

Kingdom News

The Kingdom is Yours; the power is Yours and the glory is Yours, forever.... (Matt. 6:13)

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The Chief Cornerstone



Faith that Sees ...

We walk by faith and not by sight. Why not? Why don't we walk by sight?

According to science,⁽¹⁾ "sight is by far the richest of our senses, and it accounts for around three-quarters of our perceptions."

The human eye, itself, is a miracle of nature and a marvel of science. Indeed, we are fearfully and wonderfully made.⁽²⁾ Metaphorically, as beautiful as the human eye is; it has some built-in limitations or "character flaws." This notwithstanding, we rely heavily on it to guide us through life. There is a sense in which the human eye is a descriptive expression of faith (the eyes of faith). I'll let that settle with you; but we'll come back to this.

As stated, the human eye has built in restraints. It cannot see through walls (for the most part). Its ability to apprehend objects in view has a "line of sight" constraint. Interesting, isn't it. The human can only see in a straight line; and it cannot see through obstacles. It cannot see through (non-transparent) objects. If something is placed in the field of vision of the eye, to

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The Leadership Corner Leadership Living, Inc.

A Remedy for Your Burn-Out

Have you ever felt like giving up, throwing in the towel, or calling it quits? You may wonder why I'm asking this question in the first quarter of the New Year. Wouldn't it be more appropriate to think about this in the third or fourth quarter? Maybe, but the Lord told me to share some information with you about burn-out. So, I suspect He knows that somebody needs to hear it right about now.

You may recall that in the December 2009 and January 2010 newsletters we talked about God accelerating the events in our lives. Specifically, He said He will do in 2010 what would normally take 3, 5, or even 10 years to happen. When He said this I was excited and maybe you were too.

I, however, have begun to notice something strange. In my world I've had several major, seemingly negative events happen pretty close together. I actually had to ask God what was going on. I mean my family has had to face health, financial, and relationship issues all at the same time. Usually God spaces these types of events out, particularly if they are major. So, God had to remind me of what He said about acceleration and what that actually means.

To accelerate means to go faster. If I am driving my car at 20 miles per hour, what happens if I push down on the accelerator? You guessed it! My car starts to go faster. This is what God has been doing in my life. You too may have noticed similar activity in your world.

With that said, it can be quite exhausting to have to deal with multiple major issues all at the same time. Some of you can identify with what we are discussing. Others may not be going as fast right now. But, hold

The Leadership Corner

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Son of My Wisdom



“Hidden in Light and Breath”

All scriptures paraphrased from the KJV

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search it out. This is what Proverbs 25:2 tells us. Now the scriptures also say that *God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.* We find that in 1 John 1:5. Now I have always wondered how God, Who is light, can conceal something. I mean we don't generally think of things being concealed in light. We think of things being concealed in darkness or obscurity. But both are possible.

When I was reminded of a quote from a very obscure movie scene; I recognized the truth of how this happens.

Let me try to recount the scene for you.

Keanu Reeves' character (Constantine) was talking to Rachel Weisz' character (Angela Dodson). Her twin sister had died. Angela suspected that it was murder, though the official story was suicide. The sister had been kept in an asylum for some time because she was keen to supernatural beings, and of course she was thought to be crazy. The two characters were in the deceased sister's old room at the asylum. Constantine was trying in a very odd, even slightly harsh fashion to get Angela to remember something of use for the case. Eventually she walks over to the window (at mid-day) in something of a minor breakdown, saying “I don't know!!!” Then she remembers. “When we were girls ... we would leave each other messages ... in light ... and breath.”

Just then the Lord revealed that this was a truth of untold magnitude. This is the answer of how God,



A Journey to Intimacy

From Servants ... To Sons ... To Spouses

The Role of the Son –

In last month's edition of this column, we noted that “in the Kingdom and in our relationship with our Lord, there are various degrees of intimacy that we may experience. Essentially, they can be loosely categorized as Servants, Sons and Spouses.”

Last month we looked at the role of a servant. This month, we'll look at the role of a son and we'll contrast these two roles. We certainly won't be able to exhaust this opportunity, but we will shed what light we can. Please remember along the way, that our primary focus is our relationship with our heavenly Father. Although we'll use some natural analogies, please let's not allow them to divert our focus.

As I meditated on this discourse, I heard the Lord say, “One does not make himself a son.” The Father makes sons. A servant can choose or be chosen; but a son is conceived, a son is begotten of the Father.

What constitutes son-ship?

Biologically, a son sustains a very different connection to the Father, than that of a servant. The Father acquires servants, but begets sons. For whom the Father did foreknow, He also did predestinate ...⁽¹⁾” There is a sense in which, when a man “knows” a woman (intimately), he “foreknows” the son (child). And at conception, there is a real sense in which the father has predestinated the son. When the seed of the man gives life to the seed of the woman, a new “strand” of DNA comes into being. This DNA in some sense “predestines” the offspring. Within this new strand of DNA, are all the scripts for the physical and biological makeup of the child. The DNA determines everything from the color of the eyes to the shape of the cornea. The DNA scripts the color hair, as well as its texture. Therein is also the script identifying the shape and length of the arms and legs; as well as the exact pigment and thickness of the skin. All of this originating with, or predestined by the activities of the father.

