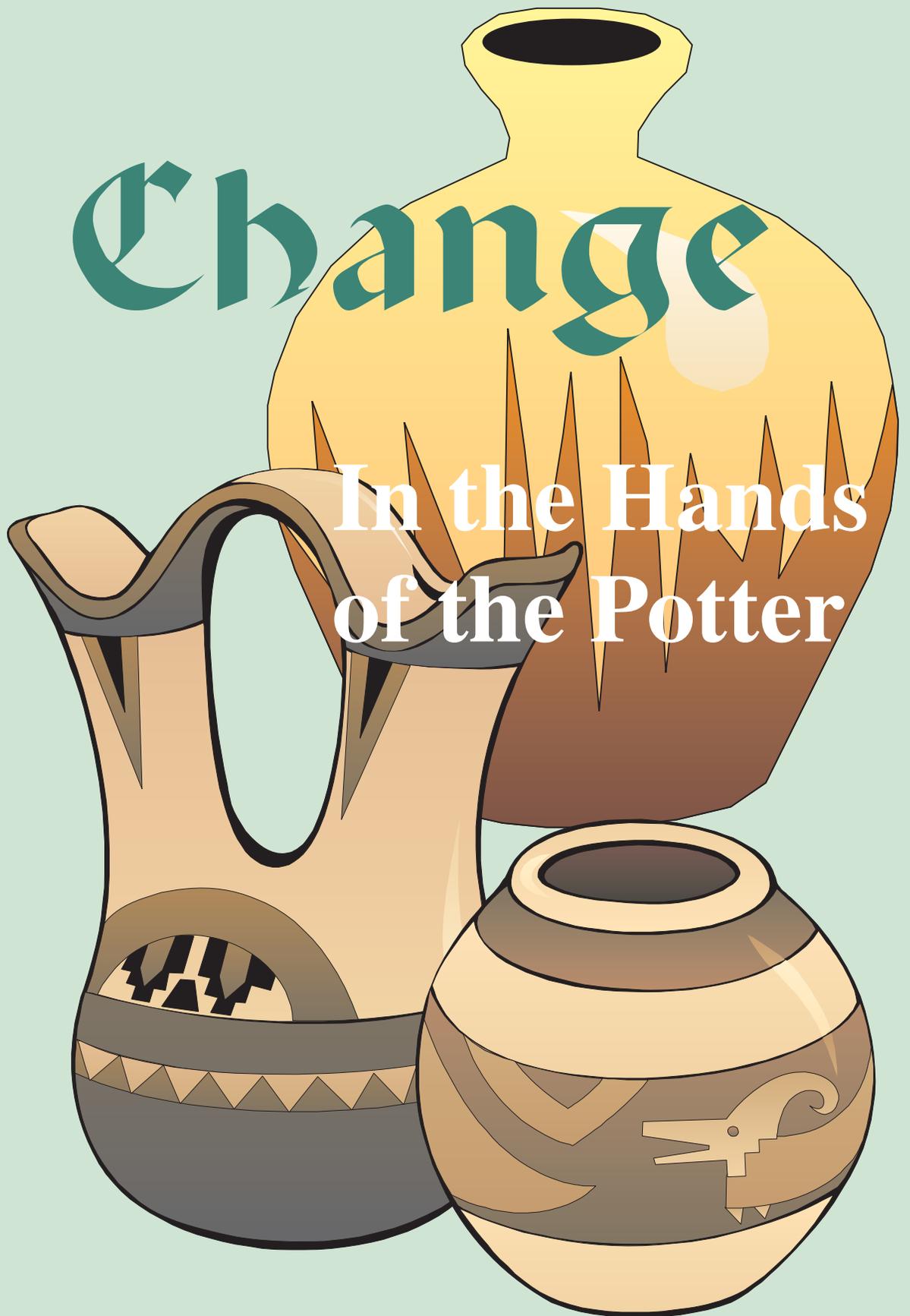


Abundant Life

Book Two in the Abundant Life Series

Change

In the Hands
of the Potter



Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD





Book Two

of

The Abundant Life Series

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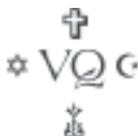
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Edited with the assistance of Teresa Spurling (my wife), PhD, NBCT and fully revised in 2015.

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Published by
VisionQuest Publishing, Inc.
Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718-7416

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The Publication Manual presents explicit style requirements but acknowledges that alternatives are sometimes necessary; authors should balance the rules of the Publication Manual with good judgment. Preface: p. xx.

Get Behind Me Satan

Most of us have probably read, *Footprints*, but just in case you haven't here it is:

Footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it. "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

We have all probably experienced those times when there's only one set of footprints. At those times the demons in our mind are very active. It may be finances, a relationship, depression or a combination of these things including other matters we are dealing with like those when it seems everything is turning sour. We just seem to be in a negative vacuum that's sucking us further and further down.

What must we do at that point to cause a change to occur? Prayer, study and faith, with an extra sprinkling of hope, makes up the return to the hands of the Potter, and that will do the trick. When we go through difficult times we should never give up our hope, nor our faith in the ultimate outcome. We must accept, and understand, that just because we have recognized the situation and prayed, the situation will not instantly change! The outcome may certainly be different at this point (for the better), but you must still live through the situation. Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:15-18, *Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* Now, you may think this is difficult to do, but I assure you, you can do it. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10:13, *No temptation has seized you except what is common*

to man. And God is faithful, He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

In the first book of the Abundant Life series I showed there were two avenues to get to Universal Mind (God the Father). Terms like Universal Mind, etc. were employed to give you some insight of Christ and for understanding what was being taught. This isn't church and I was not given this material to be presented in that manner. I sense that our main Sunday morning church services are designed to get individuals to come to a belief in Jesus. I really find this to be most humorous and falling into a trap designed by the deceiver himself. If all you are doing is opening the door and expect the growth and learning to *walk the walk and talk the talk* in other portions of your weekly church services you have a church full of babes. Most people do not go to those other services and functions, thus no growth. You loose!

Let's make this perfectly clear. God means Jehovah God, Yahweh. The God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, the Prophets and most of all the God of Jesus. Jesus is the anointed one of God, the Savior of the world, and the only Son of God the Father.

There are those who will say you can't speak to people in this manner when they are going through difficult times. You must be gentle and helpful. I say what happened to accepting responsibility for one's own actions. Fathers, both earthly and Heavenly, love their children and do not purposefully put their children in harm's way. Learn to accept how you got into the circumstances and learn how to get out of them. Allow yourself to grow through the situation!

God did not come along on your path, or in your garden, and say, "I'm here to give you a problem." Understand, you gave yourself the problem either by your own actions or by permitting Satan, or one of his demons, to give you the problem. It was at this point that the Heavenly Father came along and put you under His wing, or His Son picked you up and was carrying you. God or Jesus may say, "Let's see how We can get you through this?" or "I'm here to help!" You will find the support, but you are the active ingredient and actions will not begin until you start them.

Okay! Let's get down to business. In order to understand all this, we must know with whom we are dealing, who puts us into those circumstances that lead to trouble. We must also understand how to initiate a change and we must acknowledge the benefits of our understanding.

The creature who is bringing us grief is the *great deceiver*, or Satan, and in order to learn we must have the knowledge of who he is and what he does to us. Now, if we take the principle that God is law and see what happens when mankind operates on the dark side of the force, or in other words against the principle of good, we should begin to understand more of who our enemy actually is. We will do more to understand our enemy in this chapter. The next chapter will present the keys of the Kingdom.

Neil T. Anderson wrote in his book, *The Bondage Breaker*:

Satan has no right of ownership or authority over us. He is a defeated foe, but he is committed to keeping us from realizing that. He knows he can block your effectiveness as a Christian if he can deceive you into believing that you are nothing but a product of your past, subject to sin, prone to failure, and controlled by your habits.

What I am about to write is truth about Satan, Jesus and Christians in general. As Christians we tend to follow the traditions of our particular denomination and selectively refuse another input. However, this manner of action follows exactly what Mr. Anderson says concerning Satan. Mr. Anderson said, "...he is committed to keeping us from realizing that." The *that* referred to is the fact Satan is a defeated foe or adversary.

So much of Satan's deception is illustrated for us to learn, yet we fail to read and understand the full impact of the truth. In order to understand what Jesus gave us we must understand Satan, who Satan is, what Satan does and what we can do to break his influence in our lives.

Satan was, at one time, a guardian cherub among the angels. This is shown to us in Ezekiel 28:14-17, *You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.*

There is a term used in this passage that we must investigate further. In verse 14, we identify this angel as a guardian cherub. Actually there are two types of angels, Cherubim and Seraphim. Cherubim have the functional duty of being guard angels. The first appearance of cherubim is in Eden in Genesis 3:24 where God places them at the entrance to *The Garden* to guard the tree of life. Genesis 3:24, *After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

There are three other places in scripture where we find verses pertaining to cherubim, 1 Kings 6:23-35, *In the inner sanctuary he made a pair of cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high. One wing of the first cherub was five cubits long, and the other wing five cubits—ten cubits from wing tip to wing tip. The second cherub also measured ten cubits, for the two cherubim were identical in size and shape. The height of each cherub was ten cubits. He placed the cherubim inside the innermost room of the temple, with their wings spread out. The wing of one cherub touched one wall, while the wing of the other touched the other wall, and their wings touched each other in the middle of the room. He overlaid the cherubim with gold. On the walls all around the temple, in both the inner and outer rooms, he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers. He also covered the floors of both the inner and outer rooms of the temple with gold. For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood with five-sided jambs. And on the two olive wood doors he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid the cherubim and palm trees with beaten gold. In the same way he made four-sided jambs of olive wood for the entrance to the main hall. He also made two pine doors, each having two leaves that turned in sockets. He carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers on them and overlaid them with gold hammered evenly over the carvings., Psalm 18:10, *He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind.* and Psalm 99:1, *The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.**

The seraphim are God's administrators, worship leaders and messengers. Look at Isaiah 6:1-7 to see the worship leader function of the seraphs, *In the year King Uzziah died,*

I saw the LORD seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

The messenger function may be seen in the many places where the term angel is used in the Bible. Examples would be Genesis 16:7, 9-11, *The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur;*; verses 9-11, *Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." The angel added, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count." The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery;*; Matthew 1:20, *But after he had considered this an angel of the LORD appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit;*; and Matthew 28:5, *The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.*

The administration functions are illustrated in verses pertaining to the angels in Revelation 8:5 *Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake;*; verses 7-8 *The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood;*; Revelation 14:18 *Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe."*

Now, you know there are two types of angels. That suggests another misconception concerning angels that has crept in at certain places within the church. There are only three angels named in the Bible. First, and foremost, there is Michael, the archangel, whose name means *who is like under God*. Michael is the leader of the Cherubim. He is the messenger of law and judgement and is referred to five times in scripture, i.e., Daniel 10:13, 10:21, 12:1; Jude 9 and Revelation 12:7. There is only one archangel! Any mention of another archangel is not supported by Biblical text, only by denominational traditions.

The second angel named is Gabriel, whose name means *hero of God*. He is the leader of the seraphs and there are four references to Gabriel, i.e., Daniel 8:16, 9:21; Luke 1:19 and Luke 1:26.

The third angel named in the Bible is our fallen angel, Lucifer, Isaiah 14:12 KJV also called Beelzebub in Matthew 12:24 and Abaddon or Apollyon in Revelation 9:11.

Let us return to the function of the seraphs as worship leaders for a moment. Every Christian should understand the duties of the seraphs as worship leaders and how these



duties impact upon us. We can see in Hebrews 1:6 that the angels worship Jesus, *And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."* We could say that this is done through praise and adoration. We should also understand, at this point, that the angels are not who is worshipped. They are marvelous creations of God, but even they worship Jesus and God the Father, not themselves, and we are not to worship them either. Hebrews 1:14 illustrates that angels minister to us, *Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?* They are, in fact, God's messengers and we are the recipient of those messages.

In Acts 27:23-25 we see Paul describing angels as encouragers when they bring God's message to us, *Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, "Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you." So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.* Luke 15:10 records for us Jesus' words that indicate the angels rejoice when a sinner repents, *In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*

Luke 1:8-17, also records another function of angels that reveal the will of God to mankind. *Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

Now, let us look in more detail to the very nature of Satan. One of the questions we must answer about Satan is how he changed to become the Devil. In Ezekiel 28:12-19 we see the self pride that possessed Lucifer in the lament statement where the king of Tyre represents Satan, *"You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were*

watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.”

In Isaiah 14:13-14 we see this pride changing to ego with the various *I will* statements pertaining to himself, *You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”*

The very nature of pride overtook Lucifer for him to be changed to Satan. However, we must understand that Jesus defeated Satan and this is illustrated in the Old Testament by the judgement record pertaining to this fallen angel. Look at Isaiah 14:12, *How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! Do you see the judgement?*

Now turn to Ezekiel 28:18-19 to see the manner that Ezekiel presents this judgement upon Satan, *“By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.”* In both cases, these judgements give us proof of Satan’s defeat long before Jesus won the victory upon the cross.

