

Son of My Wisdom



The Logos of God

In this article I am hoping to talk about what is the Word of God, and what are some things we need to know about it. This task is daunting to say the least. I'm sure that even as I sense some of the immensity of this task I still don't fully recognize it. I see no greater place to start than St. John 1:1: In the beginning was the *Logos*, and the *Logos* was with God, and the *Logos* was God. What do I say to illuminate something of the gravity of this verse? I wonder if other's see this verse as I see it. It has this weighty feel as if it sheds light on all of scripture. I mean, it carries with it a certain glory. There is this feel of paradox, yet not so much as to be contradictory. To be, and to be with, sound mutually exclusive. How is the Word *with* God if the Word *is* God? We are peering into an expression of the mystery of the Godhead. Furthermore, God has figuratively transferred this mystery to man. Eve was with Adam, and Eve was Adam. That is for a later time though.

For now God, Behold He speaks. But our God is also that which He speaks. So then, He speaks, and He is spoken. He thinks, and He is thought. He wills, and He is willed. The Logos has been explained as the thought, word and will of God [thought/word/deed]. All that is done by God is done by His *Logos*. The *Logos*, we find, is personal. That is, the word is not simply proclaimed, but begotten as the Son of God. He does not simply come forth from the 'mind' of God. In fact He is the mind of God which comes forth from the very bowels of God, from the very nature of God. He is begotten, but being eternal there is no point at which we can say He **was** begotten; only that eternally He **is** begotten.

We go further to see that He, that is begotten, became flesh and dwelled among us ^(John 1:15) He is the brightness of God's glory; He is God's perfect self expression. All that God gives of Himself is in



A Journey to Intimacy

The Life of Manna

Living Hand-to-Mouth

This month I'm going to say some things that will possibly raise a few eye brows. That's fine. Let's disclaim this piece "right out of the gate."

DISCLAIMER: If what is said has been given by God, then He'll follow it up with signs and wonders at His discretion. If not then may it "die the death of a thousand criticisms." If we repeat what we've heard God say, then God be glorified and His majestic name be exalted. If on the other hand, He has not sanctioned what is said, then I will take "my foot out of my mouth" and beg your pardon on the way out. Is that okay?

Why so much preparation? ... Because what is being said will "fly in the face" of our pop-psychology and our pop-Christianity; I want us to be prepared.

In our other teaching sessions my sister and I have a phrase we use. It is this: "We'll just throw this out there and if you don't like it, you can always throw it back."

This is the gist of it, surprisingly it is popular to teach that God has promised us a chicken in every pot, 1.5 cars in every garage (my apologies to those who do not currently have a garage). But if memory serves, that promise was part of someone's Presidential campaign speech. I do not believe it is a scriptural promise. Unwittingly we are still seeking the rainbow's end; which of course will distract us from what God intends.

In the year 2011 we are called to render to God the things that are God's.

One of the many things that belong to God is our *allegiance*. In the Kingdom, our Sovereign is preparing us for what amounts to a "*Life of Manna*." In short, the *Life of Manna* is a way of life, lived (as it were) "eating out of the Hand of God." Now before you drop the newsletter and take off running in another direction, hear us out on this. He's preparing

Precepts in Practice



Of My Own Free Will

As an adjunct professor at the University of Phoenix, I teach Human Services Management classes. My students often are “non-traditional” or older adults. They have usually been out of high school for ten or more years. They’ve decided to pursue their educational goals (many times) after having tried numerous ventures that were not satisfying.

I’ve discovered that there is a marked difference between people who go to college right out of high school because someone told them they should versus people who attend college later in life because they freely choose to. Older adults are generally characterized by an inner drive to achieve their educational goals (finally). No one has to tell them to study or do their homework. I don’t have to “fight” with them to turn in their work. We also don’t go through long discussions of “why” they have to do a particular assignment.

Younger students straight out of high school, in general, don’t display a seriousness that is necessary to engage effectively and meaningfully in coursework and class discussions, at least, in the first few college terms. This is one reason why many colleges “don’t count” the grades freshmen and sophomores get. They know many young students tend to “play” their first few semesters.

This speaks (in one sense) to the difference between immature “mandated” students and mature “willing” students. When people feel they are being “forced” to do something, their heart may not be fully committed. On the other hand, when people make decisions “of their own free will” they tend to be “in it, to win it.”

As believers, we may find ourselves on either side of this road (mandated or willing) as we go through life. There are times when God wants us to do a particular thing that we pretty much agree with. Let’s say for example, God told me to not spend time cooking dinner every night. Instead, He wants me to chat with my husband about cooking once per week. I would cook enough to last maybe three or four days. Then, my husband and I would eat sandwiches or something else until it is time for me to cook again.

I’ve got to tell you that I would not have any problem with this directive. Why? Because I truly do not like to cook. In my home my husband and I actually do the “once per week cooking thing.” We agreed on it years ago and it works well for us.

Now, let’s say God decided (for some strange reason) to tell me tomorrow that I should go back to cooking dinner for my husband seven days a week. Can I just tell you that while my

Love and *The Truth*



The Secret Life of a Christian II

The LORD is gracious to us.

He has revealed to us the secret of the Christian life, which is that fundamentally the Christian life is secret. It is lived in secret; it is rewarded in public. It is planted in the unseen; it is manifest in the seen. It is nurtured before God; it grows before all.

We shall explore what else is conveyed in saying that the Christian life is **fundamentally** secret. A major part of my understanding of the secrecy of the Christian life began while reading this scripture in Matt 6.