Socially, a servant is a possession or asset to the

Precepts in Practice



Reign – The “How To” *What’s the Plan?*

In our discussion this month let’s go ahead and get the homework assignment taken care of first. Last month many of you completed the assignment by identifying areas of your life that are challenging to yield to God. This was a critical first step.

Now, the second step will be much easier (in some ways). Since you know where your struggle lies, you can make a plan to address it. This may sound too simple to be effective, but it’s really very powerful. You may have heard the saying, “failing to plan is the same as planning to fail.” It is a pretty common cliché. Still, we as Christians don’t often apply it to our spiritual walk with God. Planning is actually a kingdom principle. Tell me, if you can, when God ever did **ANYTHING** without a plan? Even our redemption is called the “Plan of Salvation.”

As part of your plan you will want to determine what you can do to help you yield to God in specific areas of your life. I’ll use myself as an example. God told me that it is important to take care of myself and keep my weight under control. I’ve known this for several years. Still, it’s an area I’ve struggled with on a daily basis. You might call it my “Achilles heel” or the “thorn in my flesh” (the apostle Paul can identify with this).

The fact that it’s a struggle for me to restrain myself when it comes to eating does not relieve me of this duty. God told me to eat healthy and therefore I must obey. But, I really can’t obey...without a plan. Why? My fleshly appetite is unruly. It loves to eat cookies, chocolate, cake, donuts, and ice cream! You name it. If it’s sweet junk food, I’m ready to munch!!! So, here is what I have had to do in order to fulfill God’s requirement for me to obey Him in this area of my life. I follow a strategic game plan. In Romans 8:13 (KJV paraphrased) Paul gave us some insight as to the importance of making a plan to handle the challenging areas of our lives. Scripture says, “If you live after the flesh (fleshly appetites), you shall die; but if you through the Spirit do mortify (put to death) the deeds of the body, you shall live.” In a nutshell, Paul

Precepts in Practice

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Love and The Truth



The Two Become One

We’ve been working our way through two series for about four months now: “*From Root to Fruit*” and “*The Great Why*.” Last month, however, we began to see the two become one new series. There are, I suspect, many lenses through which to see these two as one. We will, though, approach from the vantage point of relationship. This is where we left off last time. We will review some points; then we can continue on.

The foundation from which both of these series are derived is relationship, as stated. In “*The Great Why*” we see that God so loved fallen man, not because man was intrinsically worthy, but because God is love. God is an eternal loving relationship of three Persons: Father, Word, and Holy Spirit. God has given us His image, His likeness, and dominion for the sake of relationship. In “*From Root to Fruit*” we see that man separated himself from the life of that relationship, not considering that his life ultimately is a decoction of the same relationship. Not only is the human life decocted from the communion of God, but it is sustained by the same communion. So we come from the intimacy of God. For God said “Let us make man in our image...”⁽¹⁾ We are created for intimacy with and in God, and we are sustained by intimacy with God.

I want to briefly take a look at something that the Lord showed me about intimacy, and life. We know that the human life is propagated by humans being intimate with humans. Animal life is propagated by animals being intimate with animals. The life of man came originally from intimacy among the Godhead. Notice this however. If you start at the most basic, and move to the most complex life that we know of, then you come to see a pattern. **The higher you go in complexity the more critical is intimacy**, not only in obtaining life, but also in sustaining the life

Love and The Truth

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Boot Camp

Blessing



Series: Worthy is the Lamb - Part 7 of 7 on Revelation 5:12 (KJV).

In last month's edition; the Lord showed us how we give GLORY to the Lamb of God; by being a reflection of God's GLORY upon the earth. This month He'll show us how we give BLESSING to the Lamb, Who is Worthy.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive POWER and RICHES and WISDOM and STRENGTH and HONOR and GLORY and BLESSING (Rev. 5:12 KJV).

The scriptures teach that the blessing of the Lord, makes rich and adds no sorrow with it.⁽¹⁾ There is a sense in which we may also BLESS the Lord.⁽²⁾ But what does that mean to BLESS the Lord? What does it look like?

To bless means to bestow or intend good-will upon one. David said, "I will BLESS the Lord at all times; His praises shall continually be in my mouth."⁽³⁾ How do we learn how to BLESS God?

In the Kingdom, we learn what to do, the same way Jesus learned. He said, I do what I see My Father do.⁽⁴⁾ What do we see the Father doing, in the way of BLESSING?