If we are to be on our guard against Satan we need to know the names or titles given to Satan, his realm of activity, and some of his limitations. Peter tells us in 1 Peter 5:8 (KJV) that Satan is our adversary, *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.* John illustrates Satan as the great dragon in Revelation 12:9, *The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.* Matthew 12:24 records that the Pharisees called the prince of devils Beelzebub, *But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.”* Paul uses the name Belial, meaning *the low one* in 2 Corinthians 6:15, *What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?*

Satan has also been labeled a serpent at both the beginning and end of time. Moses calls Satan a serpent in Genesis 3:1, *Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”* John uses this title in Revelation 12:9, *The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

Perhaps Jesus and Paul illustrate Satan with greater accuracy. Jesus calls Satan the father of lies in John 8:44, *“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”* Jesus identified Satan as the prince of this world in John 12:31, *“Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.”* Paul calls Satan the god of this age in 2 Corinthians 4:4, *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.* Paul labeled Satan as ruler of the kingdom of the air in Ephesians

2:2, *In which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.* Paul also said Satan masquerades as an angel of light in 2 Corinthians 11:14, *And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*

Finally, John gives Satan the title of accuser of the brethren in Revelation 12:10, *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down."*

Some of these titles, i.e., accuser, also identify some of the activities of Satan. In Revelation 12:10, above the action of the title *accuser* shows that Satan accuses believers on a daily basis before God. Matthew 4:3 records for us that Satan is a tempter, *The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."* Matthew chapter 13 illustrates that Satan is battling the Word, meaning Jesus, in the illustrations of the parable of the sower and the parable of the weeds. 2 John 7 shows us that Satan is a deceiver, *Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.* 1 Peter 5:8-9 depicts Satan as preying upon people, or as Peter says, *prowls around like a roaring lion, Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

Some of the stories of the Old Testament give us answers to present day questions. For example in Job we learn several things about Satan. Notice that God granted Satan power over Job's situation. If Satan was equal to God, we would see that Satan was omnipotent or all powerful, yet, we see in Job 1:12 that God **had to grant** Satan power over Job, *The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.*

Again, we see that Satan is not omniscient or all knowing. If Satan was all knowing he would have known what Job would say in verses 1:20-22, *At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.* Read what Job says about God in Job 42:2, *"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.* More than anything else, Satan seems to forget the punishment being held for him in Revelation 20:10, *And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.* We also understand that Satan is not omnipresent or able to be every place at once. Satan is a created being and can only be in one place at any given time. Satan may be the prince of the air, but it remains that he has no power to be every place at one time.

If we go further to identify Satan as the great deceiver we must understand the parallels between God's Kingdom and Satan's domain. There is the Godhead Trinity proper and in similar manner there is the trinity of Satan where he places himself in the position of god. The beast represents the Antichrist, and the false prophet is the opposite of the Holy Spirit. Just as there are two types of angels serving God there are two types of demons serving Satan. There are the bound demons, angels who sinned, as shown in 2 Peter 2:4,

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment. and Jude 6, And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home-these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. Secondly, there are the roaming demons that are free to be in positions of power and influence as shown in Ephesians 6:12, For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

In the verse of Ephesians 6:12 understand that demons are the rulers of darkness. However, we should know that demons may be acting as: Familiar spirits, these are fake spirits who divert our energy and thoughts away from good and toward evil, Leviticus 19:31- NKJV, *“Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.”* Unclean spirits, Mark 1:23-27, *Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are-the Holy One of God!”*

“Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching-and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” Evil spirits, Luke 7:21, *At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind.* Seducing spirits (these are deceiving spirits), 1 Timothy 4:1, *The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.* Foul spirits (these spirits represent death and decay), Mark 9:25 KJV, *When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.*

From these verses we should understand that demons may possess the body of an individual, Mark 5:1-9, *They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won’t torture me!”*

For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you evil spirit!” Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” They are the cause of physical malevolence, Matthew 9:32-33, *While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke.*

The crowd was amazed and said, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.” Furthermore, in Matthew 12:22, *Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.*

Alas, the greater joy is the knowledge of Jesus and that He has defeated Satan and his demons. Demons recognize Jesus as the Son of God and as their future judge. Look at Matthew 8:29 to see that the demons know there is an appointed time for their demise, *“What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”* In Mark 1:24 we see that the demons know Jesus of Nazareth and call him the Holy One of God, *“What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”* Isn't it remarkable, the demons know who Jesus really is, but so many of mankind still do not recognize him as Savior and Lord.

We must make a choice? Jesus declared the victory in John 12:30-31, *Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.”* This knowledge is known to all demons and they shudder to think about the results, James 2:19, *You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

If there are those reading this who believe they are in bondage by satanic influence, I highly recommend you read, *The Bondage Breaker* by Neil T. Anderson. The means of having Godly armor and the authority we possess are given in Mr. Anderson's work and I will not attempt to duplicate his words. Just as a note, Mr. Anderson's work is copyrighted in 1990 and 1993 and I have learned that there is a revised edition copyrighted in 2000. A review at Amazon.com indicated that the book is available in Kindle, hardcover, paperback and audio CD versions.

In order to illustrate the dark side of depression and the influence that can be over a person, I chose to share the following from my own life as a method to implement change. My depression, my loss of self-control and my greatest period of temptation was the result of a divorce, and not just one, for in my lifetime there have been two and both have taken their toll upon me.

How does a person get into such situations over a divorce? What causes the changes? Where does a relationship, a marriage or even communication start to break down? I really can't say. I feel I had something to do with it, but without communication there's just no way of knowing. However I can tell you that going through a divorce can cause you to do strange things to yourself.

Depression is an enemy with which you do not wish to deal. It is a devastating demon. Your work suffers because you're thinking about other things. Your body suffers because you are not feeding it properly, or taking care of it. My state of depression was so bad during my second divorce that I was drinking a fifth of bourbon every two days. At least two fifths a week and this went on and on for about four months. No wonder my body was telling me to stop. Yes! This is true. I lived it and I walked it. No! I do not want you to have to travel this portion of my path, however, if I will give you the facts, show you the effects, maybe you will not find yourself on a similar path of destruction.

When you are in such a low state of mind as this, there are few things from outside your own head to which you will listen. You drive most of your friends absolutely crazy because one day you'll listen to them and the next you won't. Those who truly care about you will leave you alone for the most part. I say for the most part because if you really get destructive toward yourself or someone else they'll be the first ones to call and try to get

you to professional help. The big question is how do you get out of this on your own?

Several answers are possible at that point. It could be said that time is a great healer and with the passage of enough time you'll get yourself out of the situation. We could also say therapy is a healer and with counseling all the problems will eventually be washed under the bridge. However, there are still other answers that could possibly be there. One is most destructive to one's self and to everyone who cares about them. You either go deeper and deeper into this depression and see no way out, or you snap and let your mind roll over the edge into the abyss of nothingness. It is possible to get to the same point of seeing no way out and take your own life. Do either of these resolve the situation or provide answers? All that is accomplished is that you wholly and completely accept the deceptions of the evil one. Now, I must say this, and yes, I do believe this to be supported by scripture. There is a mainstay denomination whose traditions say that if a person takes their own life they automatically go to hell and there is no question about it. Really? Where is the scripture verse to support this statement? You really must want to believe that a loving God, who created mankind, wants to see His creation fail and sent to hell. I just don't think so! If anything, God's own word says that He desires for all mankind to be saved, 1 Timothy 2:3-6, *This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men-the testimony given in its proper time.*

In my discussion above, I underlined what I believe to be the root cause of someone having a mental breakdown or committing suicide. Depression causes the acceptance of not wanting to face the situation and permitting your mind to turn off, snap, break or become null and void. In whatever case the underlying result is a state of innocence of mind, or childlikeness. There are many verses in the Bible that would indicate to me that God watches over those who are in this state, for whatever reason. It may be that a soul is born into the world with what many would call a mental handicap. Yet so many of these wonderful individuals think, and believe, they know God on a personal relationship and that we, the supposedly mentally adept are really the ones who do not understand. It could be a situation such as what I have stated above, but I must also state that I am not trying to justify a reason for suicide. There are far too many young people today who are searching for answers and their minister, pastor or priest, their parents, their teachers, or their friends are unable to show them the truth they desire. Not finding truth leads them to depression and we can see the results around us. It seems there are so many who want to destroy the simple truth in the Bible. They somehow believe that modern man is more capable than God to lead mankind to truth, understanding and peace. This leading is both in mind and soul, and impacts everyone living in the world today.

There's still one possible way to get out of this and that's up. Let's face it, in your mind you are down, you are beaten, your enemies are winning and you feel like the greatest loser that was ever born. There's only one way to go and that's up! You're already at the bottom so all you can do is improve. For the unbeliever up just means crawling out of a hole. However, for the Christian, up means turning to a higher authority. One can't get much higher than God when one is looking up. In tears, on bent knee make that call to God for help. The reply was already being put together before you got the first sound uttered out of your mouth.

Sure! You're still going to have to deal with your problems. You're going to have to live through the circumstance, but believe me there will be the strength, the courage, the ability to go on and to get through your personal situation.

I have said that my depression or low ebb was the results of a divorce. It was a divorce that I didn't want or request, but here I am. I've been told that divorces are hard to get through and they really are. This one was my second and you'd think yea! Okay, so you know the rules, the ropes and the consequences. Divorces are devastating no matter how many times you go through them. They basically would have to be destructive because any time you destroy a family there is devastation. We must remember that God sanctions marriage and family.

That's nice talk, wonderful words, but how do you make a change? What is the momentum that makes a swing that will sway you in a different direction? In the beginning the marriage goals between husband and wife were strong. Somewhere along their path the momentum changed and was permitted to take another direction. Remember, the only one that you have control over and can cause a change in, is yourself. You cannot change your wife or husband. As a parent you have influence over your children, when they are young, however once they reach a certain age you lose some of your influence and it is more difficult to impact change in your children. They have to want or desire to change or see the need themselves in order to implement change in their own life. This will not happen overnight and it can not be dictated by another individual.

Momentum swings happen. As our example look at sports. It would seem that every time two teams or two individuals compete, the same thing can be observed. Watch golf and follow someone who's hitting hot. Suddenly a bad putt or chip occurs and the entire game seems to be in a dive. Watch football for example. One team drives down the field and scores. The other team has their try and they don't get very far. Back comes the first team and they're riding high on momentum. There's a fumble and the momentum just shifted from this team to the other one. Name the sport and you can probably find a comparison where the momentum can change. Life events and their impact upon an individual are no different.

So there you are. You're at the bottom; can only go one way, and that's up. Your momentum is working against you at the moment and you need a swing change. How do you get it to swing back in your favor? The answer I can give is from personal experience. You have to work hard to force that change back toward you. It's the old saying of grabbing hold of your boot straps and pulling hard. My method may not be for you, however it has worked for me.

Allow me to elaborate on how I've pulled myself up and out of the depression following my divorces. I did not use magic or an earthly professional, I simply picked up God's Word, read my Bible and looked toward my Lord for answers and direction. I've now done this twice and both times there was an explosive growth in knowledge that resulted from all the reading, searching and studying. The examples are there in the Bible. They've been recorded and are there for every Christian to use, but, **you** must start the process. Nothing is going to get you anyplace until you take the first step. It's your action that allows a resolution to the situation. There can be a tremendous period of personal growth if you'll use the experience for learning.

If you go into any situation with hostility and pent up rage you'll probably blow your own gasket. You'll find yourself seeing your friendly neighborhood police officer on a regular basis if you want to take care of things in this manner. Besides, it doesn't provide you with real, meaningful answers or reasons for rebuilding your life in a Godly manner.

Do you see where the attitude change came in? Do you see where the new pattern for your mind to follow the Universal Mind was created? Do you see how both the good and the bad can come from the same point? Yes! That point rests within yourself! All right, let's move forward.

Does the Bible offer an example of something happening so you can see a momentum swing in action? I think so. It helped me and it was pleasant to have the Holy Spirit show an extra tidbit every now and then so I could have some fun along the way. Turn to Exodus 17, *The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.*

Notice at the end of the first sentence that God Himself (LORD) commanded where the Israelites traveled, and where they camped. Continue and make the observation of the complaint. Stop and think! If God had directed them to be at this place and to stop there, He would also provide for their needs. It doesn't seem that the Israelites thought about that. Continuing, *So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."*

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" Look at this sequence of statements. It's a demand from the Israelites, or a statement similar to, "Hey, don't blame me." Finally, Moses makes a counter statement back to the people and asked them, "Why do you put the LORD to the test?" In verse 3, we find the following, *But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"* Look at the crying and bellyaching attitude of the Israelites. In using different words paraphrased they're saying, "We don't care if God is with us, we don't like all of this and would rather be slaves. At least we knew we had water to drink."

Now we have Moses' reply to all this from the Israelites and we read the following, *Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."* Here's one of those fun verses. Read verses 1-3 again. Did you find any statement in these verses that said the Israelites were preparing to stone Moses? No! I didn't either! Very nice illustration of how our presumption works. We're in more danger than what is really happening or even going to happen. We want help and relief from the situation around us immediately.

The Lord's reply to all of this follows: *The LORD answered Moses, "Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go."* Moses was the leader of the people, and he had a responsibility to act as the leader. Consider for a moment a general of an army in a war. Do you really believe that any general would go into battle with an idea of losing the skirmish? I don't think so, but I guess there could always be the exception. Anyway, as leader, Moses was to take some of the elders with him. They were the witnesses and the actual leaders who would get all the people to follow. Notice the last word in verse 5. It simply says **go!** Without this action being taken by Moses, in pure faith, nothing would have been done for the people.