(v19) Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust do corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: (v 20) but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust do corrupt, nor do thieves break through and steal: (v 21) For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

This is where I began to understand the secrecy of the Christian life. The secret is not in the heart, as much so as it is in the treasures. Look closely; the odd thing about verse 21 is that the heart follows the treasures, not the other way around. It seems that we are inclined to think that the treasures find a place in our heart. Not so, in fact, our heart finds its place where our treasures are. Not only that, but our heart also conforms us into to the nature of our treasures. Those things which we follow after, and those things which we continue to do, to say, and to think, those things shape not only *who* we are, but *how* we are.

Again this doctrine is expressed in Romans 6:16: *Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience*



Boot Camp

Public Enemy #1 - *The Flesh*



Part 3 – The Human Spirit

Throughout the balance of this series, we intend the following (in no particular order):

- ❖ We will rediscover the faculties of the *human spirit*
- ❖ We will revisit the relationship between the *soul* and the *flesh*
- ❖ We will receive illumination on the *human spirit* and its relation to the *Spirit of God*
- ❖ We will expose the relationship between the *human spirit*, the *soul* and the *flesh*
- ❖ The Lord will teach us how He intends for the *human spirit* to mentor and lead the *soul* (you will NOT want to miss this topic)

Last month we talked about the *soul* and its faculties and their respective functions. It was a sobering look *inward*. This month, with our eyes still focused *inward*, we will rediscover the *human spirit*.

What are some things that it would be helpful to know about the human spirit?

- 1) The human spirit is not the same as the Spirit of God; although the Spirit of God does communicate with our human spirits. (Romans 8:16)
- 2) The human *spirit* and the human *soul* are not the same; although they work very closely together. And they, along with the body, represent the whole of man. Sometimes there is confusion regarding the spirit and soul, because they are both non-physical entities of our being. Each can be called “spiritual” in nature. If not properly so referenced they can inadvertently be used interchangeably. Nevertheless, they are not the same. The scriptures distinguish between them.
- 3) The human spirit was *given* by God; whereas the human soul was created and the body as formed. Here is a peculiar bit of news: we are the Bride of Christ. And we have something old ... something new ... and

Living Waters



The Bane of Individualism

An “I” for an “I”

Other sheep I have which are not of this fold, them also I must bring and there shall be one fold and One Shepherd.

... one fold, and One Shepherd.

You’ll remember the parable about the one sheep that got lost. And the shepherd left the other 99 sheep and went to get that one. ⁽¹⁾ Aaawww!

There are many truths as to why the Shepherd went to get the one sheep. Often we put the emphasis on the “lost-ness” of the sheep, which does tell of an important truth. This month, however, we’re focusing on the “alone-ness” of that sheep.

One vital truth is that sheep are not very bright, without a shepherd. Sheep are dangerous when they are by themselves. They are as much a danger to themselves as they are endangered by predators. The success rate of sheep and their longevity is greatly increased when they are together and under a shepherd.

Today, we pride ourselves on our “individualism.” We pride ourselves on *our* “I am-ness.” In the world, that may be okay; because it flows from the Spirit of the Age. This concept of alone-ness and “I am-ness” does not exist, among the citizens of the Kingdom. In the Kingdom, we are a royal *priesthood* and a holy *nation*. We are not a bunch of individuals trying to get to heaven the best way we know how.

The language of this world’s system is “every man for himself.” This is 180 degree departure from the Way of the Kingdom. The language of the Kingdom is:

- By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, that you love one another. ⁽²⁾
- Let every man seek another’s wealth and not his own. ⁽³⁾
- If you see your brother overtaken in a fault, you who are spiritually mature, restore him to God. ⁽⁴⁾
- If two walk together, and one fall down, the other can help him up.

The bane of individualism is its deception. A person who operates as an individual is an easier prey for the enemy, then one who operates as a part of a body. We were created for relationships of all types both vertical and horizontal. One reason for this is because of the inherent nature of “love” is that it gives and flows, first upward and then

Special Edition



All Disobedience is a Stumbling Block - Part 2

This is going to be a very difficult sharing...it is more a testimony and resulting revelation than anything else. It will take a moment to build the framework, so please bear with me.

To one of "my sons" I give a weekly stipend, when he finds himself between jobs. During one period between jobs, the Lord said, "redirect 75% of his monthly stipend to fund the work of the non-profit agency that we established last year." The Lord said two things more:

- 1) that this would be considered his contribution to the agency, and
- 2) that the blessing that flows from such a contribution would flow directly to him

While I was still in shock, the Lord said, "Tell him of this new direction, as soon as possible." I sent him the information via text; and followed up with a phone call later that day. My "son" said, when he received the text, he prayed about it. At that time, I was not aware but this redirection had come on the heels of another bit of unfortunate financial news. Even so, he said that he understood and that he agreed with the Lord's direction.

The very next day, I was sharing, with the agency Director, the funding opportunity that the Lord had created for the agency; on behalf of my "son." During that conversation, a peculiar series of things happened. I heard, "Tell the Director that upon making this contribution my "son" now has a job." Shocked and confused about the origin of this suggestion, I withheld the comment. Although I knew the Director would be elated at the news of the job; I supposed the "misplaced humor" would be in bad taste. I thought this suggestion was just something that I dreamed up; even though the unction was very strong. I didn't share it.

About 24 hours later, my "son" called to say that he was en route to a job fair. Upon leaving the job fair, based on some information he had received, he applied with a staffing agency that same day.