Well, let's see ... when Moses was teaching Israel the importance of keeping the law, he said that God would BLESS Israel. Moses talked for what seemed like the next couple of hours about how God would BLESS their place of dwelling; fruit of the ground and cattle; their travels; their possessions and investments. God promised to "put to flight" their enemies. God promised to BLESS the works of their hands (I could certainly use some of this right now); and the list goes on.⁽⁵⁾ Borrowing from our Father's queue, we see that these are good things. You know ... to have the BLESSING of God on our land, our possessions, our loved-ones, and our life.

Now, you say, that's all good and well. God has the ability to BLESS us that way. But how does this teach

Living Waters



Riches

Now You See Them; Now You Don't

When you sit to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before you: and put a knife to your throat, if you are a man given to appetite. Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat. Labor not to be rich: cease from your own wisdom. Will you set your eyes upon that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.⁽¹⁾

When you find yourself in the presence of person of great wealth and power; give diligent, godly consideration to what you see. Be more ready to commit suicide than to be lead astray by your appetite.⁽²⁾ Be so judicious over your appetite, desires and passions for these "riches;" as to be more willing to give your life, then to set your sights on earthly wealth and riches as a goal. Don't desire what he has; his dainty possessions are mere "smoke and mirrors." Do not expend your time and energy in an effort to become rich. Trust in the Lord and lean not to your own understanding. Stop following after your own wisdom: for it is but the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Where is the true wisdom in setting your sights; or having as your goal to achieve that which cannot be achieved? These earthly riches are elusive.⁽³⁾ They are but carrots dangled by the enemy to distract you from the high call of God in Christ Jesus.⁽⁴⁾ Do not store up for yourself earthly riches; where moth and rust corrupt. Where thieves and inflation break through and steal them.⁽⁵⁾ They do not make one truly rich. Earthly riches are that which seems to promise what it cannot deliver. It was only an illusion of that which is.

Kingdom riches are quite different from earthly

some degree, the eye must focus on it either directly or peripherally. Other constraints that the human eye has is that its ability to see (apprehend objects) diminishes over time. And often we cannot tell the degrees of visual degradation, until we have our eyes tested.

Another short-coming of the human eye is that it can *only* “visually apprehend” an object. However, it cannot interpret what it visually apprehends. Example: If someone were to show you a foreign fruit/vegetable from the southern regions of Africa. You may be able to visually apprehend it and you may be able to somewhat describe it. But most likely you won’t be able to identify it. Also very likely you would not be able to tell (by looking) whether or not it is fit for consumption.

As long as the eyes are open, there are degrees to which they cannot control what they see. If an object somehow comes into its field of vision, the eye must apprehend it.

The eye, while itself a biological miracle, is dependent upon a host of other systems and organs to complete its tasks. The eye apprehends an image or object. The optical nerves transmit this visual image from the retina to the visual cortex region of the brain. The brain is the center of control. The mind is the interpreter of the visual image. There are other helpers along the way. But for the most part, without the brain and the mind, the eye could be regarded as a pretty useless member of the body.

Faith is the “eye of the spirit.” It is that which enables us to “see” the truths of God. By faith, we see (gain access) to the spiritual realm; similar to the method by which the eye sees in the natural realm. We experience an event or situation; the eye of faith apprehends the matter and consults with the Word of God. The Word helps us identify what we see and how we ought to respond to it.

Caveat: For the sake of this discourse, the term “faith” represents ONLY trust in God. All other types of faith are excluded (i.e., faith in one’s self; faith in other people, places or things, etc.).

The natural eye sometimes apprehends an object or image, for which the brain has no means of identification. Here we say that we do not have a “frame of reference.” The same thing happens in the spiritual realm. We find ourselves in a situation, and

without certain knowledge of the scriptures, we lack a frame of reference for what we are experiencing. This is why it is imperative for us to become intimate with the Word of God. Because we can ill-afford to experience things in life for which the spiritual eye, has no frame of reference. Absent a spiritual frame of reference we experience frustration. We often make bad decisions and take unfruitful actions.

Example: You go into work and a colleague or client of yours is being uncharacteristically unpleasant. Without the proper frame of reference (lacking a knowledge of the Word); you may return this behavior “in-kind.” And be equally unpalatable. Contrariwise, with a proper frame of reference you identify this person’s behavior as resulting from disappointment or fear.⁽³⁾ With that, you understand the proper response to be compassion and grace. You also understand that the scriptures teach that we are to treat others the way we want to be treated. The Word thus establishes a proper frame of reference for our behavior.

Faith is a confidence in a person or thing because of the qualities one perceives or seems to perceive in him or it.⁽⁴⁾ There is a sense in which “faith” is a confidence based on perception (or an ability to “see”). “Faith” in the scriptural sense, is the ability to trust God. This trust is predicated on one’s ability to “see” or perceive that God is both trustworthy and that what He has said ... is ... so (all evidence to the contrary).