God continues and states to Moses, *I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.* So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. Here's the second occurrence of an action being taken through faith. Moses had to strike the rock. Moses had used the staff before and had seen what result could happen when God was in charge and His command was obediently followed.

I have to make a detour and attempt to explain the rock. Notice very carefully the words used. This passage indicates that God will meet Moses by the rock and not by a rock. Use of the word the indicates that the meeting is to be conducted at a specific rock known to all the Israelites. This has to be the case for common sense would tell us that if God had said meet me at a rock there would be mass confusion because any rock around could be a rock and everyone would be going to different rocks.

No! This is specific! God said to meet at the rock. Everyone reading this should understand that a rock is a stone and a stone is a rock, therefore the terms are interchangeable. The question becomes: What stone have we seen in the Bible that the Israelites would know about? How about not only know about but even to the point of having it in their possession. This answer is going to be so full of truth that you will be amazed that you haven't understood this previously. In the book of Genesis we have the story of Jacob leaving his father's house and traveling to the land of his mother's brother. Along the way he slept and that night he dreamed of seeing heaven and of wrestling with the Lord's angel and his name being changed to Israel.

We see the result of that night in the following. Genesis 28:16-22, *Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You." Notice what I have underlined is this passage. Jacob arose and set the stone as a pillar instead of the night before when it was a pillow. He then anointed it with oil. You can read all the Bible and find that this is the only inanimate object in the entire Bible that has ever been anointed with oil. The anointing of oil is signifying an anointing of the Holy Spirit. He then names the stone Bethel, or in the Hebrew tongue God's House. Beth meaning house and El meaning God. This object became a possession of Israel when he returned to his father's house, or in other words, returned back to Canaan.*

In the story of Joseph, Israel's son, we see the position of Joseph and the famine that had come over not only Egypt but also Canaan. Joseph's brothers travel to Egypt to obtain food and Joseph recognizes them but they do not recognize him as their brother Joseph. After the second trip to Egypt Joseph is so honored by Pharaoh that he tells his brothers to go and get their father, their herds, their possessions and come to Egypt and live in Goshen. Genesis 45:10, *You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have*. Pharaoh is in agreement with Joseph and sends wagons and provisions for the kin of Joseph to make their way to Goshen. This we see in Genesis 46:6, *So they took their livestock and their goods, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to*

Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him. Look at the following verse to confirm that the descendants of Jacob took all that they owned. Genesis 47:1, *Then Joseph went and told Pharaoh, and said, “My father and my brothers, their flocks and their herds **and all that they possess**, have come from the land of Canaan; and indeed they are in the land of Goshen.”*

It may seem that God wasn't with the Israelites as they spent the next 420 years in Egypt as slaves to the new Pharaoh. However, we went past a very important passage in scripture. Read Genesis 46:2-4, *Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, “Jacob, Jacob!”*

And he said, “Here I am.”

So He said, “I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes.”

After that terrible period in Egypt God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and they took with them their possessions, their flocks and their herds. In their possessions was the Bethel stone, that rock we were discussion when I made a detour, is the same as *the rock* that God told Moses that was the place where they were to meet.

Notice something. It was by God's grace that the Israelites existed through the forty years in the wilderness. Along the way God provided manna for them to eat and *the rock* furnished them with water to drink. **If you really want to see the full glory of the Bethel stone read my book, *The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel!***

Now let us return to our current study and once again find the Israelites in the wilderness.

Actions taken by Moses are recorded as follows, *And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”* Observe the quotation in verse seven. Do we still do the same thing? Every time we get into a difficult situation, we basically ask similar questions. Why don't we have the faith as small as a mustard seed to say that we have the capability, through Jesus, to answer our own problems? Why is it that we must have someone else pray for us and provide us with a direction we should go? We should believe in ourselves. We have been shown how to find the answers. The more I think about this the more I wonder if we really have been shown how to know the assurances that Christians have. I also wonder if people actually believe in themselves. No! I didn't say, Look out for number one. When people get into this defensive attitude of looking out for themselves they don't care about others. To believe in yourself is confidence, not defeatism. You don't have to make demands, you learn to lead.

Look at what happens next for the beginning of change in this situation. *The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim.* The Israelites are still at the location where God had commanded them to stop. They are attacked by the Amalekites. What was the reason for the attack? I fail to see a reason given in these verses, other than to break them of their rebellion and questioning of God at every turn through which He led them.

Moses is still God's appointed leader and here is what his instructions were, *Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.” So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill.*

As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.

Here is another one of those fun verses and the one containing the key to understanding momentum swings. Why did Moses have his hands held up? There's a very important statement being made. Isn't Moses really demonstrating that it was not the fighters who would be deciding who would win, it was not Moses who would decide, but it will be up to God to decide. There's something else here in this verse that gives the illustration of how momentum can swing. Where is Moses standing? Do you understand that the Amalekites can also see Moses? Can't you see the momentum swing by the location of Moses' hands?

Verse 12 shows us an illustration of a team effort. *When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset.* Did you see the team effort? There wasn't just one player who was the star. If you pull hard on your boot straps, you and God can work together to get you on your way. However, if you need a little extra help, then accept a professional on your team. Pray for that person, pray for your team, believe in your team, and work with your team.

Verses 13 through 16 explains the outcome of this battle, *So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven."*

Moses built an altar and called it: The LORD is my Banner. He said, "For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD. The LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

Notice the statements made:

- (a) Won over the Amalekites.
- (b) Will erase the memory of the Amalekites.
- (c) Will be at war with the Amalekites from generation to generation.

There is a connection here that goes back to verse 8. God led the Israelites to this place. He wanted them to obey and trust Him. Notice something! Did you find a verse that indicated the people thanked God for the water? I didn't either! Next came the battle. Can you see that God is still with these people and trying to show them to have faith and put their trust in Him?

Maybe, for the sake of understanding, we should insert an explanation of who Amalek and the Amalekites are. The genealogy of the Bible will give us the information necessary to identify Amalek. In Genesis 36:12 we read, *Esau's son Eliphaz also had a concubine named Timna, who bore him Amalek. These were grandsons of Esau's wife Adah.* We should remember that Esau is a son of Isaac and the twin of Jacob. Genesis 25:24-26 *So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb. And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau. Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.* That would make Isaac the great-grandfather of Amalek and Abraham the great-great-grandfather. We also need to observe the descendants of Amalek. Amalek is the forbearer of Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam.

Returning to our study. Several comments were made about verse 7 above that takes us further in our search for truth. Maybe you don't understand the assurance the Church has been given through Christ. Perhaps you have never been shown how to prepare for battle against the evil one and how to break free of the bondage the evil one can hold over you. For me to attempt to describe mankind's fall into disobedience and sin would only be a rehashing of countless sermons spoken toward mankind. To simply say what Paul spoke would sum up man's situation. Paul said in Romans 3:23, "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*"

In order for the full effect of change to occur in your life you may have to catch yourself up in God's repentance book. Now, you know you're a good person, you certainly are knowledgeable about your own trouble or problems, and you are trying to change because of situations outside of your control. Let's face reality. If you are in a situation, you have something to do with that situation. It didn't just happen because you are so good. First, let's go back and recall that by our human nature we are sinners. Secondly, our actions may seem fine to us personally, but may affect others quite differently from our own expectations. Thirdly, these results may in fact be a sin against us or cause another to sin and we are charged with the sin because we initiated the action.

At this point we need to repent and ask God to forgive us. Through this process there are three steps:

1. **You must ask God to forgive you.**
2. **You must ask the person you sinned against to forgive you.**
3. **You must forgive yourself.**

It seems that some people follow steps 2 and 3 and others follow steps 1 and 2. In the first case the belief is that God can not forgive you because you've done something so-o-o-o bad. That's a tactic of Satan and shouldn't be believed. Remember, God accepted you as His own, through Jesus, when you first believed and He forgave all your sins at that moment. However, we, out of necessity, must also state that from that moment forward we must ask forgiveness for every sin we commit. The original forgiveness was not a wholesale forgiveness allowing you to continue in your sinning without a consequence. God will be an understanding Father at this moment and do the same. Be honest with Him. In the second case, a person doesn't forgive themselves! Once again this idea is a tactic of Satan to defeat you. This person carries their burden of guilt around their neck like a millstone. In this case, remember that God forgave you, therefore, you must also do the same and set the burden down and leave it alone!

Over the course of events in my own life I would have to say that there are steps to becoming a mature Christian. These steps are:

1. Accepting you are a sinner and aware that you need a Savior.
2. Accepting Jesus as Lord, receiving your portion of faith, and having your name recorded in the Book of Life.
3. Acknowledgment of the assurances given to Christians in:
 - a) Who we are in Christ.
 - b) What we have through Christ.
 - c) What we can do through Christ.
4. Growing of our faith.

5. Mastery of the discernment of the Word.
6. Wearing of the full armor of God.

I must warn you that as you journey along this path with Jesus expect to meet with Satan and his hoard often. **If Satan does not challenge you or speak to you it is because he does not feel threatened by you.** Satan is the great deceiver and the one thing he hates more than anything else is **truth!** If what I write is not from God, you will not hear the Good Shepherd's voice in what is said, however, if you hear a voice telling you this is a lie, you must judge. You, and you alone, must test to see if there is truth revealed.

These words in this chapter define spiritual growth, and reveal who Satan is and some of his tricks. They also show that **you** can make a change including how you get this change started. Now let's see some of the benefits of what our walk with Jesus will bring.

Ten Principles of the Kingdom

You began reading this book for a reason. You were looking for truth, or answers within yourself. It seems mankind goes through a series of ups and downs as we make the journey upon the thread of life. We don't always understand how to change things toward our favor or even what some of the principles of God's Kingdom really are. This section will probably be the most rewarding for finding those answers. By following the truth given here, the entire combination lock sequence for the Kingdom of God will be revealed to you. It has taken me the better part of the last thirty-five years to come to understand these truths and how they must be **totally used** for the inherited blessing of God to be fully manifested in one's life. You can use one or two of these principles and find a return on your investment of time. However, as I have just said, if you want the full measure of God's holy blessing contained within the deepest vault of the Kingdom, you must use the right combination or the locking device will not function leaving you short of God's full reward.

We need to define the meaning for three terms, spirit, faith and dominion. The first term is spirit and there are three spirits I want to define.

Spirit

1) You are a spirit, you have a soul and you live in a body. Genesis 1:26 identifies this spirit of oneself where it records, *Then God said, Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.* Verse 27 will identify this image as both male and female. But, what is this image God created for mankind? Is there any verse in the Bible, or the Quran, that truly states God is a spirit? Yes! There is, and it is spoken by Jesus in John 4:24 and reads, *God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.* Is that all there is to define mankind to be a spirit? No! Ecclesiastes 12:7 reads, *... and the spirit returns to God who gave it.* John 3:6 gives us even more of an understanding of our spirit. *Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.* Look very closely at this verse and you will see two spirits identified. We see the spirit of God (the first spirit and indicated with a capital letter) giving birth to our own spirit.

2) That's one spirit, but what about the Holy Spirit? Couldn't we say the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of God are one and the same? No! They are not. I am not a theologian who is here to debate these two terms. Practical reading of God's Word shows they are different. When the term Spirit of God is used, it is God's inner feeling and not the third part of the Trinity. Look at Genesis 1:2, *...and the Spirit of God was hovering...* Isn't that a feeling, a thought or an emotion? That's not a functional entity that the Holy Spirit represents. There are three places in the Old Testament where the term Holy Spirit is used: Psalms 51:11; Isaiah 63:10 and 11.

In all three cases my opinion says this is God's feeling, His being, or His emotion. To me, the full clarification is given in 1 Corinthians 2:11, *For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.* If this is the third part of the Holy Trinity, Jesus

would have no reason to say what is recorded in Acts 1:4-5, ... *“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”* Notice the difference. If the Holy Spirit was already given to the world, there would be no reason for Jesus to say it was a promised gift that would come in a few days. This occurred in Acts 2:4, *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues* (meaning languages) *as the Spirit enabled them.*

Ask yourselves another question about Jesus’ statement. What is the record referring to when Jesus said to them, *“Which you have heard me speak about.”* In which verses did Jesus speak about the Holy Spirit? For the sake of understanding we have to look for the Comforter in the KJV and Counselor in the NIV to find this because those are the terms Jesus called the Holy Spirit. The KJV translates the original Biblical text word for Holy Spirit incorrectly as Holy Ghost. There are four occasions where Jesus speaks about the Comforter:

John 14:16*give you another Comforter*

John 14:26*whom the Father will send in my name*

John 15:26*Comforter is come, whom I will send to you from the Father*

John 16:7*for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you.*

Notice the following in these verses:

John 14:16 it reads *give* and not gave, meaning this is in the **future** and not in the past.

John 14:26 it reads *will send* and not has sent.

John 15:26 it again reads *will send* and not has sent.

John 16:7 it reads *will not come* and not has not come unto you.