Literally, the next afternoon, he called to say that he was offered a job. I asked, are you saying you have an interview? He said, "No, I have a job offer/assignment with a prominent company in the city where he lives."

You know what came back to me, don't you? The suggestion: "Tell the Director that upon making this contribution my "son" now has a job." But what rang, about

30 decibels higher, in my ear, was "that I didn't say it. I heard it; but I didn't say it."

I was undone; I had missed God. I didn't know it was the Spirit's leading. Shame on me!! "Now, now," you might be saying, "don't be so hard on yourself. We all miss God now and again." In the Kingdom, it's no light thing to miss an opportunity to be obedient to the Living God. Most certainly God is gracious; and He was gracious then too. But let's have a look at the deeper implications of this misfortune. Whereas the telling of this event was supposed to have been a testament to the prophetic wisdom of God; because of my disobedience, it has been reduced to a warning that "*all disobedience is a stumbling block.*" How tragic.

Some are sitting there going "I don't get it. What was the big deal? So you missed making a *statement*. Nobody died." Well ... to have the glory of God reduced to a warning *is* a big deal. And perhaps the only reason we don't appreciate the import is because we live in the dispensation of Grace. This happened to another gentleman; in the dispensation of The Law. It cost him a great deal more, and likewise reduced the glory of God to a warning. And unfortunately it is a warning that few even regard today. Perhaps it's because we don't understand the full implication. Let's have a look.

Israel was in the desert, they were very thirsty. The Lord told Moses to "speak" to the rock before the eyes of Israel and it will give water.⁽¹⁾ Instead Moses "smote" the rock. For this disobedience Moses and Aaron were forbidden to enter the Promise Land.

A few comments may come to mind here. One being, "God still gave Israel water from the rock, even though Moses didn't obey." Confirmed, that's a symbol of God's grace; Moses and Aaron were still charged with disobedience. Not good. Additionally, living water only comes from God, there was nowhere else for them to get it, and therefore God was kind. The aforementioned are merely transactional. Now on an Eternal note: what God was doing throughout the Old Testament God was foretelling (prophecies, types and shadows) the coming Christ. We are *now* aware that Christ is our Rock; and that from Him comes the Living Waters that sustain us, lest we die. But right there in the wilderness, God was writing this prophecy in the earth.

The *first* giving of water from a rock was in Horeb (later called Massah and Meribah), where Moses was directed to smite the rock to bring forth water.⁽²⁾

The *second* giving of water from a rock was in Kadesh, where Moses was directed to speak to the rock to bring forth water.⁽³⁾

The *first* event (the striking of the rock) represents that Jesus (our Rock) was wounded for our transgressions, and that He was bruised for our iniquities; and that by His stripes we were healed.⁽⁴⁾ Just as a rock is not supposed to bring forth

moons ago.

This was the question: “Father, please help me understand the error of Job’s friends’ counsel. I see from the scriptures, that You were very displeased with them. ⁽¹⁾ Why?” I wanted to know. I was concerned, because it seemed, on the face of it, that their declarations were statements of truth:

Eliphaz says: ^(1a) Your words have upheld him that was falling and you have strengthened the feeble knees, Job. But now it is come upon you and you faint; it touches you and you are troubled.

Wisdom reminds: ⁽²⁾ that if we faint in the day of adversity, our strength is small.

Eliphaz asks: ⁽³⁾ Shall mortal man be more just than God? Shall a man be more pure than his Maker?

Scripture warns: ⁽⁴⁾ Let God be true and let every man be a liar.
Translation: Let the ways of God and the words of God be esteemed as truth; and every contrary or opposing way or word be forsaken as a lie.

Eliphaz asks: ⁽⁵⁾ Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects: therefore despise not the chastening of the Almighty.

Scripture admonishes: ⁽⁶⁾ My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are rebuked of Him...

Bildad asks: ⁽⁷⁾ Does God pervert judgment? Or does the Almighty pervert justice? If you were pure and upright; surely now He would awake for you, and make the habitation of your righteousness prosperous.

Wisdom says: ^(7a) ... I have never seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Zophar says: ⁽⁸⁾ Oh, that God would show you (Job) the secrets of wisdom; how that they are double to that which is! ... Can you by searching find out God? Can you find out

the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven; ... deeper than hell.... *Translation:* Job, of all that you have attained to concerning wisdom, it is less than a drop in a bucket as compared to the whole council of God’s wisdom. Do you think that by your searching and exploration you can discover God? His ways are too broad and too deep. It’s not possible.

Scripture exalts: ⁽⁹⁾ Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

Elihu says: ⁽¹⁰⁾ for the work of a man shall He render unto him, and cause every man to find according to His ways.

Scripture says: ⁽¹¹⁾ whatsoever a man sows, that also shall he reap. I the Lord search the heart; I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

This list could go on into next year; but I believe you see where I’m going here. It had always puzzled me, that while it seemed that the *words* of Job’s counselors were categorically “true” the Lord was still not pleased. More than that, God was VERY displeased with their words. Why?!

Now before I go on, let me disclaim a few things.

DISCLAIMER(S)

- 1) I am aware that there are many suggestions, suppositions, etc. regarding the writings of the book of Job. I do not believe that I have read any of them. If I have it was likewise, many tens of hundreds of sunsets ago.
- 2) I have also heard some references to the book of Job, but many of them (from where I sat) were not substantiated by scripture. Nor did many of their suppositions corroborate with other expressions of truth in scripture. So, as you could appreciate, they lacked that seal of authentication.
- 3) Lastly, and very simply, I wanted an answer from my Father on it. I didn’t just want to read what someone else, said to someone else, about

someone else. I wanted the “Throne” to weigh in. I needed to hear my Father’s voice. And when I did, I was stopped dead in my tracks.