Faith and the natural eye are *similar* in that they both require light to see. For the most part, we grasp that the natural eye receives light for the environment. The eyes of faith receive light from the word of God.

While the eye is the light of the body;⁽⁵⁾ the commandment of the Lord is the light of the eye.⁽⁶⁾ It is the commandment of God or what God declares that fashions what the eyes of faith see.

How is it that the commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes of faith? Isaiah (55:11) teaches that the words of God (commandments) shall accomplish or make manifest exactly what God declares. This is what the eyes of faith see. Faith sees nothing otherwise, and it sees nothing else. This is how faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not yet visible in the natural realm.⁽⁷⁾ The

Lord has declared some things. Faith receives its light from the Word of God. What God has said, is what faith sees. The heart then hopes for (or reaches after) the full manifest expression of the things that God has declared. We hope for that which is not yet visually manifest; therefore do we with patience wait for it.⁽⁸⁾

Essentially, faith sees only that which “IS.” Faith does not see that which “IS NOT.” Faith sees what God has said or commanded.

Example: We talked about some of the constraints of the natural human eye (and the function of sight). Let’s look at it this way. If you are standing outside, looking down the street in anticipation of someone’s arrival. You then see them coming up the walk way. While you are watching, someone else walks up and places an object in front of you that occupies your entire field of vision. Without thinking your eyes adjust your sight to then focus on the object in view. It’s a natural occurrence; it is not necessary that you recalculate the distance between you and the near object; and then adjust your sight. It happens automatically. The algorithm that facilitates the recalculation is already scripted in your biological makeup. And so we see that there is a sense in which the eye is “forced” to refocus on the object or situation that occupies its view.

On the other hand, the eyes of faith are not so constrained. The eyes of faith are not forced to focus on any particular objects or situations. The eyes of faith may choose its object of focus. If at your place of employment, layoffs are likely to occur. Your natural eyes may be forced to focus on the elevated stress levels in the environment. However, the eyes of faith may elect to refocus on the fact that “all things work together for good, to those who love the Lord;” or the fact that King David said that “he’s never seen the righteous forsaken....⁽⁹⁾”

Your heart may be burdened with a particular situation that you are currently experiencing. Your natural eyes may be obliged to focus on the events at hand. But your eyes of faith may override the situation and see that “these light afflictions which are but for a moment, are working in us a more exceeding weight

of glory;” or you may see that we ought to glory in tribulations, because tribulations works in us patience; and patience gives birth to experience; and that experience gives rise to hope.⁽¹⁰⁾” The eyes of faith see that we ought not to be ashamed of hoping in God.

Faith and the natural eye are *dissimilar* in that faith sees differently. There are characteristics of the way faith sees; that are uncommon to the way that the natural eye sees. There is a sense in which faith sees “coming and going” (if I may express it that way). On the one hand, faith apprehends a situation or thing and relays it to the “spirit” which refers to the Word of God for investigation and identification. Here the image comes first, and is identified secondarily. But **unlike** the natural eye, faith has the ability to see only what it has been conditioned to see. Here faith imposes identification onto the images it apprehends. As we become more intimate with the Word of God, faith imposes “truth” upon the world around us. What used to look like a problem; now looks like a blessing. Whereas we used to question the faithfulness of God; we now understand all things as being a natural outworking of the faithfulness of God, in our lives.

The just most certainly shall live by faith.⁽¹¹⁾ Faith sees God. Faith does not see the problem, faith sees the solution. Faith does not see the misery; faith sees the ministry.

It has been said that “seeing is believing.” While that may be somewhat valid in the earth; it most certainly is not the case in the Kingdom. In the Kingdom, sight *does not* produce faith; faith produces sight.

In the Kingdom it is our faith that sees. <>CC<>

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)

⁽¹⁾ A Visual Guide to the Human Body, John O.E. Clark, consultant editor, 1989 by Marshall Editions Ltd. p253

⁽²⁾ Psalm 139:14

⁽³⁾ Proverb 13:12

⁽⁴⁾ The New Lexicon Webster’s Dictionary of the English Language, 1972

⁽⁵⁾ Matthew 6:22

⁽⁶⁾ Psalm 19:8b

⁽⁷⁾ Hebrews 11:1

⁽⁸⁾ Romans 8:25

⁽⁹⁾ Romans 8:28; Psalm 37:25

⁽¹⁰⁾ Romans 5:3-5

⁽¹¹⁾ Habakkuk 2:4; Rom. 1:17

on, the accelerator is being pressed little by little in your lives, as well.

Have you found yourself asking God, “What in the world is going on?” Have you been feeling mentally, physically, or emotionally exhausted because of the faster speed? If so, I have a word of encouragement for you...

Continue to be faithful during this time because the harvest is within your reach!

Often we have to go through several trying events to get to specific rewards. Well, because God has pressed the accelerator, you and I are experiencing these trying events much closer together. Oh, but wait... this also means that the blessings will come sooner than normal also.