There has to be a difference between the Spirit of God and the Holy Spirit; otherwise Jesus is a liar and the Word does not bear truth. Here is my defined difference between the two terms. The Spirit of God represents God’s essence of being. The Holy Spirit is the residual presence of Christ, possessing His authority and acting as Counselor and Comforter when we call upon the name of Jesus. Jesus, the Son of God, was among us and represented the physical. Now, once the physical was understood, defeated death, then rose and returned to God, only then did the Holy Spirit take up the banner to act, in Spirit, on Jesus’ behalf.

3) The third and final spirit I want to define is that referred to by Jesus as spirits. Normally, the Bible does not proclaim these beings to be of good character. We can make a list of verses where we can show the manner of these beings.

Jesus called these spirits out in the following verses in the NIV:

From the book of Mark:

1:26 *The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.*

5:8 *For Jesus had said to him, “come out of this man, you evil spirit!”*

7:25 *In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet.*

9:17 *A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech.*

And in the book of Luke:

4:33 *In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice,*

8:29 *For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.*

9:39 *A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him.*

13:11 *and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all.*

Read Luke 9:1, *When Jesus had called the Twelve together, He gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases.* Notice the authority to do the same was given to the Apostles. Peter used this authority in Acts 5:12, 15-16, *The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. verse 15 As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.* Philip did likewise in Acts 8:7, *With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed.*

The thing I want you to see concerns Paul. Turn to Acts 16:18, *She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her!* Notice Paul did the same thing! He called out the evil spirit, and yet, he was not one of the original twelve Apostles of Jesus. Do you understand what this means to you? **You have the authority to do likewise!** However, be careful. Just because I have told you that it can be done does not mean you can go and do this immediately. There are certain steps that must be employed to fully execute this authority. Look at Acts 19:15-16, *One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.* Notice when others tried to call out these spirits, they found there was more to it than just calling upon the name of Jesus.

Faith

The second term we must define is faith. I know it sounds unnecessary to define faith because you have so much of it. However, if you have so much faith, tell me why are you here receiving solid spiritual food instead of feeding truth to others?

There are two uses of the term faith. Many want to define faith as their religion. They say, I have the faith. By this statement they intend to convince others that they know the rituals and the ceremonies and the correct reply to the written prayers, but do they have faith? Yes! In its simplest definition, faith is what you believe. Now, that would meet the usage just stated, but would it meet a definition pertaining to things unseen? In some ways I must give you our last term for you to fully understand the second meaning of faith.

Dominion

Our last term is dominion. There are two! One dominion is the physical world that you see and where your five senses are employed. The other dominion that you do not see is God's Kingdom. The dominion of the unseen has control and influence over the seen. That goes against everything your body tells you doesn't it? Yet, we reviewed the term spirit and read in John 3:6, *Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit*. We read this to see the difference between flesh and spirit. Let's go further to define this difference. Turn to Romans 14:17 which reads, *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*. To continue turn to 1 Corinthians 2:14 where we find the reason so many do not understand. It reads, *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned*.

Stop and think! All things in this dominion where we live comes from the unseen dominion. You say no! Man thought of this and created that. Really now! Where do you think those thoughts came from in the first place and what connects you to God? Sure, the thought came from within yourself, but it is only the manifestation of the gifts from the unseen dominion. The point of connection between a person and God, the Infinite Power of the Universe, is man's spirit, or to be more specific, his subconscious mind. Easily shown! Return once more to Genesis and read verse 1:1. What words do you read? I don't care how hard you try, it does not read that man created the heavens and the earth. Now, if God can will the physical to be formed, from where do you think the power of creation comes? If you still believe it comes from the physical dominion of the senses, I ask you to do only one thing, reach out your arm, swing it through the air, close your fist down upon that air. Now with one thought create a single blade of grass. When you have mastered that, and create that single blade of grass, I'll start to believe what you are telling me. But, until the time when you can do that, I'll believe the recorded reality of the written word of God.

Again think! When you have a need, you pray for that need and ask God to fill this need. The actual filling takes place in God's dominion with the manifestation of the results here in this physical dominion. The thought was first in your prayer, which came from your subconscious, and was sent by that prayer to God. It was your faith, or your belief, that God would answer the prayer that activated the unseen power of God to cause the need to be manifested in the here and now. Do you begin to understand how the power of the unseen dominion causes a resultant effect within the seen dominion? Yet, the actual force to cause the result rests in the dominion of the unseen. So now, let's answer the last fact about faith. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tell us the truth about our faith. *We live by faith, not by sight*.

To fully understand and employ the principles, we have to use our faith to activate the unseen to become real in the seen. It sounds completely contrary to everything the five senses tell us. It appears to be a stumbling block to many people. They will say, "Let me see it and I'll believe it", or rephrased, "I'll believe it when I see it." However, without a real belief in truth, a life-style to match, knowledge of the Word, and the belief in the Holy Spirit, we miss the boat and permit the evil one to continue to beat us down. We are the ones who cause prayer not to be answered, or sickness to be present, or poverty to be all around us. Okay, so you ask! What are these principles?

After many years of studying God's Holy Word I believe I have come to understand the principle keys to unlock the door to God's Kingdom. These principles are not called laws. Laws represent the Jewish or Mosaic code, as being distinct from the Gospel. Jesus removed the curse of the law from us, however, I did not say there are no commandments contained under the New Covenant. There are! For the most part they follow the Ten Commandments. There is one exception, the fourth commandment is not defined in the New Covenant as being on any specific day. Yet, you are to obey the Lord your God and to worship Him, and Jesus added one command in John 13:34 where Jesus tells us, *"To love one another as He loved us."* If we would only follow this one command, all the other commands would fall into their natural order. This one command from Jesus is the commandment I have repeatedly called the one rule in the New Testament to follow.

You can find other individuals who have defined principles, or theorems, or maxims as they see them and as given to them by the Holy Spirit. In your searching of such, I'd be willing to say if you look carefully at all the others, and these as well, you will see them overlap and blend to cover the same information. The Holy Spirit gives the thought to different people and they in turn write their own words from those thoughts. The same Spirit is leading each of these people, the difference is in the manner each person expresses the same thought from God. What you should understand is that truth will come through and can be tested to show the thought came from God. Here's my short list and in the following pages we'll go through each one to show where it came from and how it works:

1. **Your Salvation in Jesus Christ**
2. **Be Obedient to God**
3. **The Principle of Faith**
4. **The Principle of Sowing and Reaping**
5. **The Principle of Unity**
6. **The Principle of Use**
7. **The Principle of Patience**
8. **The Principle of Responsibility**
9. **The Principle of Greatness**
10. **The Power of Prayer**

Your Salvation in Jesus Christ

I've used various Holy Books in revealing truth. I have not attempted to denounce any prophet, however, I sense some will take these principles in that manner, especially with this first principle. The first principle I give you is your salvation in Jesus the Christ.

After traveling around the world, and living in many different countries, I have come to one conclusion. The statements pertaining to Jesus rise above all the others. In all those travels I never found a statement, or fact, that any other prophet died, was in the grave for three days, then rose again. Neither have I been able to read that any other prophet was called Son by God the Father, or that any other prophet claimed to be in a relationship with God in which they would admit publicly they were the Messiah, the Savior of the world. Jesus did, and He alone is called Lord of lords and King of kings.

I have mentioned that I have read the Holy Quran, now more than six times. What does the Holy Quran teach? Look first in Sura 3:45, which reads, *Behold! The angels said O Mary! God giveth thee glad tidings of a Word from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, held in honor in this world and the Hereafter and of (the company of) those nearest to God. Sura 3:55 reads, *Behold! God said: O Jesus! I will take thee and raise thee to Myself and clear thee (of the falsehoods) of those who reject Faith, to the Day of Resurrection; then shall ye all return unto Me, and I will judge between you of the matters wherein ye dispute. Sura 4:157-159 reads, *That they said (in boast), We killed Christ Jesus the Son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah;—But they killed him not, Nor crucified him. Only a likeness of that Was shown to them. And those who differ Therein are full of doubts, With no (certain) knowledge. But only conjecture to follow, For of a surety They killed him not:— Nay, God raised him unto Himself, and God is Exalted in Power, Wise. And there is none Of the People of the Book But must believe in Him Before his death; And on the Day of Judgement He will be a witness Against them. Sura 43:61 reads, *And (Jesus) shall be a Sign (for the coming of) the Hour (of Judgement): therefore have no doubt about the (Hour), but follow ye Me: this is a Straight Way.****

Now, if we followed Muhammad's lead in what we read, we would need to understand Scriptures, and the Gospels, to see that Jesus was resurrected (Sura 3:55) and to also see Jesus will be a sign of the second coming (Sura 43:61). Then Muhammad does lead a straight way, and, that straight way is identified in John 14:6, ***Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.***

Here is the key to the inner vault of stored treasure (heavenly rewards). Without this ingredient all other keys (tenants) are mute. Sure, there are those who have come to understand they can send out thought and obtain results (we usually call this prayer and the results of those prayers). However, the greater joy is the understanding of one's relationship to our Great High Priest (Jesus). In that regard, we are the adopted sons and daughters of God and not just His creation.

Here's the principle that convinces me. Knowing the alternative! I personally don't want to take the risk of being wrong. I also know most Moslems will disagree and tell me that I am totally wrong that I must follow Muhammad and obey God (Allah) in submission (being Islamic). I have said in all of my travels I never found any other prophet who called himself the Son of God, or was called King of kings and Lord of lords. Here's the answer! I know Moslems will not believe what is here any more than I will convert to Islam. All of God's creation will come to know the truth when two things happen: the Second Coming and the Final Judgement. No one will have to say, "See I told you so!" because every soul who ever lived will finally know and can only say, I made this choice, myself.

Father John Powell, a professor at Loyola University in Chicago, writes about a student in his Theology of Faith class named Tommy:

Some twelve years ago, I stood watching my university students file into the classroom for our first session in the Theology of Faith. That was the day I first saw Tommy. My eyes and my mind both blinked. He was combing his long flaxen hair, which hung six inches below his shoulders. It was the first time I had

ever seen a boy with hair that long. I guess it was just coming into fashion then. I know in my mind that it isn't what's on your head but what's in it that counts; but on that day I was unprepared and my emotions flipped. I immediately filed Tommy under "S" for strange...very strange.

Tommy turned out to be the "atheist in residence" in my Theology of Faith course. He constantly objected to, smirked at, or whined about the possibility of an unconditionally loving Father/God. We lived with each other in relative peace for one semester, although I admit he was for me, at times, a serious pain in the back pew.

When he came up at the end of the course to turn in his final exam, he asked in a cynical tone, "Do you think I'll ever find God?"

I decided instantly on a little shock therapy. "No!" I said very emphatically. "Why not," he responded, "I thought that was the product you were pushing."

I let him get five steps from the classroom door and then called out, "Tommy! I don't think you'll ever find Him, but I am absolutely certain that He will find you!" He shrugged a little and left my class, and my life. I felt slightly disappointed at the thought that he had missed my clever line "He will find you!" "At least I thought it was clever.

Later, I heard that Tommy had graduated and I was duly grateful. Then a sad report came. I heard that Tommy had terminal cancer. Before I could search him out, he came to see me. When he walked into my office, his body was very badly wasted and the long hair had all fallen out as a result of chemotherapy. But his eyes were bright and his voice was firm, for the first time, I believe. "Tommy, I've thought about you so often I hear you are sick," I blurted out.

"Oh, yes, very sick. I have cancer in both lungs. It's a matter of weeks."

"Can you talk about it, Tom?" I asked.

"Sure, what would you like to know?" he replied.

"What's it like to be only twenty-four and dying?"

"Well, it could be worse."

"Like what?"

"Well, like being fifty and having no values or ideals, like being fifty and thinking that booze, seducing women, and making money are the real biggies in life."

I began to look through my mental file cabinet under 'S' where I had filed Tommy as strange. (It seems as though everybody I try to reject by classification, God sends back into my life to educate me.)

"But what I really came to see you about," Tom said, "Is something you

said to me on the last day of class.” (He remembered!) He continued, “I asked you if you thought I would ever find God and you said, ‘No!’ which surprised me. Then you said, ‘But He will find you.’ I thought about that a lot, even though my search for God was hardly intense at that time.”

“But when the doctors removed a lump from my groin and told me that it was malignant, that’s when I got serious about locating God. And when the malignancy spread into my vital organs, I really began banging bloody fists against the bronze doors of heaven. But God did not come out. In fact, nothing happened. Did you ever try anything for a long time with great effort and with no success? You get psychologically gutted, fed up with trying. And then you quit.”

“Well, one day I woke up, and instead of throwing a few more futile appeals over that high brick wall to a God who may, or may not, be there, I just quit. I decided that I didn’t really care about God, about an afterlife, or anything like that. I decided to spend what time I had left doing something more profitable. I thought about you and your class and I remembered something else you had said: “The essential sadness is to go through life without loving. But it would be almost equally sad to go through life and leave this world without ever telling those you loved that you had loved them.”

“So, I began with the hardest one, my Dad. He was reading the newspaper when I approached him. “Dad!”

“Yes, what?” he asked without lowering the newspaper.

“Dad, I would like to talk with you.”

“Well, talk!”

“I mean. It’s really important”. The newspaper came down slowly three inches.

“What is it?”

“Dad, I love you! I just wanted you to know that.”

Tom smiled at me and said it with obvious satisfaction, as though he felt a warm and secret joy flowing inside of him.