I would like to share with you some of His disclosures, and how He went about to reveal them. The journey itself was quiet captivating, to me. Especially given that I wasn’t sure that it was the Lord’s voice I heard, directing me to read Job 33 at that time. *Oh, how subtle is His voice, at times, not easily distinguishable from our own thoughts. But by this, He trains the heart to help the ears to hear; to try the words by the character of God.*

One beautiful stone unearthed, after another one; He led me through this way. I was continually amazed at the jewels that appeared before me. In complete awe of His transparency, I placed my hand on my mouth. I could not speak. The Almighty wanted to be known in a way that was at that time foreign to man; so “foreign” as to be misconstrued. Back to the journey.

As I finished reading Job 33, I got a call. During that conversation, my friend asked “what have you been reading lately?” “Funny you should ask,” I returned. With that, I shared my question with them. I said, “I have always wondered this question about the book of Job. What was so wrong with the counsel that Job’s friends gave?” My friend said, that perhaps “Job’s friends were encouraging Job to “curse God and die, too.”” I said, “I don’t see that happening. I actually see quite the opposite occurring.” So we searched through the book of Job together. We picked up and handled random scriptures from the chapters that represent Job’s friends’ counsel.

Statistics

- Eliphaz the Temanite – you’ll find his counsel in chapters 4, 5, 15, 22
- Bildad the Shuhite – you’ll find his counsel in chapters 8, 18, 25
- Zophar the Naamathite – you’ll find his counsel in chapters 11, 20
- Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite – you’ll find his counsel in chapters 32-37
- Job’s responses and rebuttals are interspersed throughout chapters 6-31
- The Lord begins to speak in chapter 38-41. The way the scriptures were interpreted, it appears that no one interrupted God when He talked. You probably figured that out by now, hah? “E.F. Hutton” didn’t have anything to the Lord God.

My friend then said, “Perhaps we could determine the error of Job’s counselors, from Job’s responses to them. So we began to look specifically for Job’s statements of response to his friend’s counsel. They are quite telling, however, I was not able to lift from them exactly what Job’s friends “said” that was a departure from categorical truth. It was a great time of discovery, though.

A bit later one of my “sons” called. And we happened on this same discussion. My “son” said, perhaps we can disclose their error, by looking at what God said to them, and about them. With this, we returned to Job 42:7-8.

And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against your two friends (Bildad and Zophar, no mention of Elihu): for you have not spoken of Me *the thing that is right*, as my servant Job *hath*.

Sidebar: What God said (without the translator’s contribution) was “...for you have not spoken of Me right (rightly), as my servant Job.”

Discoveries

A few of the things that displeased the Lord, about the counsel of Job’s friends appears to be on this order:

They began their visit, weeping with Job, as is customary during mourning and bereavement. ⁽¹²⁾ But then as they sat and listened to Job, the *flavor* of their counsel began to change a bit. Notice Eliphaz began to ask questions like: “Were you the first man born? Is wisdom a secret that only you know, Job? Are you of the opinion that you know something that we don’t? ...” ⁽¹³⁾ To Eliphaz’s last question, I am inclined to answer a hearty, “Yes!!” I am of the opinion that Job knew something that they didn’t (more on that later).

When Job’s friends talked about God, they spoke of Him from the corridors of their ancestry. Eliphaz says: “Call now, if there be any that will answer you: and to which of the saints will you turn?” ⁽¹⁴⁾

Translation: Job, of all the saints of old, which of them have a testimony such as yours? To which of

them will you appeal for a frame of reference for what you're experiencing? Not in all of our history, do we have a record of a righteous man whom God has judged like this.

Job's counselors referenced God's dealings, as from antiquity. Eliphaz says: "With us are both the gray-headed and the very aged men, much elder than your father, Job."⁽¹⁵⁾ They thought that their years should account for something. And that by their tenure they took liberties to speak of God, and to Job in ways that lacked the traditional consideration for one who mourns. Job reminded them that, "... to him that is afflicted pity should be shown from his friends. ... What type of counsel is this you give to one, whom you presume to be without wisdom?"⁽¹⁶⁾

When the Lord said to Eliphaz and his companions "...for you have not spoken of Me (rightly), as my servant Job."⁽¹⁷⁾ We may tend to think that somehow their counsel lacked "truth." Actually it is quite clear to me *now*, that their counsel lacked LOVE. Much of what they said rang true; even so, it had the resonance of "sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal," didn't it? We are directed to not just "speak the truth;" but to "speak the truth *in love*." For though we speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity (love) ..."⁽¹⁸⁾ You know the routine.

It was a matter of tradition and custom that the accused had a right to face his accusers. Today it is a matter of justice for us. However, the prosecutors had a responsibility to bring "just cause" for their claims against the accused. Even Pilate knew this, when he said of our Lord "... I have found no cause of death in Him..."⁽¹⁹⁾ This Job's friends did not do.

Elihu (the youngest) was upset with Job's three friends because they had found no answer, for what Job was experiencing and yet they still condemned Job.⁽²⁰⁾ In their counsel, they assayed to indemnify God; meanwhile they indicted Job. But they did not bring to bear anything that Job had done wrong. The scriptures warn us about being moved against our brother without cause.⁽²¹⁾ Job said, "Answer one question for me: For which of my "crimes" am I now being punished?"⁽²²⁾ They could not answer.