In Joel 2:23-25 (KJV paraphrased) the prophet is encouraging the people of God by letting them know how the Lord planned to bless them. As they walked in obedience through the trying times, God promised to accelerate their harvest. He said He would give them the former (early) and the latter (later) rain all in the first month.

Understand that farmers need both types of rain to produce healthy crops. The former rain gets the germination process started. Then, the latter rain brings about the full ripeness of the produce. God promised to speed up the entire process (by giving the former and latter rain in the first month) so they would receive a bountiful harvest much sooner than normal.

Can you see the connection? Yes, we have had to face multiple challenges at the same time. But, this was only to get us to our harvest more quickly than naturally possible. So, if you have been feeling a little weary or suffering from burn-out, take a deep breath. Recommit to stay the course and keep the faith. The harvest ***IS*** within your reach.

And, as the prophet Joel implied, “God will restore the years that had seemingly been lost.” You will not only recover what was lost, you will also gain – this year – what would normally take several years to accomplish! Bless the Holy God!

Ok, let’s keep going! ~LLI~

Joyce M. White, MSW

Leadership Living, Inc., Joyce M. White, MSW – CEO
For additional information leadershiplivinginc@yahoo.com

Who is light, could conceal things. Consider, when you walk into a completely dark room you can’t see a thing. But also consider that if you walked into a room that was as bright as the dark room was dark then you’d be equally incapable of seeing. Now this “blindness” would result from light rather than darkness; but you’d be absolutely “blind” nonetheless. So that answers the first question of how something can be “hidden in light.”

But there is another question: what does it mean to hide something in breath, and how does God do it? This second question is answered more clearly in scripture.

First we need to know what “breath” really means. Both the Hebrew and Greek words for ‘breath’ also mean ‘spirit.’ God hides, for us, things in the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:14 tells us that *the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them.* It is the very nature of man that the things of the Spirit cannot be perceived by him, unless the Spirit of God resides in him, and is revealing them to him. God doesn’t have to do anything covert to conceal those things which are hidden in the Spirit. It is an effect of the nature of man that precludes him from ascertaining spiritual truths. Of things hidden in the Spirit of God, only those things revealed by the Spirit can be known of man.

So then we see two levels of concealment.

First we have light. If a person walks in darkness, those things in the light are to him concealed. However let’s say that this man does an “about face” and establishes a relationship with God; begins to obey the commandments. There are things that will be revealed to him just by walking in the light of God, which is to say the truth of God. There are then increasing degrees of clarity and light that he may experience just by bringing himself in accordance with the truth available to him.

If we walk in the light we shall more clearly see light. For the Psalms (36:9) tell us that *In Thy light we shall see light.* It is the case that as we accord

with light that we can further recognize light. It is not the blind person that sees how bright the room is. It is the person with sight that sees how much light is in the room. Furthermore, the person with the best vision can most clearly see how much light is in the room. The more your eyes adapt to the light, the more clearly you can see.

However, the degree to which we are able to see in the light is directly related to the degree to which we walk in the light. Spiritually your eyes are in some sense tied to your doing. If God has hidden for us messages in “light and breath,” then the scriptures say just what we would expect.

*If we **walk in the light**, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin* (1 John 1:7).

Walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8).

Also says the word, walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5:16).

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:25).

Let us therefore walk in the light, as children of light, and let us walk in the spirit. Let us separate ourselves from the unfruitful works of darkness, and the dead works of the flesh. -SOMW-

David L. White

UNDERSTANDING



Prayer is the perfect example of all love, truth and righteousness. Love is prayer’s motive; truth is its expression and righteousness is its goal.

Ray C Stedman
Sermon: *Praying Boldly*



master; whereas a son is an extension of the father. When a servant is present, the estate of the Master is represented. But when a son is present the very person of the father, himself, is represented. Jesus told Philip, “when you see Me, you see the Father.”⁽²⁾

What is the role of a son?

The role of a son is to carry on the father’s legacy. In some sense a son “immortalizes the father.” We see one expression of the father, in the image of the father himself. We see yet another expression of a father in the image of his son; and various expressions of the father across many sons. To some degree, we see why the Lord admonishes fathers (parents) to be diligent in the training of the child; because the son (child) is an expression of the father. For this same reason, we see that our Father has made an enormous investment in our son-ship.⁽³⁾

Why the role of a son is to be preferred to that of a servant?

We’ll address that question shortly, but first let’s disclaim a subsequent consideration. **Is there something wrong with being a servant?** A-b-s-o-l-u-t-e-l-y not. Follow me please. Before we receive the Lordship of Jesus Christ; we are slaves to sin. Then, when we enter the Kingdom of our Lord, we enter as servants.⁽⁴⁾ Upon entry, there is much that we do not know: such as, our roles and responsibilities as a servant. And much of what we don’t know, we don’t know *that* we don’t know: such as, the Master’s provision for the servant.

