, for we have sufficient evidence of the great amount of fulfilled promises of God. We can thank God for the printed Word of God, rather than a verbal witness down through the ages. God's Word would be distorted and confused with no certainty. Satan could have destroyed the human witness, so that God's truth would be lost forever. Praise God, "It is Written", and "Thus Saith the Lord"!

## **2. THE PERSONAL APPEARANCES OF THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD.**

### **THE INCARNATION OF THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD.**

It was a marvelous undertaking of the Godhead to plan the "Incarnation of The Eternal Son of God". We have the evidence and witness of this great hypostatical union as the Son of God has a human body prepared for him, before the foundation of the world. Christ being the Creator of heaven and earth (Jn.1:1-3.) There were countless witnesses of the presence of the Eternal Son of God, taking upon himself a form of man. "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the word of life. For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us. That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full." 1 Jn.1:1-4.

The Eternal Son of God, entered this world as a babe, born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit. This had to be the process of bringing salvation to mankind, as sacrifice and sacrificer, and providing eternal life to all who believe, accepting him as their personal Savior. (Jn.3:16-18, 36; Jn.5:24.) These facts have been kept from error, through the written Word of God. (Jn.20:31.) Unless you accept this record, believing that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son of God, you are destined to the lake of fire forever and ever in a continual living death! The Lord Jesus Christ was not just a great man, a prophet or priest or king, but is the Eternal Son of God, The King of kings and Lord of lords!

The Word of God establishes us in our faith which is also a gift from God. If you are one with weak faith or little faith, you cannot blame that on the weakness of the flesh, but rather on your lack of understanding of the Word of God. One who lives and moves and has his whole life saturated with the Word of God will be granted a strong and mighty faith. Do you want victory in your life? Then ask the Lord through the Holy Spirit to establish you in the Word of God, by faith. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and everyone that loveth him that begot loveth him also that is begotten of him. By

this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not burdensome. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1 Jn.5:1-5. "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." Jn.20:31.

"By Faith", we trust in the word of God for the fulfillment of future events. We are seeing before our very eyes, the regathering of Israel, back in her land, in spite of great opposition. Every born again Christian is thrilled with this event, as it confirms what the Lord has promised, would happen. As we watch this regathering unfold before our eyes, we keep on looking up, for our deliverance is drawing near. There are many events predicted to take place in these last days, as God pours out his wrath upon this old world. However, the future bride of Christ will experience a special "Air Lift", as the Lord himself comes in the clouds. The signs of the times are appearing, as the word of God records. It cannot be too long until those clouds will break through with the glorious brightness of heaven.

## **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

### **COMING IN PERSON TO RAPTURE THE SAINTS OF GOD**

#### **TAKING THEM TO THEIR HEAVENLY HOME**

In these evil and adulterous days of immorality, the whole world is turning into a wicked Sodom and Gomorrah, another indication of the soon coming of the Lord to appear in person, to take the saints out from the wrath to come. (1 Thess.1:10.) "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not where thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jn.14:1-6. This is indeed a strong and dogmatic statement from the Lord Jesus Christ and it bears our attention! We have previously studied the signs of the time, and the coming of the Lord for that great "Air Lift" may be very soon. That trumpet to herald the coming of the Lord for his own may soon sound forth and the glory of the Lord will fill the sky with "The Shekinah Glory"! Each generation from the day of Pentecost until this present time, have been alerted to that great event. God the Father alone will start the count down at that zero hour! Some may say as they did in the day of the apostles, "And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers

fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water, by which the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. But the heavens and the earth which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."2 Pet.3:4-9. God is in no hurry as to the fulfillment of his plan for all ages. I am glad that God waited until I was born, so that I now have a part in the great "Utopia With God"! I am looking forward to that great and glorious day.

The rapture of the Saints must take place before those great events which are yet to come, both in heaven as well as the wrath of God poured out upon this earth, during the tribulation. When the last member of the body of Christ is saved, then and then only will the Lord come for his "Bride To Be"! The clouds are forming and heaven will open for us to hear that shout from heaven, heralding the coming of the Lord for his own. (1 Thess.4:13-18; 1 Cor.15:51-56.) "But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."1 Cor.15:57-58.