“The newspaper fluttered to the floor. Then my father did two things I could never remember him ever doing before. He cried and he hugged me. We talked all night, even though he had to go to work the next morning. It felt so good to be close to my father, to see his tears, to feel his hug, to hear him say that he loved me.”

“It was easier with my mother and little brother. They cried with me, too, and we hugged each other, and started saying real nice things to each other. We shared the things we had been keeping secret for so many years.”

“I was only sorry about one thing — that I had waited so long. Here I was, just beginning to open up to all the people I had actually been close to.”

“Then, one day I turned around and God was there. He didn’t come to me when I pleaded with Him. I guess I was like an animal trainer holding out a hoop, ‘C’mon, jump through. C’mon, I’ll give You three days, three weeks.’

“Apparently God does things in His own way and at His own hour. But the important thing is He was there. He found me! You were right! He found me even after I stopped looking for Him.”

“Tommy,” I practically gasped, “I think you are saying something very important and much more universal than you realize. To me, at least, you are saying the surest way to find God is not to make Him a private possession, a problem solver, or an instant consolation in time of need, but rather by opening to love. You know, the Apostle John said that. He said: ‘God is love, and anyone who lives in love is living with God and God is living in him.’ Tom, could I ask you a favor? You know, when I had you in class you were a real pain. But (laughingly) you can make it all up to me now. Would you come into my present Theology of Faith course and tell them what you have just told me? If I told them the same thing it wouldn’t be half as effective as if you were to tell it.”

“Oh! I was ready for you, but I don’t know if I’m ready for your class.”

“Tom, think about it. If and when you are ready, give me a call.” In a few days Tom called, said he was ready for the class, that he wanted to do that for God and for me. So we scheduled a date. However, he never made it. He had another appointment, far more important than the one with me and my class. Of course, his life was not really ended by his death, only changed. He made the great step from faith into vision. He found a life far more beautiful than the eye of man has ever seen or the ear of man has ever heard or the mind of man has ever imagined.

Before he died, we talked one last time.

“I’m not going to make it to your class,” he said.

“I know, Tom.”

“Will you tell them for me? Will you tell the whole world for me?”

“I will, Tom. I’ll tell them. I’ll do my best”

So, to all of you who have been kind enough to read this simple story about God’s love, thank you for listening. And to you, Tommy, somewhere in the sunlit, verdant hills of heaven — I told them, I told them Tommy, as best I could.

If this story means anything to you, please pass it on to a friend or two. It

is a true story and is not enhanced for publicity purposes.

With thanks,
Rev. John Powell, Professor
Loyola University in Chicago

A simple story, full of truth and God's wonderful grace. If you never hear another word I may ever speak, if you never read another word I have written, think and understand the grace that's in this simple story. Has God found you?

It's sad to me, in these later years, that God has left so many things upon my mind. Many of my closest friends, and some of my relatives, have been found by God in ways similar to this story of Tommy. Mine was a heart attack and a quadruple bypass. Not completely heart stopping, nor death defining, just eye opening. Others of my friends and family have had similar experiences and we just kind of look at each other with a knowing that others do not understand.

Be Obedient to God

All three of the great religions, who take themselves back to Abraham, have this as a principle: To the Jew, this is following the law; To the Moslem, this is being Islamic and means to be submissive or obedient to Allah; The Christian should understand this as acceptance of a new life with Jesus as our example, our Lord and our Savior. Turn to Deuteronomy 28:1-14 to see the blessings for being obedient from the Old Testament. *I f you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you. The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you. The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your fathers to give you. The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but borrow from none. The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.*

One New Testament reference is spoken by Jesus in Mark 12:29-31, "*The most important one,*" answered Jesus, "*is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.*" Another New Testament reference is given in 1 Peter 1:14-16, *As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he, who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

The entire Quran to the Moslem, represents: The utterance of submission to worship Allah. To each and everyone of you there should be no question this is a cardinal principle to be observed and followed. If true, why do you not follow the portion of the Book given to your prophet? To the Jew, answer these: Isn't it correct the atonement for sin is no longer met with a sacrificial offering? Is it not so that the veil of the Holy of Holies in the Temple was torn in half when Jesus died on the cross?

To the Moslem, answer these: Muhammad repeatedly said your portion of the Book was the last and final word, because the Jews and the Christians had not followed the law according to the Scriptures and the Gospels. If Islam is obedience under the law, why aren't any of the observances of the law followed? Why didn't Muhammad explain what Scriptures and Gospels represent? Where is it recorded in the Quran that Moslems are excused from the law?

Christians, I save my best chastisement for you. Why is it you try to crucify Jesus on a daily basis? Yes, you do! Each time you are disobedient to the example of Jesus, you sin, and instead of repenting and asking forgiveness you go on and act as the prostitute illustration of Israel and Judah of old. You can't go to church, you can't give to the poor, you have no tolerance, you run to the courts to sue or get a divorce if there's any question about your position or status. If you desire these keys to open the lock, you must be caught up in God's repentance book, must have a love toward your fellow man, and must conform to Jesus' lead of obedience.

In, *1500 Inspirational Quotes and Illustrations* we can find the following by M. Lunn:

I was hungry and you formed a humanities club and you discussed my hunger. Thank you.

I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel to pray for my release.

I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance.

I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health.

I was homeless and you preached of the spiritual shelter of the love of God to me.

I was lonely and you left me alone to pray for me.

You seem so holy; so close to God. But I am still very hungry and lonely and cold.

So where have your prayers gone? What have they done? What does it profit a man to page through his book of prayers when the rest of the world is crying for help?

Or, in other words, we could condense all of that down to say, “An ungrateful person is like a hog under a tree eating acorns, never looking up to see where they came from.”

The Principle of Faith

Throughout my books I’ve told my readers that faith is the activation ingredient of the power within you. Love is the motivator, but faith is the activator. When a person gives his or her life to Jesus as Lord and Master, God sends at that instant a *measure of faith*, Romans 12:3. Now, let’s understand one thing. God did not give some an ounce of faith and others a ton of faith. He gave everyone an equal measure of faith to begin their relationship as a Child of God. If you work to strengthen your faith you can build your faith to that like Abraham. Romans 4:17-21 gives an illustration of the faith of Abraham. Notice in verse 19 that it reads *...being not weak in faith...* and in verse 20 *...but was strong in faith*. If you read carefully, there is a choice that Abraham made pertaining to his faith. In similar manner, we can either choose to have a weak faith or a strong faith. Well, if this is a choice, surely there are examples and statements in Bible verses to help build a strong faith. Yes! There are! Turn to Ephesians 6:10 and read. It instructs you to be *strong in the Lord!* Then, surely, our Lord wants us to be strong and has something to do with strengthening our faith. Now, look at Luke 10:19 KJV, *Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you*. Flip over a few pages to John 14:12-14 KJV, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father and whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it*. Continue a page or two to John 16:23-24 KJV, *And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full*. Now, turn back and look at John 15:11 KJV to read the promise of this joy, *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full*. To realize this joy in ourselves, look at the result of the promise Jesus made pertaining to the coming of the Holy Spirit. Turn to Acts 13:52 NIV, *And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit*. Through this process of asking in Jesus’ name, we should be able to realize that the fulfillment of our personal joy comes from the Holy Spirit (Comforter).

I’m going to borrow an outline from Dr. Frederick K.C. Price and align myself in Jesus’ name with his ministry and pray he will not be too upset when I show you his six principles for obtaining strong faith:

1. We must know the reality of the Word of God.
2. We must know the reality of our redemption in Christ.

There are two parts to this redemption

- a. Spiritual redemption was made the moment you accepted Jesus as your savior.
- b. Bodily redemption (being the physical redemption of your glorified body) will be made at the second coming of Jesus.

3. We must know the reality of the new creation.

Meaning — We are new creatures in Christ Jesus.

4. We must know the reality of our righteousness in Christ.

5. We must know the reality of the indwelling spirit.

We must be filled with the Holy Spirit to maximize our faith, however you do not have to be filled with the Holy Spirit to be:

a. A Christian.

b. A child of God

c. To have your name written in the Book of Life

You must invite the Holy Spirit in to be filled by the Spirit.

6. We must know the reality of the authority of the name of Jesus.

The verses given from Luke and John show examples of the granting of this authority that Jesus gave to the Church.

I'm going to add three other statements from Dr. Price:

(a) A strong faith will always consider the Word of God, a weak faith will always consider the body.

(b) God will let you go through the circumstances you are going through if you don't do something about it. Otherwise you don't need a mind or a will.

(c) Ignorance and being in a state of disobedience are two reasons your faith fails.

Understand that a strong faith means you take action to do the perfect will of God. That will is recorded for the Church in the letters from Paul, Peter, James and Jude as recorded in the books of Romans to Jude. By faith, you must activate the Universal Mind of God to manifest in this dominion what you have asked for, remembering there are two reasons your faith can fail. If you are not caught up in God's repentance book, you are not in the proper state of obedience. As stated above you are in disobedience, and most likely your request will not be answered. Secondly, if you do not know the rules and conditions of the principles, or exhibit ignorance as shown above, then how do you expect an answer? You don't go into the grocery and find a sale that says 4\\$.1.00, take five of the items to the check out, and expect the store to take one dollar for the five items. Therefore, unless you read the Word and understand the conditions for certain things to happen, why do you mock God by acting so foolish and asking for things you do not need? If you have a need for transportation to get you to work, why do you ask for a Cadillac when actually a bicycle would serve the purpose? Why do some people get so hung up on the material and go to their mate and say, "If you really loved me, you'd buy me a house or a new diamond?" Your reply is, "God provided the family with shelter and food and six diamonds are enough." The mate says, "Well! If you won't show me your love I want a divorce!" How, in all that is holy, can this be an example of the will of God or that faith activated a power for something to manifest itself in this dominion in this manner? Actually, we will see the reason in the next principle.

The way to activate great faith is to start out small and let it grow. Believe that the Bible is true and continue to read God's Word until you understand the full measure of

faith you've been given. Be confident in your belief and do not doubt. When you doubt, you break the ties to have your thought fulfilled. Remember, Peter walked on the water beside Jesus and everything was fine until he doubted. You can also walk on water! If you couldn't, there would be no example of such an event happening in the Bible. Learn to focus your thoughts and believe that what you have asked will be done.

The Principle of Sowing and Reaping

Our three previous principles all have an interconnection. You must believe in Jesus and be saved to be an adopted Child of God. You must be obedient and you should have strong faith. Let's take the activation power of faith and take it to the next step contained in the principle of sowing and reaping. Many may call this the principle of giving, or even the law of reciprocity. Jesus gave this principle in Luke 6:38, *Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.* But, what must we give? Anything and everything! Stop and think about this. Here's the age old basis for sermons of stewardship, for loving your neighbor, for helping the poor, for increasing your wealth, and anything else you think of that you expect a result.

Here's an example. You go into your yard and clear off the grass to prepare the ground for a garden. You take your tiller and turn the ground. You drag the water hose over to the edge of your new garden and then you get down on hands and knees and yell at the ground, "Give me corn!" You listen carefully and you hear, "Give me seeds, you fool, and I will give you corn!" No! You have to start the process and you will get back what you give. If you plant corn seeds in your new garden, you don't expect tomatoes to grow from those seeds.

In like manner, everything you do in life is dependent on the seeds you have sown. Bible verse after Bible verse reassures you of health, well being, and prosperity. So why do you have poor health and live in a ghetto where poverty is all around you? What seed did you plant? If you harp on your condition, what condition do you expect in return? If you think you are going to be ill, you will be ill. If you think you will never get out of the ghetto, you never will. If you think you will always be on welfare, you will, and so will your children's children's children. For not only have you planted the seed, you nurtured it, guarded it, and gave it to your children so they could do the same.

The feud between Ishmael and Isaac is here. The difference between Catholics and Protestants is here. The bias between black and white is here, and yet, no one sees it. Why? Go back over the ages and consider the beliefs. Look at what was harbored in the hearts and minds of mankind and you can see the seed that was planted. Did God plant these seeds? No! The evil one came to man and deceived him and man planted the seed. Man has been passing it on, and on, and on to the next generation for eons and now it is the acceptable norm. Today, it seems the accepted norm is: To hell with the truth of what is recorded in the Book.

Let's stop for just a moment. We have talked about, and have called this person the evil one, but we haven't really defined our enemy. Let's look at Satan to see who he really is and the influence he has. What can Satan do and who is he?

He has authority over kingdoms, that can be given to others Luke 4:5-6
He can cause physical affliction Luke 13:16
He is the ruler over this age John 12:31, 2 Corinthians 4:4
He tempts believers to sin 1 Corinthians 7:5
He blinds the minds of unbelievers 2 Corinthians 4:4
He masquerades as an angel of light 2 Corinthians 11:14
He frustrates the activities of God's servants 1 Thessalonians 2:18
He empowers the Antichrist 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12
He causes persecution of Christians 1 Peter 5:8
He accuses believers before God Revelation 12:10

With careful study you will also come to the conclusion that Satan and his demon servants cannot hear your thoughts as God does. The simple reason is that Satan, and all the other evil spirits, are created by God, just like you and I were created by God. As a created being, they do not possess the powers of God. In order for Satan and his demons to hear, you must speak to them. They cannot read your mind as God can.