What did Job know that his counselors didn't?

Job's friends knew *about* God, by way of historical reference; Job knew God by way of personal intercourse. He knew how to "relate" to God. As much as it was possible (in that day) Job had a relationship

with God. So you see how God could contrast the words of Eliphaz and company with the words of Job. Because man looks on the outer appearance, while God looks at the heart.⁽²³⁾

Job "loved the things that God loved; and hated the things that God hated."⁽²⁴⁾ It doesn't really get much better than that, does it? It is certainly true that on the face of things, Job's words did seem to smack of "self-righteousness." And God did chasten Job for the vanity of his lofty orations.⁽²⁵⁾ But He did not condemn Job for the "cry of his heart." Below the surface, Job was saying, "Lord, everything that I knew about You, I have honored both towards You and towards man." This was evident in Job's sacrifices (vertical or God-ward) and his alms deeds (horizontal or man-ward).⁽²⁶⁾ Job's cry goes on, "Lord, You knew that with great diligence, I have followed all that my heart understood of You. If I missed You, could we not have reasoned together? Instead You breathe on me Your wrath. I thought that I did the things that *love* was supposed to do. If You wanted something more of me, I would have given it. If You wanted something else, You had but to ask. Based on what I know about You, if You have a cause against us; You bring it to us so that we might course correct. I don't understand this way of Yours. It hurts and I am confused." Words such as these would definitely sound course and disrespectful to one, who does not have a relationship with God. From this I have been the more enlightened that God wants the "hot ... sweaty ... passionate ... face-to-face" relationship with us; as opposed to the cool, aloof platitudes of distant reverence. Has not Moses shown us the same fervor of intercourse; in his wrestling with God on the mountain? When God offered to bury Israel in the wilderness and build a new nation with Moses.⁽²⁷⁾ Just as the Lord caught the hand of Abraham before he slew Isaac on the mount, so too Moses catches the "hand" of God before He wipes out Israel. This, my friend, IS relationship. And you don't get this kind of relationship out of a (pardon the expression) cereal box. These relationships cost; but nothing on this earth is worth more than such a relationship.

It is also clear to me that it is possible to "speak the truth," and still not honor God by so doing. Doesn't that just tilt your paradigm somewhat? One might just ask, "Isn't that what the gospel is all about, getting the "truth" out there?" Or is it? There were "expressions of truth" in the earth from the time of Adam. If all this is about is just "truth telling" then Jesus didn't really

need to come, did He? *This* is about “truth in love.” “Love” speaks to relationship, doesn’t it? *This* is about “truth being expressed in relationship with Love, in relationship with God.” Job’s friends knew truths about God; Job knew the God of Truth. “The Payoff is in the Personal.” Let’s get personal. Although we must know it, it is not enough for us to just know the Word of God; we **MUST** know the God of the Word. Without the *God of the Word*, the Word of God remains barren and unfruitful in our lives. Know the Word of God; by knowing the God of the Word.

In 2011, let’s get **PERSONAL** with God. Get to know the character and authority of God, **ETHOS**. Get to know the thoughts, words and ways of God, **LOGOS**. Get to know God experientially **PATHOS**.
<CC>

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Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)

- (1) Job 42:7-8
- (1a) Job 4:4-5
- (2) Proverbs 24:10
- (3) Job 4:17
- (4) Romans 3:4
- (5) Job 5:17
- (6) Hebrews 12:5-8
- (7) Job 8:3, 6
- (7a) Psalm 37:25
- (8) Job 11:6-8
- (9) Romans 11:33
- (10) Job 34:11
- (11) Galatians 6:7; Jeremiah 17:10
- (12) Job 2:11-13
- (13) Job 15: 7-9
- (14) Job 5:1
- (15) Job 15:10
- (16) 6:14; 26:2-3
- (17) Job 42:7-8
- (18) 1 Corinthians 13:1
- (19) Luke 23:20-22
- (20) Job 32:3
- (21) Matthew 5:22
- (22) Job 31:5+
- (23) 1 Samuel 16:7
- (24) Job 1:1
- (25) Job 38:2
- (26) Job 1:5
- (27) Exodus 32:9-14

thing most people who are looking for intimacy have in common.

Many people approach relationships thinking (consciously or subconsciously) that this current or potential “significant other” will complete them, make them happy, or cause them to not be lonely. Now, on the surface, this is a reasonable expectation. But, you know by now that the Kingdom Newsletter staff and columnists **NEVER** leave issues at the surface. No, we like to dig deep to engage at the “root” level.

Having said that, let’s delve into the Word of God to find out how connecting with people in an intimate way is played out in the kingdom. We know that God is a God of covenant. Throughout the bible we see where God established covenants (with Noah and Abraham in the Old Testament – and with every person [that believes] in the New Testament).

God has determined to love us no matter what. And, He (through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ) has opened the way for us to have an intimate relationship with Him (by the Holy Spirit – New Covenant). Think about this. God created people for relationship with Him. He wants us to “know” Him in the most intimate way and on a daily basis.

In Matthew 22:37-39 (KJV paraphrased) Jesus shares the secret to success for all intimate relationships. He says we are to have a deeply intimate relationship with God (love God with all of our being – that sounds pretty intimate to me). Then, we are to have relationships with people, some of which will also be intimate relationships.