As disclosed in the parable:⁽⁵⁾ *He who knows not and knows not that he knows not is a child, teach him.* There are areas of our lives where we are “children.” So too, are there areas of our lives where we are “servants.” A child is liken to a servant, in his infancy.⁽⁶⁾ During this time the child is unaware of its position of son-ship, and needs to be taught.

So to answer the subsequent question above: it is no more wrong to be a servant than it is to be a child. EXCEPT ... in the cases when you ought to be teachers, but still require teaching.⁽⁷⁾

Now regarding the initial question above: *Why we are to prefer the role of a son, to that of a servant?* If there’s nothing wrong with being a servant, why should we prefer to be a son? This is a valid question;

now allow me to attempt to give a “valid” response. Nature teaches us that a child is a gift, a beautiful, precious gift, indeed ... for the first ... so many years ... of its life. B-U-T there comes a time in the life of a child, when it must put away childish things;⁽⁸⁾ and assume the role and responsibilities of “son-ship.”

Caveat: Please understand that the uses of the term “sons” in these discourses are “pre-feminist” era. The term “sons” includes daughters. Just like the term “bride” as referring to the body of Christ, includes “men.” So we won’t trifle with semantics. Agreed?

In the Kingdom, there comes a time in the life of a servant when he should put off the role of a servant; and assume the role of a son. Now while it is the responsibility of the servant to desire son-ship; it is the work of the Father to make sons. And it is the role of the Spirit to mature, sanctify a servant into son-ship. It is the Spirit, who works in us to will and to do according to the Lord’s good pleasure.⁽⁹⁾ As we, through the Spirit, grow in the things of God, and put on the Lord Jesus Christ;⁽¹⁰⁾ we mature into sons.

The “servant” is *taught* the ways of the Master’s house. The “son” is *taught* the ways of the Father.

Servant-hood is a relationship, wherein we learn humility and obedience. Son-ship is a relationship where we learn dominion and authority.

Previously, in identifying the role of a servant, we said that “the role of a servant is to increase the estate and welfare of his master; and that with his very life.” Remember we’re focusing specifically on our relationship to God. In this same vein, what would we say of the role of a son? If I may, the role of a son is to extend and perpetuate the name of the father.⁽¹¹⁾ And in that sense immortalize the heritage of the father.

If we drink the sincere milk of the Word, as servants; then we can handle the strong meat of the Word, as sons.⁽¹²⁾

The servant is *in* the house; the son is *over* the house; but the house *belongs* to the spouse.⁽¹³⁾ Next edition, we’ll see some of the roles of the spouse. -JTI-

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, SMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.

- ⁽¹⁾ Romans 8:29
- ⁽²⁾ John 14:7-9 paraphrased
- ⁽³⁾ John 3:16; Hebrews 2:10; 1 John 3:1
- ⁽⁴⁾ February 2010 edition, *Journey to Intimacy* column
- ⁽⁵⁾ December 2009 edition, *Journey to Intimacy* column
- ⁽⁶⁾ Galatians 4:1-7
- ⁽⁷⁾ Hebrews 5:12-14
- ⁽⁸⁾ 1 Corinthians 13:11
- ⁽⁹⁾ Philippians 2:13
- ⁽¹⁰⁾ Romans 13:12; Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 4:21-32; Colossians 3:8-10
- ⁽¹¹⁾ Genesis 38:8-9; Ruth 4:5, 10
- ⁽¹²⁾ 1 Peter 2:2
- ⁽¹³⁾ Revelation 3:21

Precepts in Practice

Continued from page 3

was telling us to determine what we need to do to keep the flesh from doing what it wants to. If we learn to conquer our flesh, we will be able to follow God’s instructions more closely.

Now, let me get back to my plan to keep myself from eating everything in sight. When I asked God to help me with this issue, He walked me through the following steps. He had me think about what tempts me, when I’m tempted most, when I’m not tempted, and how to take practical steps to manage this cycle.

Doing this assessment helped me realize that I eat the most at night. During the day I do not like to feel full or eat a lot of junk food. I also noticed that the earlier in the day I allow myself to eat junk food, the earlier I begin to want more of it. Further, I know I am lazy. I eat whatever I have available to me. If I don’t have a particular food item (healthy or not), I won’t go buy it. Finally, I eat more when I don’t have to be accountable for what I eat.

Armed with this information, here is the plan God helped me to create.

- 1.) Plan ahead of time the food I will eat for the week and buy it when I go grocery shopping. This way, I have healthy food available.
- 2.) Make a meal plan for myself each day before I eat *anything*. I plan what I will eat at the

beginning of the day. This keeps me accountable during the day, as I refer to my plan.