We accept this by faith, based upon God's word, knowing that he will bring it to pass according to his plans.

After we spend seven years in our heavenly home, with the Lord, we definitely will return with him as he will establish his eternal righteousness upon this earth. It will not be without a struggle, as Satan will have his forces ready to withstand the Lord. But, the records of God, reveal, that by the word of the Lord, his enemies will be defeated and Satan and his demons cast into the bottomless pit for the duration of those thousand years. We shall come with the Lord from heaven into this world, as a kingdom of priests. The count down has begun and in the fullness of time that trumpet will sound and all heaven will be brighter than the sun. Praise God, "The King is Coming"!

### **THE KING IS COMING TO ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM OF RIGHTEOUSNESS UPON THIS EARTH.**

As the Eternal Son of God came to earth to die for the sins of the whole world, so he is coming again with his saints to establish the kingdom of righteousness, ruling with a rod of iron. (Ps.2:5-9; Rev.19:11-16; Rev.2:27.) As the Lord will come for his saints to rapture them to their heavenly home, so he will come with his saints to set up his kingdom of righteousness upon this earth. This all must be taken by faith, based upon God's word. God does not force

anyone to believe this, as they have the freedom of choice. With that choice that God has given to us, we can enter into the blessings of God, or the wrath of God. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov.14:12. Whether you accept these facts from the Word of God or not, makes no difference to God's revelation, for all these events will come to pass exactly as God the Holy Spirit had them written.

This kingdom of righteousness will be the final age before the new creation takes place. Mankind will be living in a perfect environment and only he will be depraved. God will start out the kingdom with the sheep separated from the goats. (Matt.25:31-46.) The sheep will enjoy perfect righteousness throughout the whole world. They will live to be hundreds of years and be prolific, having great families. However, the children of these kingdom saints will have to make their own decision. Christ will rule with a rod of iron in righteousness, during the entire thousand years. We accept this by faith and know it shall come to pass.

### **3. ESTABLISHING THE SAINTS IN GREAT FAITH THROUGH FULFILLED PROPHECY.**

Our faith in what the Bible teaches is not a blind faith or wistful thoughts, but is established in the heavenlies by Almighty God. We have ample proof from events foretold by God and eventually fulfilled exactly as God said. Our faith in future events, is based upon the word of God. That is why it is so important that we have a thorough knowledge of the Word of God, in order to have a victorious life of faith, during our christian walk. Walking in the Spirit, requires living in the Word of God. Being led by the Spirit demands a continual filling of the Spirit. If you desire greater faith as Christians, these simple truths must be part of your Christian life. If you have little faith, you then need to take inventory of your activities. Your priorities may be wrong, or you are not spending sufficient time in the Word of God. God the Holy Spirit cannot guide, direct and teach you the Word of God if you fail to read the Word of God. We who have put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness of our sins, need to continue in faith for sustaining power to overcome sin in our lives. "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Gal.6:7-9.

As we study God's Word, we build up our confidence in God's future plans, knowing that God knows the end from the beginning and never has to change his plans. We as Christians, become established in our faith, as God allows us to look into the future. Yes, we have tribulations, trials and burdens in this present life, but we know that the best is yet to come. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away." Rev.21:4. "But it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart

of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Cor.2:9. God's preparation for those who trust him and exercise faith toward God have been given the Holy Spirit within and the Word of God without, so that they enter into that beautiful "Faith Rest". "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." 1 Cor.2:10.

Our spirit of faith should be according as it is written in God's Word. Therefore we urgently need to study God's Word, if we are to be established in the faith. God the Holy Spirit reminds us, "We, having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak," 2 Cor.4:13. Our faith must always be based upon the finished work of Christ, who is the expression of the Word of God. Our faith is a means of preparing us for eternity with God, and then we shall know as we are known. "For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then, face to face; now I know in part, but then shall I know even as I am known." 1 Cor.13:12. Yes, we shall know each other, by and by, when we see the Lord in the sky.