Now, before we get to the human-to-human intimate relationship, let’s explore a bit more about the intimate relationship we are to have with God (verse 37) and what that might look like “on the ground.” Intimacy involves openness, transparency, truthfulness, confession, bonding, touching, and the like. We can think of intimacy as deep and holistic communication with someone.

What if you could “disrobe” in your secret place? What if you could get before the Heavenly Father and lay in His arms? You could cry, vent, and laugh. He would wash your wounds, heal your scars, forgive your sins, kiss your face, and pour sweet scented oils all over you (this column is for mature adults – so don’t get scared).

He would also chat with you about the activities of your day, reframing things you thought were meant for your hurt, letting you know that He used them for your good. While renewing your mind, He would prepare you for what He has in store for you this day. Fully rested and at peace, you would rise from this secret place full, calm, joyful, and whole. This is the kind of intimacy God wants His people to have with Him – **FIRST**.

Now, let's look at the kind of intimacy He wants us to have with that special someone (verse 39). Jesus talks about loving one's neighbor as one's self. What might this mean? Well, we just talked about how we are to treat ourselves in terms of intimacy. We are to "Be" with God in a way that fulfills us and makes us whole in every sense of the word. Then, we are to engage with others sharing that "wholeness" with them. I can speak soft words to my neighbor because God has spoken soft words to me in my secret place (and throughout my day).

I can be patient with my neighbor because God is patient with me. I can forgive my neighbor because God forgives me daily. I can listen carefully, seek to understand, work toward compromise, and build a vibrant life with the neighbor I choose as my covenant (marriage) partner because God does all these things with me. I am full of the life of God; therefore, I can give His life to my covenant partner, my neighbor.

But, there is a problem. With all of the match-making going on either in person or online, people are still unsatisfied, challenged to make relationships work, unfulfilled, and lonely (even with their significant other). Why is that? I have a possible answer.

Might we be putting the "cart before the horse?" Is it possible that some of us are seeking human-to-human intimate relationships without first having a deep, transparent, personally fulfilling relationship with God? As I counsel individuals and couples, I find that many, if not most, of them look for the other person to do what only God can do. They each think that the other person will make them happy, keep them from being lonely, or accomplish other miraculous feats.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I submit to you today that humans can NEVER keep people from being lonely. Humans cannot make people happy. And, humans are not by themselves "whole" and therefore cannot make other humans "whole." Only God can do these things. The intimacy seeker that does not know this truth and that does not have a vibrant, intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father is (at worst) doomed to fail in the arena of intimate human relationships. And, at best, he or she will be self-condemned to live a life of mediocre intimacy in the covenant relationship (if one is able to have a covenant relationship with another person).

So, how do we live in such a way that we can pursue, secure, and maintain healthy and intimate relationships with people we choose as our covenant/marriage partners? We can take some time to step back from our "hot pursuit" of a significant other (if we don't have one at the moment). Or, if we do have one, we can step back and reassess our current relationship and set some relationship goals.

We would start by assessing the type of intimacy we have in our relationship with God. Let me ask you a question. As a person (man or woman), do you ever feel lonely, unwanted,

ugly, unaccepted, or unhappy? If so, these are symptoms of lack in your relationship with God. You might want to go into your secret place with God and "disrobe." Tell Him how you think and feel about yourself. Tell Him about the hurts, pain, and scars you have.

While you are in His presence, speak His word to Him. Tell Him what His word says about you. He said He loves you with an eternal love, therefore you are not unloved. He said He would provide for your every need, therefore you have no lack. He said He would never leave you, therefore you are never alone. He said He would cause you to look like Him, therefore you are not ugly. He said He clothed you in His righteousness, therefore you are accepted. He said you are fearfully and wonderfully made, therefore you have great value.

Once you tell God what He said about you, thank Him for what He said and agree with Him about what He said. Cry, laugh, and rejoice over what He said. While you are doing this, rest as He washes you. Relax as He kisses you. And enjoy as He gives you new life and a perspective.

Oh, by the way, I do this every day! Then, when I leave my secret place, I am full. I am whole. And I am ready for my day. I trust God. I know who and whose I am. I believe in my abilities. And I am certain of my success.

Now, I can think more clearly about having someone special in my life. I don't need them to fulfill me. I'm already fulfilled. My focus is on whatever God has for me. As I go through my days, weeks, and months, I am excited about my life with God. If I choose to seek a relationship with someone special, it would be because I believe it is time and that God will guide me (whatever route I take) to meet this person. In addition, I am not seen as "needy" because all of my personal needs are met by God.

I can take my time when I interact with potential covenant partners. I am not in a hurry. I can get to know people, and allow them to get to know the real me. And I can allow God's love and fullness to shine through me to this person. While I'm doing that, I also check to ensure this person has a "like" intimate relationship with my Heavenly Father. Why? Because I don't want to have to go backwards with someone who expects me to complete, fulfill, or repair them. I don't have to be their doctor, lawyer, accountant, housekeeper, superwoman (or superman) just to have a decent relationship.

So, if you are looking for that special someone, you may do well to keep in mind that their contributions to you will be limited to walking an agreed upon path with you. They cannot do anything internally for you that *ONLY* God must do. Be blessed. ~LLI~

Joyce M. White, MSW

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His Word, in His *Logos*, in His Son. It is clearly stated “*In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*” (Col 2:9) There exists the essential nature of God. This, no creature can see. No creature can behold directly. However the God who is, the “I AM” reveals Himself to us by the *Logos*, in the *Logos*, and through the *Logos*.