- 3.) Reserve enough calories to eat some junk food at night after dinner (I keep approximately 600 to 700 calories open for the evening – out of a total of 1,400 daily calories – on average). This way, I don't feel deprived. Once my work day is done, after dinner I can eat a few cookies, some popcorn, or some ice cream.

This plan works well for me. I simply had to commit to follow it. God said, "Joyce, now that I've given you a plan that works, if you do not follow it, you are being willfully disobedient." When He said that, I realized that it would no longer be an issue of struggling with my flesh. Instead, it would be an issue of willful disobedience if I *chose* not to follow His plan (that has proven to work for me).

So, there you have it. Each person is responsible to ask God to help them create a plan to address the challenges they face. God is faithful and He **WILL** help us to do what we are not able to do on our own. We, then, are left to determine if we will be faithful to follow His plan.

Ok, now it's time to make *Your* plan!

God is waiting for you to bring your issues to Him.
~PIP~

Joyce M. White, MSW – CEO Leadership Living, Inc.

of the being.

If you look at simple celled organisms, you will see that at their most basic level they divide their material in half. They don't incubate, there is no gestation as in higher life, and they don't sustain the new life thereafter.

Then as you move higher you see, in more complex organisms, reproduction by way of duplicating first, dividing into two. There is a bit of incubation (while chromosomes are duplicating within the original) which is more intimate (albeit "chromosomal intimacy") than simply dividing in half.

Higher still, more than just incubation, you see gestation. The animal has to carry an embryo to term. There is more of an intimate relationship between the progenitor and its posterity. The fetus actually grows and matures inside the parent.

As we look at even more complex life forms we see that there is in them duplication, incubation, gestation, and something more, something greater. Many animals, particularly mammals, raise their children. It seems that generally the more complex the life, the longer the parent raises the child. In human life we raise the child usually well beyond what we call childhood, and the relationship generally continues.

So we see that the more complex the life, the more dependent it is upon various degrees of intimacy. Therefore it seems that the most complex earthly life form should be even more dependent, both upon more intimacy, and more types of intimacy. Indeed, we can see that this is the case. Between reproduction and existence, we humans depend upon a great abundance of intimacies, some of which are as follows: chromosomal/genetic, fetal/parental, familiar, communal, relational, physical, sexual, emotional, corporate, academic, social, and spiritual. I'm sure that this list is greater; this was just to "whet your whistle" as they say.

All of nature tells, screams, yea yells God's revelation of Himself to man. Indeed the rocks

WISDOM



It is said that "nature abhors a vacuum."
So if you move out, He'll move in.

JoAnn C. White



cry out. God has shown through categorical differentiations of life that where there is an increase in complexity of life, there is a corresponding increase in the complexity of intimacy.

Therefore the amount and type of intimacy that is necessary to sustain the Christian life, or as the scriptures say “the new man,” (which is the most complex form of life) is greater than we can conceive. Indeed this communion is integral to and part of the very nature of Christian life. It is as if spiritual communion with God is like metabolic communication within the physical body. Think of the communion of truth as the metabolism of nutrients. For, as Jesus says ⁽²⁾ “my meat is to do the will of Him that sent me.” It is substance to the Christian humanity (the new man) to accomplish the will of God. This is what it means to be the glory of God. For man is the glory of God.⁽³⁾

Essentially the point is this. In the very nature of God there is a tri-Personal relationship. That relationship is also at the very heart of (the new man). Insofar as we take part in that relationship, we are transformed into the image of Christ. Conversely, if we rejected that relationship we would be conformed to the image of the world. Wherefore the word says “Be no conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”⁽⁴⁾

We will continue to explore the Trinity of the Godhead, and see what all can be known of God, humanity, and all reality by way of this relationship. We will also explore what this teaches us about relationship, both our relationship with God, and our relationship with others. -LATT-

David L. White

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)

- ⁽¹⁾ Genesis 1:26
- ⁽²⁾ John 4:34
- ⁽³⁾ 1 Corinthians 11:7
- ⁽⁴⁾ Romans 12:2

us how to **BLESS** the Lamb of God? Well, allow me to share my understanding of it. In the office, when I want to “**BLESS**” or reward someone on my team, I ask this question. “What matters most ... to them?” I wouldn’t want to reward/ **BLESS** someone monetarily, when what matters most to them is a better work/life balance. I hear you saying, “JoAnn, I don’t know that you’re talking about; money *ALWAYS* works for me.” I can respect that, the scriptures do say that money answers all things.⁽⁶⁾ Personally, a few extra dollars wouldn’t matter to me if you’re working me 24/7/365. This of course explains the reason for the question, “What matters most ... **to them**?” This is the first thing I want to discern, before attempting to be a **BLESSING** to someone.

And so we ask this question of God. “Lord, we want to bless You; what matters most ... *to You*?”