Now, what's the counter move against Satan? Would you accept that Jesus has beaten Satan? Would you accept Jesus healed the afflicted and the sick? Would you accept Jesus cast out evil spirits and had authority over them? Then would you accept that sinful human beings have the potential for Godliness? This Godlikeness was intended for mankind at the beginning Genesis 1:26-28, *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

This was made possible and actually through Jesus the Christ, who is the likeness of God. Romans 8:29, *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.;* Colossians 1:15-20, *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

Colossians 3:9-11, *Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

Here is a list of scriptures to show that the power of the evil one can be broken:

John 16:11, *And in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.*

Luke 4:41, *Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.*

Romans 12:21, *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Romans 16:19-20, *Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*

Ephesians 6:11-18, *Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*

2 Thessalonians 3:3, *But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.*

2 Timothy 4:18, *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

James 1:13-14, *When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but **each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.***

James 4:17, *Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.*

1 John 5:18, *We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.*

1 Peter 5:9, *Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

In reading these verses it seems everyone has forgotten to Review and understand the triumphant glory of the Revelation. Satan lost! Mankind has the power of free will choice and whatever our mind thinks. When we dwell upon our negative thought(s), the forces of the unseen are put into effect and man will reap that which they have sown. If you are ill, stop dwelling upon it, change your thought(s) and reassure yourself that you are healthy. If you are in poverty, stop dwelling upon your misfortune and think about your prosperity.

Look at it another way. We, the human species, act like mirrors. We reflect that which is given to us. If the world gives us a hard time, we give it back. If the people we interact with, be it at school, work, or at home, we tend to give back what we are given. We fail to do as the Bible teaches. "*Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*" (paraphrased from Matthew 7:12). We do it, but not in the manner intended by Biblical principles. We give bad away and we wonder why people are like they are when we get bad given back to us. We don't stop and think, or try to give an iota of love to someone in a manner of refraction, that is bending the image we are receiving. We only reflect and give

the straight image directly back without any type of change. All these things we do toward each other only compounds our problems. We are only adding stress upon ourselves, and when we start having heart attacks and afflictions of cancer we wonder: Why me?

Look around you today and notice the attitude and intolerance. People are driving far in excess of speed limits. They are on the roadways cursing you as an idiot. Yet they just cut you off when they passed you because you were going slower than they wanted. They turn up their car radios to a deafening level and look at you with an, "I dare you to tell me to turn it down" attitude. Look at the portrayal of women in a divorce action. They are standing in court and portraying themselves as being the poor damsel who has been wronged. They march up and down yelling about abuse and yet they had nothing to do with the cause of any abuse that might be poured out on them. Believe me, I do not want to see women abused or harmed in any way, but at the same time, I do not want to see men being raped by the laws just because they are men. God joined male and female to work as one, and to share in the glory of His grace. They should not fight with one another and accuse one another of crimes that never took place. This is done between many men and women so one has an advantage over the other. Learn to give love instead of hate or jealousy.

If your children are rebellious, what thoughts and actions have you done before their eyes? For by your words and actions you plant seeds and the product of those seeds will be even more of the same. What seed is in the entire world that only gives one seed in return for what was planted. Look at the abuse we see around the world today. In most cases, those who are abusive were abused. Look at our biases and our prejudices. Our children see these biases and prejudices at home and only carry them forward for another generation.

Since the evil one is causing this strife, look at the following verses to see the presence of evil:

Matthew 10:1, *He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.*

Matthew 12:35-37, *The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."*

Romans 7:21, *So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.*

1 Timothy 6:10, *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

James 3:5-18, *Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by*

his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

1 John 5:19, We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

We’ve reviewed the presence of evil. Now consider these verses to view some examples of the influence of evil:

Matthew 13:19-23, When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Matthew 13:37-44, He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

Matthew 15:17-20, “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man ‘unclean.’ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man ‘unclean’; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him ‘unclean.’”

Mark 7:20-23, He went on: “What comes out of a man is what makes him ‘unclean.’ For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean.’”

We, you and I, have the power to break the cycle. In fact, it is the Church that must break the cycle. Notice one thing I did not say. I did not say the cycle must be broken by a denomination. In fact, there are those who stand in pulpits and teach and preach how to continue in the pain, the agony, the sickness and the poverty by envy, jealousy and pride. These do not teach God’s precious gift, but instead, man’s own prideful wants and ways.

While we are at it, why don't we define natural man from a Biblical viewpoint. Turn to 1 Corinthians 2:14, *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.* Let it be known! Natural man is concerned with the five senses of the flesh. The Spirit filled Christian has a sixth sense granted to him and it is called faith.

Go back to the verses I gave you at the beginning of the Principle of Faith, where I was showing you the authority given to the Church. Review these verses:

Luke 10:19, *I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.*

John 14:12-14, *I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*

John 16:23-24, *In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.*

Look carefully at Luke 10:19. Do you see where it says the Church has power over the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you? **We can stop** Satan! Look at the second part. Do you see the word *nothing*? That scripture passage doesn't say some things, a few things, or even one thing. It says *nothing* shall by any means hurt you! The only way this conditional promise can be broken is by **you and I** empowering Satan to take it from us. We do that in many ways, but more than any other, by the seeds of thought we sow in the fields of the unseen dominion.

The power of the gifts given to the Church rest in this principle. Everything seems to be a contradiction from the thought of the flesh. Watch!

The world says, "Hate your enemies." The Kingdom says, "Love your enemies."

The world says, "Hit back." The Kingdom says, "Turn the other cheek and to do good to those who mistreat you."

The world says, "Hold onto your life at any cost." The Kingdom says, "Lose your life and you will find it."

The world says, "A young and beautiful body is essential." The Kingdom says, "Even a grain of wheat must die if it is to have life."

The world says, "Get all the material wealth that you can." The Kingdom says, "Seek first the Kingdom and then all else will be added to you."

The world says, "Push yourself to the top." The Kingdom says, "Serve if you want to lead."

The world says, "You are number one." The Kingdom says, "Many who are first will be last and the last first."

The world says, "Acquire gold and silver." The Kingdom says, "Store up treasure in heaven if you would be rich."

The world says, "Exploit the masses." The Kingdom says, "Do good to the poor."

To see some of the ways you must give in order to receive, read the following list of verses:

Matthew 5:42-48, *Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. "You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*

Matthew 6:2-3, *"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing."*

Matthew 7:7-11, *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"*

Matthew 16:26, *What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?*

Luke 6:29-38, *"If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

Luke 7:39-50, *When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."*

Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

"Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled."

“You have judged correctly,” Jesus said. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.” Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Luke 11:4-13, “Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.” Then he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.’”

“Then the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man’s boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.”

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Luke 14:12-14, Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Luke 19:26, He replied, “I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away.”

John 4:14, “but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

John 6:27, “Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Acts 20:35, “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Romans 12:17, Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

Romans 12:20, On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

There are two other areas to view to fully understand the importance of sowing and reaping. We use the authority Jesus gave to the Church when we align our minds in thought

to God. This may be through individual thought in our silent area, or our prayers. or even the humble utterances of moans and groans of the Holy Spirit who is indwelling with us. Read the following verses to see some of this authority:

Matthew 9:4-7, *Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . .” Then he said to the paralytic, “Get up, take your mat and go home.” And the man got up and went home.*

Mark 1:27, *The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.”*

Mark 3:11, *Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.”*

Luke 4:36, *All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!”*

Luke 10:19-20, *“I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”*

Luke 17:1-26, *Jesus said to his disciples: “Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. So watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”*

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you. Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? Would he not rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’” Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.” Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.” Then he said to his disciples, “The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. Men will tell you, ‘There he is!’ or ‘Here he is!’ Do not go running

off after them. For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man.”

John 5:19-47, Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me. If I testify about myself, my testimony is not valid. There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is valid. You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light. I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept praise from men, but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God? But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”

John 10:25-38, Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all ; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?”

“We are not stoning you for any of these,” replied the Jews, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”



Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I have said you are gods’? If he called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken— what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God’s Son’? Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”

John 16:14-15, “He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.”

John 16:23-24, “In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

I know you who are Moslem do not believe Jesus is the Son of God. You have been taught God does not need a Son, and yet, the Quran mentions the resurrection and the second coming. Here is an example for you to understand in the Bible. Acts 13:32-41, *“We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: ‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father.’ The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words: ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.’ So it is stated elsewhere: ‘You will not let your Holy One see decay.’ For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay. Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you: ‘Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you.’”*

I tell you the truth, that day spoken of is quickly approaching and the doorway to the free gift is about to change. This free gift is open to all, for the time being, under the Age of the Gentiles. However, at the second coming of Jesus this age closes and the doorway to the gift reverts back to Israel. You who are Moslem, hear me! You can set the blood feud down and accept the free gift or you can go through the Great Tribulation, if by God’s grace you manage to survive, and then if you want the gift you’ll have to seek out the Jew to whom you now persecute. If you think you’d loose face now, what will you do on that day? I’d be willing to say you will harden your heart even more, forget all I’ve shown of truth and sow even more seeds of resentment.

Finally, for the last item to review under the principle of sowing and reaping, understand the full impact of God’s request for you. If you must give in order to receive, why do you cheat God and yourself at the same time? Hasn’t God asked you to give a tenth of your gain to Him? If you want to increase your wealth, whether you are poor or rich, you are to give in order to receive a return to your giving. But, is that all God wants you to give? What about your time? Do you realize there are 168 hours in each week? Do you give God 16.8 hours of service or prayer in a week’s time? If you haven’t given this portion of time aren’t you cheating God? What about the great commission Jesus gave to the Church in Matthew 28:18-20 to go and make disciples of all nations? Matthew 28:18-20, *“All authority has*

been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

How are you going to meet this responsibility when you haven't allowed a growth process to occur? How are you going to witness to nations when you haven't succeeded in your own church, nor your community, much less to other nations. You say, "I'm taking care of that by the missionary work the church supports." Really now! There is nothing in the Great Commission that says for the church to go out and make the disciples. It says you are to do it. I see a conflict of ideas being formed at this junction. The two concepts at odds within these words seem to be your tithe on the one side and the Great Commission on the other. I'm trying to convey the responsibility toward meeting the Great Commission. Yes! In simple words contributing toward missionary work could be considered a portion of your tithe. But, how did you personally meet your responsibility to make disciples of all the nations? Once again, I believe, you are cheating God, therefore cheating yourself and still nursing milk and letting the evil one kick your butt. You have to accept the conditions for the principles to work and if you don't meet those conditions there is no way the full measure of the principles will be granted to you.

To see some of the verses used as examples of how the Great Commission should be met, look at the following:

Matthew 10:9-20, *“Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”*

Luke 6:39-49, *He also told them this parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man*

building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

Luke 10:2-11, He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.’”

John 3:17-21, “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

John 14:23-30, Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me.”

Acts 5:30-32, “The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Romans 12:6-21, We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those

who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

We are dealing with change, how to initiate a change and how we sow and reap our own results. I received the following in an e-mail and found amazing truth in the story. I pray that you might see the truth also:

Do you like to read a good murder mystery? Not even Law and Order would attempt to capture this.

At the 1994 annual awards dinner given for Forensic Science, AAFS President Dr. Don Harper Mills astounded his audience with the legal complications of a bizarre death. Here is the story:

On March 23, 1994, the medical examiner viewed the body of Ronald Opus, and concluded he had died from a shotgun wound to the head. Mr. Opus had jumped from the top of a ten-story building intending to commit suicide. He left a note indicating his despondency. As he fell past the ninth floor, his life was interrupted by a shotgun blast passing through a window, which killed him instantly. Neither the shooter nor the deceased were aware that a safety net had been installed just below the eighth floor level to protect some building workers and that Ronald Opus would not have been able to complete his suicide the way he had planned. "Ordinarily," Dr Mills continued, "Someone who sets out to commit suicide ultimately succeeds, even though the mechanism might not be what he intended, is still defined as committing suicide." That Mr. Opus was shot on the way to certain death, but probably would not have been successful because of the safety net, caused the medical examiner to feel that he had a homicide on his hands. The room on the ninth floor, where the shotgun blast emanated, was occupied by an elderly man and his wife. They were arguing vigorously, and he was threatening her with a shotgun! The man was so upset when he pulled the trigger, he completely missed his wife, and the pellets went through the window, striking Mr. Opus. When one intends to kill subject "A" but kills subject "B" in the attempt, one is guilty of the murder of subject "B". When confronted with the murder charge, the old man and his wife were both adamant, and both said they thought the shotgun was not loaded. The old man said it was a long-standing habit to threaten his wife with the unloaded shotgun. He had no intention to murder her. Therefore the killing of Mr. Opus appeared to be an accident; that is, assuming the gun had been accidentally loaded.

The continuing investigation turned up a witness who saw the old couple's son loading the shotgun about six weeks prior to the fatal accident. It transpired

that the old lady had cut off her son's financial support and the son, knowing the propensity of his father to use the shotgun threateningly, loaded the gun with the expectation that his father would shoot his mother.

Since the loader of the gun was aware of this, he was guilty of the murder even though he didn't actually pull the trigger. The case now becomes one of murder on the part of the son for the death of Ronald Opus.