We had spoken in the article *Ethos of God*, of the character and authority of God. The *Logos* [thought/word/deed] teaches us of the character and authority of God. From what God has said, and what God has done, we see both His character and authority.

This is short, but I believe it will illuminate much when we get to the *logos* of man. -SOMW-

David L. White

Journey to Intimacy

Continued from page 2

us to live from “*His hand to our mouth.*”

When the Lord taught us to pray He said, “After this manner therefore, pray” ... give us *this day’s* portion of bread. And we thought He was just talking to those “12 fishers-of men.”

No, actually what He was doing was telling us something of the “Way of the Kingdom.” In the Kingdom we live the “*Life of Manna,*” we live “hand-to-mouth.” The Lord *daily* gives us our provisions. He daily gives us “new mercies.”⁽¹⁾ He daily loads us with benefits.⁽²⁾ We are to daily perform our duty.⁽³⁾ When Wisdom beckons, She says that the man that ... watches daily at Her gates, is blessed.”⁽⁴⁾

We are to wake up every morning running into His arms; looking into His eyes; awaiting with anticipation His bidding.

It appears that this is not just true in the Kingdom of God, but it is also true in the kingdoms of man. Nebechadnezzar, appointed a daily provision of the king’s meat and wine, to nourish Daniel and his colleagues, so that they would be able to “stand before the king.”⁽⁵⁾ We are aware that Daniel chose to do otherwise, but the King’s provisions remained. And so it is in the Kingdom of God; He daily appoints our life’s provisions (all of them); so that we mature a certain way, enabling us to be able to “stand” before Him.

The truest lesson on manna is (of course) Israel’s stint in the wilderness. We often look at this solely as a historical event. When we do this we miss very key inferences that the Lord is disclosing to us. His directions to Israel was to go out each morning, collect ONLY what would be sufficient for that day’s needs. They were forbidden to freeze dry and store it up for their tomorrows. Why? Because God was teaching them a lesson and He intends to teach us that same lesson: that we NEED Him every day.

I hear you, “We already know that I need God, that’s nothing new.” Then I have one question for you, “Is this how we treat someone that we know we NEED?” We awake every day, as if it were a day God owed us. Often it’ll be Noon before we recognize that we’ve left the house without so much as “kissing Him on the cheek, on the way out the door.” Many of us wake up each day already knowing what we’ll have for breakfast. We shower and probably never wonder if the water will come on today. We dress ourselves without so much as a second thought. Many of us go to work, not wondering whether or not we still have a job. We take so much for granted. We have entered into the current of this world; scarcely can we differentiate our ways of life from the way of the world. In the Kingdom we live the “*Life of Manna.*”

“*A Life of Manna?*” you say. Who wants to live a *Life of Manna*, when we’ve already got all of this stuff figured out? Are you suggesting that we go back to the “stone ages?” I heard one person tell me (in not so many words), “We don’t need the Lord to tell us what to eat every day; or what to wear. That’s silly. We can dress ourselves, we’re adults.” And to this school of thought, I’ll say this:

I’ll grant you a few of those points. We are adults and we probably should know how to dress ourselves; although I’ve seen sufficient evidence to the contrary.

That being the case, there is certainly another way of understanding it. When you awake and decide what you want to eat. You go into the kitchen and prepare it and eat it. Or you stop somewhere on the way to work, or en route to your morning destination and pick up something, of your choosing. What has happened here? Basically, you decided what you wanted and procured it for yourself. Congratulations. Mission accomplished.

But when the Lord gives us each day our “daily

Journey to Intimacy

Continued on page 12

bread,” we have a whole other type of transaction occurring. The Lord has given provision, He has given direction. We hear His voice and receive from His hand. Whereas you have just had your breakfast; we’ve begun our day in transaction with the True and Living God. We’ve heard His voice, we’ve received His direction, and we’ve obeyed His leading. We see His will for our lives on a daily basis, in the simple transactions of life. More than that, when we begin to live *here* with God; it is in the simple transactions of life that we learn to be “faithful over the few things.”⁽⁶⁾

It is a sad truth that we’ve lived so far from God, for so long that we have developed something of a severe case of “entitlement mentality.” Of course, we’d never admit it with our own mouths; we’re too smart for that. But we say it with our “hands and feet” almost every single day. We see it most (in our frustrations and complaints) when the “elevators of life” don’t arrive on time, and we have to take the stairs.

I know, I know, we don’t like the idea of having to wait on God for our daily provisions of life. But the scriptures also teach that “they that wait on the Lord, shall renew their strength, they shall mount up on wings like an eagle”⁽⁷⁾

The *Life of Manna* is more about recognizing that we are poor in spirit; to know our need of Him. It is about a life of prayer that says “Father ... give us this day ...”
JTI

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, SMHG

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

⁽¹⁾ Lamentations 3:22-23

⁽²⁾ Psalm 68:19

⁽³⁾ Psalm 61:8

⁽⁴⁾ Proverb 8:34

⁽⁵⁾ Daniel 1:5

⁽⁶⁾ Matthew 25:21

⁽⁷⁾

Our Prayer for Readers

Our prayer for each and every one of you is that God will give you such a genuine and sincere hunger and thirst for righteousness; the likes of which you have not seen or conceived before.
Amen

-Kingdom News Staff

heart is to please God, this news would not bring about a celebratory response from me? I’m telling you I’d have to pray about that thing for a couple of weeks (or more).