Now you can elect to decide on God’s behalf, what matters to Him. I wouldn’t advise it, though. Paul said, when instructing the church at Corinth;⁽⁷⁾ “Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, prophesy, understand all mysteries, have all knowledge; have mountain-moving faith; give all my possession to feed the poor or give my body to be burned; it would all be a waste of time.” These things don’t carry as much weight as we think, with God.

The Son of man came to seek and save that which was lost.⁽⁸⁾ How exactly? L-O-V-E. Imagine that, the whole sum and substance of the work of Calvary and indeed the plan of salvation is expressed in one word “**LOVE**.” Love fulfills the law and ordinances of God.⁽⁹⁾ Love is the social and economic climate of the Kingdom. God is Love.⁽¹⁰⁾ So we begin to see what “matters most” to God. God cares about the souls of men, He loves them. He made them for Himself.

Quick question: Wouldn’t it **BLESS** you if your spouse (or significant other) cared about the things that mattered most to you? Likewise, we can **BLESS** the Lord, by caring about the things that He cares about. For God so loved the souls of men, that Calvary is a very prominent and permanent historical event in our time. We can show that we care about the things that God cares about, by taking the things that He has blessed us with and using them to express the love of God to others. Others will see your works of love and glorify your Father in heaven⁽¹¹⁾ and thus **BLESS** the Lamb. =BC=

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)

- (1) Proverb 10:22
- (2) Psalm 103:1, 20-22; 104:1
- (3) Psalm 34:1
- (4) John 5:17, 19
- (5) Deut. 28:1-13; Psalm 1:1-3
- (6) Ecclesiastes 10:19
- (7) 1 Corinthians. 13:1-3
- (8) Matthew 18:11; Luke 19:10
- (9) Romans 13:10
- (10) 1 John 4:8
- (11) Matthew 5:16

riches. This is why you often see the scriptures contrasting them. They each have two different price tags and their respective return on investment (ROI) is considerably different, as well.

Riches		
	Earthly	Kingdom
	Matthew 16:26; Luke 18:24-25	Matthew 5:6; 6:33
Cost:	One's Soul	A hunger and thirst for righteousness
ROI:	Earthly riches cannot make you truly rich; nor can it secure the eternal disposition of your soul.	Not only will you become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, but the resources of this world will be at your disposal, too.

True, kingdom riches are life and liberty. The gift of reconciliation is the unsearchable riches of Christ.⁽⁶⁾ For it makes available to us the whole treasury of the Kingdom. There is no fathoming the depths of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God.⁽⁷⁾

The scriptures teach that we are to lay up for ourselves heavenly treasures that are safe and incorruptible.⁽⁸⁾

earthly riches necessitates an entanglement with the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches and the lusts of other things, which chokes the Word and renders it unfruitful. (An expanded rendition of Proverb 23:1-5 KJV) *LW*

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

2/20/10 9:45AM

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)

- (1) Proverb 23:1-5 adapted
- (2) Daniel 1:5, 8
- (3) 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- (4) Mark 10:21-23; Philippians 3:7-16
- (5) Matthew 6:19; Revelation 18:17
- (6) 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Ephesians 3:8
- (7) Romans 11:33
- (8) Matthew 6:20

KNOWLEDGE



There is a sense in which we don't even really know that God exists until He begins to transact in our lives.

There we begin to see His footprints and fingerprints.

Likewise, we cannot really be sure that we are real with Him, until we begin to transact in His life.

JoAnn C. White
Given: 1/29/10



❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone



There is a sense in which the human eye is a descriptive expression of faith (the eyes of faith). I'll let that settle with you; but we'll come back to this.

Son of My Wisdom



We find that in 1 John 1:5. Now I have always wondered how God, Who is light, can conceal something. I mean we don't generally think of things being concealed in light.

Precepts in Practice



You may have heard the saying, "failing to plan is the same as planning to fail." It is a pretty common cliché. Still, we as Christians don't often apply it to our spiritual walk with God. Planning is actually a kingdom principle.

Boot Camp



The Son of man came to seek and save that which was lost.⁽⁸⁾ How exactly? L-O-V-E. Imagine that, the whole sum and substance of the work of Calvary and indeed the plan of salvation is expressed in one word "LOVE."

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Leadership Corner

Have you found yourself asking God, "What in the world is going on?" Have you been feeling mentally, physically, or emotionally exhausted because of the faster speed? If so, I have a word of encouragement for you...

Journey to Intimacy



As I meditated on this discourse, I heard the Lord say, "One does not make himself a son." The Father makes sons. A servant can choose or be chosen; but a son is conceived, a son is begotten of the Father.

Love and the Truth



If you start at the most basic, and move to the most complex life that we know of, then you come to see a pattern. **The higher you go in complexity the more critical is intimacy**, not only in obtaining life, but also in sustaining the life of the being.

Living Waters



Kingdom riches are quite different from earthly riches. This is why you often see the scriptures contrasting them. They each have two different price tags and their respective return on investment (ROI) is considerably different, as well.

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