### **C. PREPARING FOR ETERNITY BY FAITH.**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

As Christians we should be well aware that this world is not our dwelling place. We have been called out from the worldly pattern, into the reality of heaven. "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations." Ps.90:1. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from where also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our lowly body, that it may be fashioned like his glorious body, according to the working by which he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Phil.3:20-21. Since we are already new creatures in Christ Jesus, our way of life should be according to our newness of life in Christ Jesus. We learn to prepare for that spiritual realm by claiming the promises of God, by faith.

#### **1. HAVING A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD.**

Since our faith is based upon substance and evidence, this is found in God's Word with an eternal guarantee. When we place our confidence in our Heavenly Father, there is no room for doubt, whatsoever! "Thy word have I hidden in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Ps.119:11. "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations; thou hast established the earth, and it abideth." Ps.11(89). "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Ps.119:105. Our source of strength and stability is in the Word of God. If you are weak in faith, then your knowledge of the Bible is lacking, or you have failed to apply it to your own heart. Take God at his Word, and allow God the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth. There are

things within the Bible which cannot always be understood, but by faith we accept, "Thus saith the Lord".

## **2. GIVING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST THE PREEMINENT PLACE IN YOUR LIFE.**

We who are making up the body of Christ, need to get very acquainted with the Lord Jesus Christ, who is our Bridegroom. He is the image of the invisible God, who is our heavenly Father. As Christians we represent Christ upon this earth and should always manifest his glory as ambassadors' for Christ. "Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation." Col.1:15. Christ created a body like unto ours, apart from sin, as the first-born of all creation. God the Father placed all creation into his hands. "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." Jn.1:3. "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers - all things were created by him, and for him; And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell;" Col.1:16-19. These are very definite statements from the Bible and should admonish us as members of the body of Christ to give our Lord first place in our lives.

Our faith is very dependent upon our Lord Jesus Christ, and the more we know about him, the greater our faith. God the Father has placed all authority into his hands. There is no escape route for anyone, of all ages, for they must appear before him. We as the future bride of Christ should be thrilled with excitement, knowing that he will never leave us nor forsake us. As members of the body of Christ, it is our privilege to love one another as saints of God. We are the body of Christ and that body which is made up of many members belongs to Christ. We now possess Divine love, through God the Holy Spirit, and that should be prevalent among those of like faith.

## **3. LOVING THE BRETHREN.**

"When we all get to heaven, what a glorious day that will be"! The saints of all ages will be there in those heavenly mansions of God, and it behooves us to love the brethren with whom we dwell upon this planet earth. There are some strong statements which we glean from the Word of God on "Brotherly Love". "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath punishment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

We love him, because he first loved us. If a man says, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also." 1 Jn.4:16-21. What can anyone add to these strong statements from the Bible? God's love which has penetrated into our lives, through Christ, must also be shared with others, and especially those of the household of faith. God the Holy Spirit, who has given us newness of life from above is that expression from God of his love toward us. God's love has been poured into our life, therefore that same Divine love should be poured out to our fellow believer. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and everyone that loveth him that begot loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments." 1 Jn.5:1-2. The Divine love that was shed abroad in our hearts, work in many ways, but I would like to mention but two.

- (1.) We become aware of the supernatural love dwelling within our lives.**
- (2.) This Divine love makes it easier to love our fellow man.**

There are many ways in which we can love our brothers and sisters in the Lord, and I would like to list some of these for your benefit and admonition. May we accept these on a faith basis, according to God's Word.

- (1.) Maintain a continual fellowship with those of like faith. (1 Jn.1:6-7.)**
- (2.) Bearing one another's burdens. (Gal.6:2.)**
- (3.) Continuing daily in prayer for one another. (Eph.6:18; Col.1:3; 1 Thess.3:10; Acts 6:4; Rom.12:12.)**
- (4.) In honor preferring one another. (Rom.12:9-10.)**
- (5.) Share the teaching of the Word of God with each other. (Heb.10:24-25.)**
- (6.) Sharing the Gospel with others and fulfilling the great commission. (Matt.28:18-20.)**
- (7.) Visiting the sick, especially those of the household of faith. (Matt.25:36-44;)**
- (8.) Feeding the hungry, and entertaining strangers. (Matt.25:35-36; Heb.13:1-2.)**