Now comes the exquisite twist . . . Further investigation revealed the son was, in fact, Ronald Opus. He had become increasingly despondent over the failure of his attempt to engineer his mother's murder. This led him to jump off the ten-story building on March 23rd, only to be killed by a shotgun blast passing through the ninth story window. The son, Ronald Opus, had actually murdered himself. So the medical examiner closed the case as a suicide.

A true story from Associated Press, (Reported by Kurt Westervelt)

We really do reap what we have sown! If you keep beating at God's door it will open and He will listen to your request, however you may not like the reply. Be careful what you ask, you just might get it!

The Principle of Unity

To some of you, this principle will be questioned. What unity? There are two directions unity must go. There is the unity between the child of God and our High Priest and the unity within the Church body. Look at Romans 15:5 to see what the Word tells us about unity, *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus.* Read further in verse 7, *Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.* Next, turn to Ephesians 2:22, *And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

The greatest form of unity is between husband and wife. First, I call your attention to 1 Peter 3:7, *Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.* Now, turn to Matthew 18:19-20, *Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.* Finally, read Genesis 2:24, *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

Why do I determine husband and wife have some form of power or authority? In 1 Peter 3:7, notice together husband and wife are heirs to the gracious gift of life and nothing should hinder their prayers. What are prayers? They are the request you make to God asking for your needs! Reverse the order of the verses above and look next at Genesis 2:24. Notice when two are united they become as one flesh. Now for the power, look at Matthew 18:19. Do you see were it reads, *I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done by my Father in heaven?* What is the minimum number to meet

the condition? Two! How many make up a marriage? Two! When two become as one and agree in unity, the key is given and the door to this portion of the Kingdom is opened.

Now, let's take an in-depth look at the unity of the Church. If Catholics and Protestants are fighting one another, how is there unity? If the Western world cannot accept the Orthodox and Coptic Christian as part of the Church, how is there unity? If your denomination proclaims they are the only way to get to heaven and all the other denominations are false, how is there unity? The evil one has once again won and is laughing at each and every one of us, and whispering in our ear, "See, they really are different. Surely, you know they will never make it to heaven because they don't believe as you do. You really are better than they. Your parents were right to teach you there should be a separation between the Catholics and the Protestants and the blacks and the whites." Oh! How foolish all of mankind are. Look at your own body for a clue. Oh! You mean all your cells are not heart cells, or brain cells, or liver cells, or stomach cells, or muscle cells, or even nerve cells. Then why do you expect all of the body of Jesus, being the Church, to be composed of all the same cells? You missed the point! It takes the unity of all the cells for the body to function. Your own brain is not off in never-never land, with Peter Pan, trying to give commands to the rest of the body. Look at the Church. If Jesus is the head of the Church, representing the brain, do you think we, representing the body, are not attached? If you look at the verses of Scripture, even the Lord's prayer, then the Bible should show you the true picture of unity. When the Bible gives an illustration of heaven and earth, we see the full glorification of the body of Jesus. If Jesus is the head in heaven, and we are the body on earth, can you see the full glory of the body? Can you also see that the words of the Lord's prayer illustrate this? When we pray the Lord's Prayer don't we pray, ... *your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...*? Think about what this means!

Through Jesus, our Brother who sits at the right hand of God, we see the leadership of the head resting in heaven, but at the same time, we the body, meaning the Church, are here upon earth. Then can't we see that God's will should, in fact, be both in heaven and here on earth at the same time, or does your physical body work differently so that your head doesn't send messages to the body?

Why isn't this being done? Yes! I understand there are those whose body does not respond to their thought commands. That is an affliction, but don't we have examples pertaining to afflictions? Didn't Jesus heal those who were afflicted? You're letting the evil one kick your backside again. Your pride, envy, doubt, disobedience and jealousy are again getting in your way and you will not believe in God's Word. Instead, you listen to other men and follow their lead. Others tell you whites are better than blacks, your denomination is the only way to get to heaven, or you will receive all the promises God gave you in the sweet bye and bye or over there, or whatever. I tell you the truth now! You are living now and God has granted you these authorities now, not later. You received the authority at the moment you accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. What you have to do is understand how you are now to serve Him in your new creation. Stop trying to lead, you are not the head, instead you are part of the body.

The best illustration I can give you to understand the full glory of the principle of unity is in Philippians 2:1-11, *If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one*

in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Principle of Use

There is an old saying stating, If you don't use it, you'll lose it? There is another point in Luke 6:38, that I use to support the principle of sowing and reaping. We need to understand more of the last sentence in this verse, *...For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

If I take just the word *use* and do a search of the Bible, I can come up with several verses containing this word. However, in many verses the term *use* will not reflect the principle. Probably the best example of the principle of use is the parable of the talents as recorded in Matthew 25. In that parable we see two servants took the talents and used them to double their value. The third servant took the talent and buried it.

When the master returned the two servants were rewarded, but, look at what happened to the third servant. He was called wicked and a lazy servant, verse 26. He was thrown out into darkness, verse 30. My question is: What is it that is being implied to the Church, to society as a whole, and to us as individuals? The Church has been given the Great Commission. Is the Church saving souls, meaning adding talents? Look at the reality of the situation of churches. They are losing membership. Christianity as a whole is declining in large numbers throughout the world. Yet, at the same time, the religion of Islam is growing. Is there enough truth, enough parallels, coupled with a warm welcome that draws people who are searching to embrace Islam? What happened to Christianity? Have Christians given up truth, forgotten outreach, and can't be bothered with a solid handshake and a warm greeting? Have we become like the servant who buried the talent?

We could continue with other questions and ask the following. What is your God given talent (Paul explains these as gifts of the Holy Spirit) that He desires you to use to bless others? What is hindering you from using this talent? Is God not greater than this hinderance? What is God telling me to do that I am not doing?

Do I really have to ask you to look at our society? We are seeing a decline in morality. We see responsibility being taken with a grain of sand. We see a complete lack of respect in our families, our schools and our businesses. What happened? Is this current generation of young people the product of the '60s generation of free sex, free drugs, and anything goes? Then is there any wonder what we are now seeing? Our fruit has matured and the crop has produced even more of what was sown. The full impact of the principle must come together and be addressed in correct conditional response so the cycle can be broken.



What about this principle in a person's individual life? If God gave you a measure of something, such as grace, faith or any other spiritual gift, unless you use it, you will soon become so weak in that gift that you will lose it. Your own life and your own body should be the example. When you were an infant and wanted to walk, you grabbed the couch and began using your little feet. Sure! You fell back on your little backside, but instead of saying I won't do that again, you crawled over to the couch and started once more! You continued to use your body until you learned. In like manner, you started softball, ballet, karate, playing a musical instrument, and even reading and writing. You didn't do any of these the first time you tried. You had to use the thought and build upon what you learned to achieve the next step, until you mastered what you wanted to learn.

Do you want to see how our government leaders have broken the natural principle? View the news and it will not matter the source. In the example for our own personal application of *use*, there are step by step gains, even some made after a set back or even some pain. There was no jump forward to have you mastering a task without the learning process. Yet! Look at our society, look at our government. If we are going to give you substance and never ask you to learn, how did you grow? If our young people want every material possession possible, and use credit to get it, they didn't learn the value of waiting and learning how to manage money.

Take all the burdens of individuals and add the burden of our government to overspend and extend themselves into unreal realms of finances. The exponential curve comes into play and the interest alone will cause a monetary collapse. You see, the principle of *use* will work quite well in the negative aspect and once you enter the zone where the exponential curve becomes evident, a collapse, or as given by Biblical examples, a jubilee year is required. This of course demonstrates the negative aspect.

Take the same exponential curve and apply it in the positive direction. Here's an example and it's based upon a penny. You start a new job and your potential employer says your salary will be \$200,000 per year. You say you'll take a penny for the first day and ask your potential employer if he'll double the amount each day for 31 days. That would be all the salary you'd need for the next five years. Stop and think. We're only talking about pennies. You'll earn a penny on the first day. On the second day two cents, on the third day four cents, on the fourth day eight cents, on the fifth day sixteen cents. Only pennies! Right! Watch!



If you continue with this natural doubling on the twentieth day you'd be paid 524,288 pennies. On the thirtieth day you'd be paid 536,870,912 pennies. That's \$5,368,709.12 and that would be just for one day's work. Do you see how much the amount would be on the 31st day? Okay, for those who don't like math and don't want to multiply the above figure by two I'll give you the answer, it's 1,073,741,824 pennies, or \$10,737,418.24. Can you now see why you'd only need to be paid for one month's work and that would take care of your needs for the next five years. Your total compensation would be approaching 20 million dollars, or approximately four million dollars per year. How would you like to work for pennies for 31 days? Why don't you? You're not so much working for pennies, but by applying the principle of sowing and reaping as well as the principle of use then the promise of prosperity is there.

I want you to see how principles start to flow together. There is a Biblical example in Colossians 2:2 through 4:2. I understand that this is a lot of verses, however I want you to read these for your benefit.

My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch! These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its

practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

The Principle of Patience

If you are starting to get the idea these principles flow from one to the other you're right. By breaking out the individual principles you can see how one runs into another and another and another. They are there and usually we do not look at them on an individual basis. Instead we tend to look at them collectively in one or two different ideas, such as, salvation and prayer, yet, they are all part of one law.

What element does patience give to the overall picture? Actually, there are three elements to the principle of patience. There is patience, the learning step, then there is endurance, the practice step, finally, there is perseverance, the winning step. All three interact to increase your faith, your self control, and permit you to grow in your learning process. We have seen pieces of this principle in previously stated principles. Let's look again at the child who is learning to walk (see page 46). The thought is in the child that he is going to move. A child mimics what he sees. You're walking, so why not the child? The child crawls to the couch and moves his hands and feet to go from one end to the other. That's the patience, because the child doesn't have experiences to build on, so they build upon the focused thought (just in case you haven't been following, that's basic faith).

Reaching the end of the couch, he reaches out, holds on, stretches, lets go, and falls.

The only thing really hurt is a diaper. Sure! The child cries, that's a sudden shock to a little rear end even if there is padding. Okay! We got that over with, so let's try again. Here's the endurance. No one, not this child or anyone else, ever learned something new the first time it was tried. It took time to build confidence for the task to be mastered.

Our learning child continues to try to master this walking thing and one day the first step, then the second step is made. Parents are so proud and full of joy and encouragement. There are tears in some cases because of the amount of joy. Isn't that right? Imagine the joy of your Heavenly Father when you grow in faith and master His gifts? Let's stop and ask a question: Why, as an earthly parent, don't you take the time to encourage your children to learn God's ways and principles?

Back to our child, time passes and the task is mastered. The child walks all over the place. If it weren't for the perseverance of the child being focused on learning to walk, he never would. You see the true key is already within us. All of life works the same way. We have the thought that sows the seed, faith activates it, patience brings it along, endurance builds it, and perseverance delivers it from the unseen to the seen. Praise the Lord! All working together with harmony and unity toward a goal.

Now, we must also understand more of the influence of the evil one. Our enemy is out to ruin any progress we attempt to make in increasing our faith. In one of the first books I wrote I shared that we have all probably experienced some, or all, of the five D's, deceit, depression, destruction, death and divorce. Examples of the influence of Satan, either himself, or by one of his demons, rest in these five words. I didn't say much about the other two D's, which are the answers to the first five, they are: deliverance and destiny.

We should understand it is Satan who tempts us and God always provides a way out. That's our deliverance and through God's grace when we accept Jesus as our Savior we have made the choice of our destiny. We have become the children of God with a rightful claim to the inheritance.

So you will know there is a connection among the three elements, here are lists of verses for each:

Patience:

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Colossians 1:10-22 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the

supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

Colossians 3:12-15 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Hebrews 6:12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Endurance:

Romans 15:5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus,

1 Thessalonians 1:3 We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 6:11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

Perseverance:

Matthew 7:7-12 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 11:12 "From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it."

Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

James 1:2-8 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must

finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

James 5:11 As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

2 Peter 1:5-8 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please comprehend these words! You will probably soon face a test, if you haven't already. Satan is going to test you to see if you really want to increase your faith and if you really want to serve God. When he comes, be patient. Remember you have the full armor of God. Read Ephesians 6:10-17: *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. You have the authority of the name of Jesus, John 14:13, *And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.* You also have the ability to resist Satan, causing him to flee from you, James 4:7, *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* Call upon these truths and use them because they have been given to you to protect you.*

You see, I tell you the truth. You have the ability, you have the authority, and you have been shown the truth. If you really must have another assurance, look at Revelation 20:10, *And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.* Satan surely can't read, for if he could, he would know that he lost. Now, you can also read that God does not lie, Titus 1:2, *A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, **who does not lie**, promised before the beginning of time.* So you do have a choice. You can follow Christ and be a winner, or you can follow Satan and be a loser. **It's your choice!**

These principles are here for you to have the knowledge of the workings of the Kingdom. They will not come to you by magic. You have to work to get them, just like the child had to work to learn to walk. Yet, at the same time there are so many who want to accept the magic and have something for nothing. They want to proclaim they are poor, they can't find work, they live in poverty, and they are oppressed. Show me one place where God intended any of that for mankind, or said anything supporting those types of thoughts. Yes! Jesus mentioned the poor on many occasions, told people to sell all they had and give the money to the poor. But, you need to understand that the poor were also told they were rich because the truth was told to them and they understood they had the keys to the Kingdom. My question is this, Do you have the keys to the Kingdom?