- (9.) Pay your debts and maintain a good testimony. (Rom.13:8.)**
- (10.) Spending time in devotions, one with another. (Matt.18:18-20.)**
- (11.) Keeping short accounts with each other and with God. (1 Jn.1:9.)**

In this present life, which we are living by faith, waiting for the appearing of the Lord in person, God's Divine love must be manifested in our lives. We can live a victorious life of faith, under the guidance of God the Holy Spirit. As brothers and sisters in the Lord, none of us are perfect, so we need to uplift each other in loving prayer. One day, when those silver cords will break, and the Lord will come forth to receive us unto himself, then we all shall receive our glorified bodies, like unto the body of the Lord's. All the wood, hay and stubble in our lives will be burnt away and the gold, silver and precious stones will be shining forth to the glory of the Lord. "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have, therefore, opportunity, let us do good unto all men, but especially unto them who are of the household of faith."Gal.6:9-10.

The Bible says, "Faith without works is dead". James 2:17. The way in which we live, portrays our faith in our loving God, and the two are inseparable. "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding, ye give them not those things which are needful to the body, what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well. The demons also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" James 2:14-20. A man of faith will always be known by the way that he works out the principles of faith. Faith is always full of action, knowing that faith produces results, whether through our prayers or through our works of faith.

## **CONCLUSION**

We can claim victory in our Christian life, each time that we exercise faith. Since God is the giver of our faith, it is important that we seek his will for our lives. God wants us to completely trust him at all times, regardless of circumstances. This study on Christian faith is very important for the building of a strong Christian character for eternity. We know very little about the things to come, and we must trust the future to our Heavenly Father. Someday, we shall know as we are known, and we accept all that God has written, knowing that God will bring it to pass. Trust the Lord with all of your heart, for our understanding of all that is written in the Bible is very limited. God will never fail you and



Christ has said that he would never leave us nor forsake us. God is mindful of your every need, and is our ever present help. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For in it is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith ; as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Rom.1:16-18. "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Rom.5:1-2.

As we draw to a close this study on faith, may I challenge you to put your entire faith in God, rather than all of the wisdom of this world. "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." 1 Cor.2:5. May we exercise our individual faith, as pilgrims in this world, and encourage one another in a unified spirit of faith, as we take God at his word. "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Eph.4:13.

Our faith in the promises of God, takes us into the very heavenlies, through Christ, which has obtained the righteousness which is of God by faith. (Phil.3:9.) One day we will be presented holy and unblamable as well as unreprouvable in his sight, to our Heavenly Father. "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature that is under heaven, of which I, Paul, am made a minister;" Col.1:23. May I also add, "As ye have, therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him, rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding with thanksgiving." Col.2:6-7. The coming of the Lord is drawing very near and through our faith, may we be ready to glorify the Lord. "When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. Wherefore, also, we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith and power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Thess.1:10-12.

May we practice great boldness by faith, never doubting Almighty God! Asking in faith, and expecting great and mighty things from our God who always does exceeding abundantly above all that we could ask or think. (Jer.33:3; Eph.3:20-21.) "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh, and having an high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised)," Heb.10:19-23.

## **QUESTIONS CHAPTER SEVEN**

- 1. How can one live a Victorious life of Faith? Write a brief essay on this subject.**
- 2. How can we exalt Christ through Faith?**
- 3. Who has been given the final authority in all judgements?**
- 4. Where does Faith come from?**
- 5. How does one establish "Great Faith"?**
- 6. Why is Faith necessary in obtaining Salvation?**
- 7. Write briefly on the subject "Establishing the Saints in Faith".**
- 8. How does the Bible help to establish our faith?**
- 9. Name as many ways that we can use our faith, according to the Bible.**
- 10. How do we establish a Life of Faith?**
- 11. How can we live a Victorious life by Faith?**
- 12. How do you explain that Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son of God, and yet was born as a Babe?**
- 13. Can one love God without loving the Brethren? Explain with Scriptures.**
- 14. Why do we believe in the Rapture of The Saints of God?**
- 15. How does fulfilled Prophecy establish the Saints in The Faith?**
- 16. Why is it necessary to have a thorough knowledge of the Bible?**
- 17. Name some ways in which we can love the Brethren?**
- 18. Write an essay on, "Faith to Remove Mountains".**
- 19. What has this study on Faith meant to you?**
- 20. Give a definition of "Faith".**