Look at our own American government system. We've now built over a trillion dollar debt based upon handouts and overspending. The government seems to think they can get you from the cradle to the grave. They want to protect you and provide for you. Health care will be in their hands, housing will be in their hands and where you are educated will be in their hands, yet you never have to learn or accept responsibility. You certainly don't have to believe in God, or follow His ways. Read very carefully Luke 4:5-6 *The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to."* Remember Satan is the prince of the air, the ruler of this domain and he has the authority over kingdoms (represented by earthly nations), and can give this authority to another.

In most cases, the passing of this earthly authority over a nation falls to demons. Yet, the children of God can influence the results and a person of righteousness could be the leader of a nation. Examples for this situation upon nations are shown in the Old Testament time and time again. In modern times, we can see Adolf Hitler and others as being under the influence of the evil one and ruling a nation. Through prayer and the binding of Satan, God's people can raise up their community, their city, their state, their nation to the throne of God. Through their own spirit, people can start the change by their thoughts and actions to change and correct all these misdeeds contrary to every principle God sent to mankind. We are surely doomed by our own hand and thought if we don't take action to change. This nation needs a revival and the only place it can start is in the hearts and minds of the people, for it is as Abraham Lincoln said, "This nation is for the people, by the people and of the people." If we want a revival to start, we had better be finding ways to change ourselves.

The Principle of Responsibility

It seems I can't help myself, thus in trying to explain one principle, I start into another. That's the simple key to understanding all of this. They all work together to make one law. You can't get through all these principles without them bleeding over from one to another. God has said, in more than one example from Scripture, that our cup would be overflowing. Can't you see as one principle gets full, it runs over and pours into another and then another gets full and overflows into yet another. Oh! The joy of knowledge is overwhelming. The truth does set you free. Free to think. Free to Choose. Free to be in the righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you, precious Lord!

Responsibility — Remember all of those verses in the Bible where it says we were bought for a price? The price, of course, was the blood of Jesus, but upon our acceptance of Jesus as Savior, we also accept a responsibility. Are we not born again? Have we not died, shedding our old sinful self and becoming a new creation? Isn't that new creation in the image of Jesus and aren't we excelling to follow His example to transform ourselves into perfection? Isn't that responsibility? Isn't that also a life-style? Take the principle of use and apply it. Success is the return. Now, couple use with the perseverance portion of the principle of patience, and the rewards increase, however, the two principles together demand an observance of the principle of responsibility. Understand with blessings and rewards, comes responsibility.

This responsibility should be an understood portion of one's learning process. In any endeavor in one's personal life, business life and church life, there are responsibilities. When you get behind the steering wheel of a vehicle, you accept a responsibility. You are responsible for your actions, you are responsible for obeying the posted laws and you are responsible if you cause an accident. At work, you are responsible for your position and when a promotion is given, you accept greater responsibility along with the increase in pay. You see, the compensation is for the acceptance of responsibility, the risk you take and the expertise you possess. When you get married, there are new responsibilities toward your spouse, and when a couple become parents, you have even more responsibilities to accept.

As you grow in your Christian faith you have responsibilities. You have a responsibility to love and obey God. You have a responsibility to meet the conditions that open the combination to the inner vault of the Kingdom. To not accept these responsibilities keeps you in a milk nurturing state and not at a solid substance level. There are also consequences to not meeting God's principles just as there are for not meeting the laws of our society.

I will use myself as an example, with each change of job, with each temptation and trial there were responsibilities that went along with the growth. I call myself a seeker of truth and state I am here to teach you truth. What responsibility do I incur upon myself by this proclamation? Look with me at James 3:1-2, *Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.*

That is a strong responsibility. I have to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead me, to do otherwise is foolishness on my part. However, great is the reward and great is the joy when I am shown the truth of the Word that I show you. Yet, at the same time, I understand myself. I do not feel I'm lead to preach, maybe teach, for my own tongue would prove I was not a preacher (instead having a ministry which teaches), for I have no control over my tongue. And what about my other faults? Oh yes! I have them just as you do, however by God's grace, the example of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit's guiding, I'll patiently continue to use the gifts I have been given.

Stop and look at something. I gave my example above with reference to the verses from James, but doesn't this statement from James also apply to every pastor, priest, deacon and teacher? Shouldn't the church leadership understand their responsibility? Then why do we have some churches that do not want to preach Jesus? They don't want to teach

the principles. They don't want to talk about the water, or the blood of Jesus and the precious gifts sent from God. Instead they want to teach good works. They want to teach community involvement. They want to teach anything but the Word. There is a responsibility to be met and a consequence otherwise.

The Principle of Greatness

Wake up sleeping giant! Yes! I mean all of you. Everyone of us wants to be great. We want to feel good about ourselves and be able to influence other people. If this is done by manipulation, using fast talk, fast moving questions and answers and always changing subjects, or not replying at all, does this really make a person great?

That's not what the Bible says. Contrary to popular thought, you become great by being small, by being a servant. We can see this by what Jesus taught. Look at Matthew 18:3-4, *"...I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."* Now, turn to Luke 22:26, *"But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves."*

How does a child act? They are innocent, teachable, reassured by the presence of a parent, and trusting in all that is said and done around them. As adults, Jesus is trying to get us to understand and create a parallel in our own life. We should be innocent and receptive to the teaching of the Word. We should be assured by what we hear and the promises are freely given and open to all. Above all else, we should trust Jesus as our Savior with absolute faith.

Now, why did I say wake up sleeping giant? Look around you. Are you happy with what you see? The foundation of this nation was laid by our forefathers who understood oppression. They understood tyranny and they understood the greatness of God. They humbled themselves and served every patriot with the blessings of God to write a document that laid the cornerstone for the greatest nation ever known. This nation grew and prospered and became the leader during those days when we honored God. Then we had the generations who became lazy, welcomed handouts, became beggars from the government and their belief in God went to sleep. Our nation went into decline, we became more of a big brother looking over the shoulders of other nations and not a leader. We are resented, we have little influence and we are now the largest debtor nation the world has ever known. You believe the debt is owed to the government, it is not owed to the government. It is owed to the Federal Reserve Bank. Now, you also believe because the word Federal is used or because the words United States of America is printed on the money of the nation, that it belongs to the government. It doesn't! The Federal Reserve Bank is a private corporation and the government has no authority over its operation. The government pledges to pay the Federal Reserve for the amount of dollars in circulation. That trillion dollar debt we hear about is owed to the bankers who run the Federal Reserve Bank.

The mainstay people of this nation are quiet followers who don't get upset with too many things. They don't sue each other over frivolous matters, they try to raise their kids to respect and accept responsibility and they live their life working. In some cases, they read their Bible daily, but otherwise, they let others do the reading and studying and serious thinking. Wake up! It is you who are the humble, the servants of greatness within this nation. Without the

spark of revival being lead by you, it will never grow and become a consuming passion needed in every heart across the land. Take note, stand up, be counted and pray for this nation and its leaders. Use the authority, and bind and rebuke Satan by the name of Jesus. Encourage each other as you have done, share with your neighbor and love the Lord. Be in humble submission to the guidance you receive from the Holy Spirit and obey God in the manner of worship, praise and thanksgiving. Serve your fellow man with dignity and respect, and teach your children to do the same. Demonstrate to your children the commitment required in a marriage and rest assured there are others who believe as you do, that our Lord is with us. By your quiet manner, others really do want to know how you do it. They will ask. When they do, share your love of Jesus with them and lead them to Christ. Oh! Bless you! May the God of heaven and His son, our High Priest, pour out their blessings upon you.

The Power of Prayer

Electricity is carried through transmission lines. Telephone service is over telephone lines. Modern communications use cellular, satellite, fiber optic and modems for data, voice and digital signals to pass information from one point to another. Some carry few signals, others carry thousands and all are moving at the speed of light, 186,000 miles per second.

Yet, they are as backward as beating on a drum, or early Morse code, when it comes to God's communications system. How about a completely universal, instantaneous system? A communications system in which every living human being is automatically connected at birth. The signals being sent or received are working instantaneously. Think about it! That's over six billion nodes attached to the server, and increasing daily, and the moment a thought is made, it has already arrived at the receiving end.

That is the awesome power of prayer. That is the authority granted when we ask in the name of Jesus. That is the healing grace sent when we pray for others. That is the fragrant perfume we send to heaven when we praise God and thank Him for all He's done for us. Here is the channel our subconscious mind uses to take thought from the dominion of the seen into the dominion of the unseen.

Here rests the culmination of the principles. I said everyone was automatically connected at birth to the server, However it is our salvation through the blood of Jesus, that opens the node for the fullest operation.

I have perceived your question and will answer, when the unbeliever prays, it goes to the same place all prayers go. God is not a respecter of persons and has granted the same connection to each of us. Consider the moment when an unbeliever accepts Jesus, or at that moment when an unbeliever hits bottom and cries out to God for help. Isn't there an answer to those prayers because they were said in faith? Our obedience to God should use the prayer channel daily, and to those strong in faith, almost moment by moment. As we build the other principles, they all blend, connect, interact and gather themselves to this point where we pray for forgiveness, intercession, thanksgiving and more than any other reason, for praising our Lord.

I have said truth would be given to you! You now have the principles of the Kingdom. Walk in light as God intended you to walk. Become the shining light you are and show others truth.

Learning

A Lesson We Don't Learn Well Enough

The man whispered, "God, speak to me!"
and a meadowlark sang.
But the man did not hear.
So the man yelled, "**God, speak to me!**"
and the thunder rolled across the sky.
But the man did not listen.
The man looked around and said,
"God, let me see you" and a star shone brightly.
But the man did not notice.
And the man shouted, "**Show me a miracle!**"
and a life was born.
But the man did not know.
So the man cried out in despair,
"Touch me, God, and let me know that you are here!"
Whereupon God reached down and touched the man.
But the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on.

Don't miss out on the blessing because
it isn't packaged the way you expected.

I've Learned

I've learned-
that we don't have to change friends
if we understand that friends change.

I've learned-
that no matter how good a friend is,
they're going to hurt you every
once in a while and you must forgive
them for that.

I've learned-

that true friendship continues to grow,
even over the longest distance.

Same goes for true love.

I've learned-

that you can do something in an instant
that will give you heartache for life.

I've learned-

that it's taking me a long time
to become the person I want to be.

I've learned-

that you should always leave loved ones
with loving words. It may be the last
time you see them.

I've learned-

that you can keep going
long after you can't.

I've learned-

that we are responsible for what we do,
no matter how we feel.

I've learned-

that either you control your attitude
or it controls you.

I've learned-

that regardless of how hot and
steamy a relationship is at first,
the passion fades and there had
better be something else to take
its place.

I've learned-
that heroes are the people
when it needs to be done,
regardless of the consequences.

I've learned-
that money is a lousy way of keeping score.
that my best friend and I can do anything
or nothing and have the best time.

I've learned-
that sometimes the people you expect
to kick you when you're down,
will be the ones to help you get back up.

I've learned-
that sometimes when I'm angry
I have the right to be angry,
but that doesn't give me
the right to be cruel.

I've learned-
that just because someone doesn't love
you the way you want them to doesn't
mean they don't love you with all they have.

I've learned-
that maturity has more to do with
what types of experiences you've had
and what you've learned from them
and less to do with how many
birthdays you've celebrated.

I've learned-
that it isn't always enough to be
forgiven by others. Sometimes you
have to learn to forgive yourself.

I've learned-

that no matter how bad your heart is broken
the world doesn't stop for your grief.

I've learned-

that our background and circumstances
may have influenced who we are,
but we are responsible for who we become.

I've learned-

that just because two people argue,
it doesn't mean they don't love each other.
And just because they don't argue,
it doesn't mean they do.

I've learned-

that you shouldn't be so eager to find out a
secret. It could change your life forever.

I've learned-

that two people can look at the exact
same thing and see something totally different.

I've learned-

that your life can be changed in a matter of
hours by people who don't even know you.

I've learned-

that even when you think you have no more
to give, when a friend cries out to you
you will find the strength to help.

I've learned-

that credentials on the wall
do not make you a decent human being.

I've learned-

that the people you care about most in life
are taken from you too soon.

These two poems have been received over the Internet. Author Unknown. I thank those who have sent them my way, and I send them your way. I can only ask the Father to bless the ones who wrote these words.

I know the words that I have used throughout these principles are not soft words, they are not delivered in a gentle manner, they silently slap you and upset you. But, I must confess they are what I have received from the Holy Spirit. They are meant to chastise you and cause you to look at yourselves. Oh! If only I could explain the tears, the pain that I go through nightly when the Holy Spirit talks to my spirit. I have trembled, cried, prayed, and even begged. Why me? I kept seeing Moses telling God that he was not the one to go to Pharaoh. But, all the time I was growing, learning, becoming stronger and more confident that what I was seeing, what I was hearing, was all true and that I did possess the knowledge of the Word and was being prepared to be a teacher of truth. Now, it is your time. Our time together is now once again almost gone, the seed has been sown, let our Lord reap a bountiful harvest through you. May your greatness, and God's truth, shine from you, precious child of God.

Another billboard out there says,

“There are many rooms in My mansion. Is yours prepared?”

— God



VQP C



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