**"God, who at sundry times and in diverse manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds. Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." Heb.1:1-4.**

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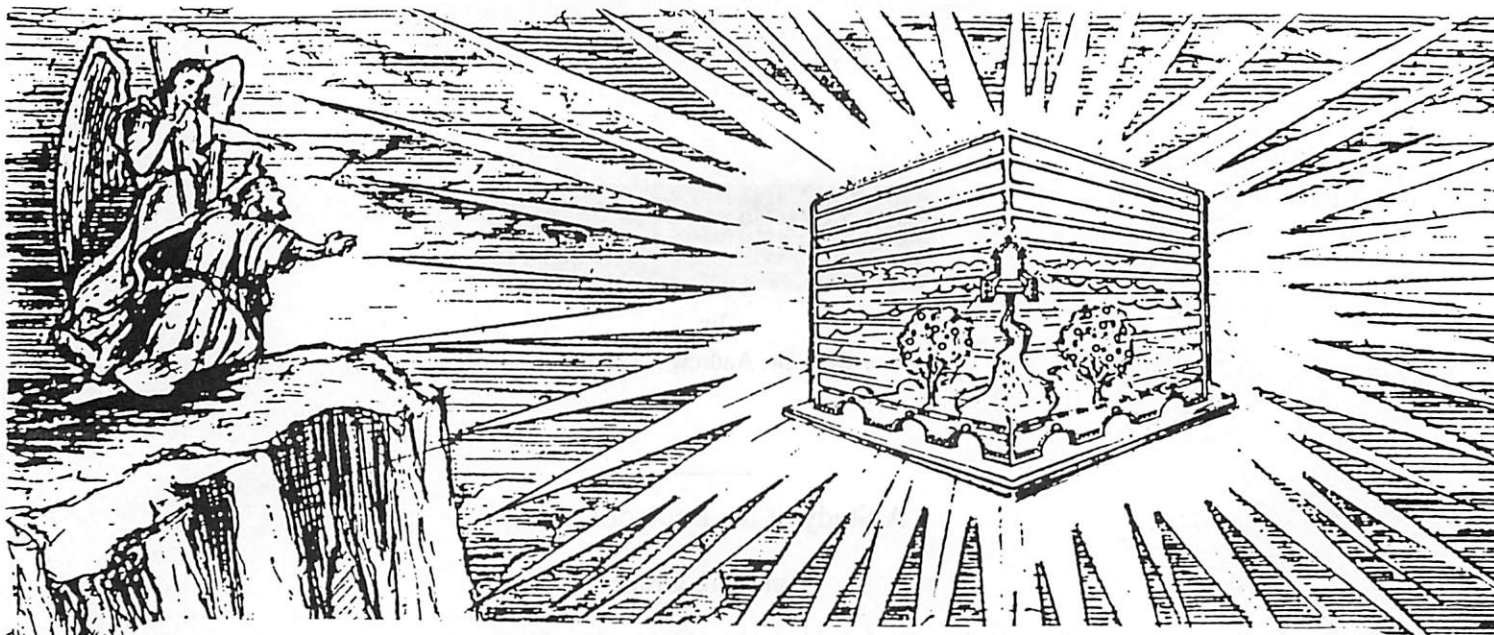
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**"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from GOD" – Revelation 21 : 10**

**Author: Rev., Dr. Andrew J. Losier**

**Missionary in Africa since 1938, established the first of the Christian Literature and Bible Centers in Kenya, East Africa in 1952. Since then, over a billion pieces of FREE CHRISTIAN LITERATURE have been distributed throughout Africa in approximately 50 different languages. The overwhelming response of African Christian leaders to the WORD OF GOD, inspired Rev., Dr. Andrew J. Losier to write this book.**

**JESUS said "I am ALPHA and OMEGA"**

**Revelation 1:8**