After God allows me a little time to wrap my mind around His command, I would eventually submit. I would also have to ask God to help me create a process to ensure I obeyed. I shared this example to get into a discussion about how our lives are impacted by our willingness (or lack thereof) to accept the path God has decided for us.

Let me share a personal story with you.

God told me to operate a nonprofit venture on a full-time basis, as well as a small for-profit. He said I was forbidden to look for other jobs (except for the one I have as an adjunct professor). While this may sound exciting, I was not glad to hear this directive. I knew it would take a tremendous amount of time and energy to get these ventures operational and revenue-producing. In the meantime, I would have to use the little bit of money I had to fund both entities.

Nevertheless, God did not change His position. So, I submitted and began this work. As I went along, I noticed that there were days when I seemed especially sad. When bills started coming in, supplies needed to be ordered, and my work days ran around twelve hours. Still, I continued to be “faithful” because God told me to do this.

Then, one day God said, “Joyce, you are sad.” I realized I was, but I didn’t know how to change this burdensome feeling. I told God that I didn’t want to be sad, but I would need His help to bring me out of this emotional slump. It was shortly after that conversation that God told me “why” I was sad.

I already knew that the agencies were running on very little money. God was blessing daily, but it was always “just” enough. We had not reached the stage where I could take a salary and have a stable budget. I was tired of this meager phase. I wanted to progress more quickly.

God told me that the reason I was sad is because “**I**” had not “**chosen**” this path for myself. He said although He chose this path for me, and I humbled myself and obeyed, I (myself) had not chosen to lead this meager existence as I followed His command.

He let me know that I was feeling like a victim because this situation was happening “to” me. He told me that the only way I could be healed of this sadness was to “choose” this path – of my own free will.

He took me to Psalms 19:9b (KJV paraphrased) where it says “the judgments (decisions) of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.” God let me know that the decisions He makes on my behalf all work together to fulfill His plan for my life. He reminded me that He loves me with an

eternal love. And, that He has equipped me to do the work He has called me to do. Finally, He is with me to prosper my way.

With that word, the blinders fell from my eyes. I immediately said, “God, I choose this meager path – of my own free will.” I renounce anything other than what you have chosen for me. I gladly accept your provision for these agencies (whatever they may be). I’m telling you, I was set completely free in that moment!

The shackles fell from my heart. Since that day, God has opened so many doors for the agencies. The doors are small opportunities, but they are gifts that I would not have been able to see before, because I was too busy being sad. To be honest, I’ve begun to see God open multiple “small” doors (one-by-one) that have resulted in large open doors.

So, here is my encouragement to you. If you are sad about the path God has you on right now, maybe you need to “choose it – of your own free will” and watch God change you and open your eyes to amazing opportunities that have been there all along.

If you will do this, you will never be the same! –PIP~

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Love and The Truth

Continued from page 3

unto righteousness. Now, we yield unto a thing by living in that way, as in the way of sin which is unto death, or obedience [to God] which is unto righteousness.

Consider then, as we yield ourselves unto Christ, we are treasuring him, and we are being conformed unto Christ, as Christ-ian. As we yield unto the Spirit of God we are treasuring the Spirit, and are being conformed thereunto. Or as we yield unto the way of the world we are instead being conformed thereunto. We see the same expressed in Proverbs 4:20-22: “*My son, attend to my words; incline thy ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thy eyes, and keep them in the midst of thy heart. For, they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.*”

That is the key. Life as we experience it finds its source in the things that we treasure. Wherefore, we understand more clearly “*they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, and they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*” This is the same principal we saw in Matthew 6. In fact, just after Proverbs 4:20-22 we see this in

verse 23: *keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.* I restate this as, ‘guard your heart diligently; for out of it issues the life,’ for the sake of succinctness. This is simply an illustration of the same reality that the things which we treasure are the constitution of the heart, from which the life flows, and into which the man is conformed.

We see more of the same spirit of Proverbs being expounded upon in Matthew, here the connection is between Proverbs 4:18-19 and Matthew 6:22-23.

Proverbs says: *the path of the just is as the shining **light**, which shines more and more unto that perfect day; the way of the wicked is as **darkness**, they know not at what they stumble.* In Matthew the Lord explains further saying: *The **light** of the body is the eye: if therefore your eye be single [healthy], your whole body shall be full of **light**; but if the eye be evil, the whole body shall be full of **darkness**. If, therefore, the **light** that is in thee be **darkness**, how great is that darkness.* The light of the body is the focus of man’s life.

Again, we’re talking about what man treasures, that which man goes after, as a way of life. Let me be explicitly clear. We are NOT talking about what mankind simply says is his treasure. For herein, our Lord says, “*Why **call** ye me Lord and do not the things which I say,*” remembering that “*his servants ye are to whom ye obey.*” Yet again, your heart shall be where your treasures are.

I’ve been belaboring this whole idea, because it must be explicitly clear before we go on. For where we are going requires that what I’ve herein belabored be firmly established with you.

1. The reason that we don’t seek after glory in giving alms, in praying, and in fasting, and the reason that we don’t seek after worldly treasures is because all worldly treasures serve to conform us unto the world. This is a very substantial principal.

Love and The Truth

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It has greater ramifications than it seems to at first. Regarding this world, scripture speaks plainly: *And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abides forever.*

- 2. Furthermore, out of the treasures of the heart issues man’s **life**. “*Is not the life more than meat?*” Matthew 6:25
- 3. Now, a focus of life that is spiritual shall yield a body that is full of light. However, a focus of life which is worldly shall yield a bodily “light” which happens to be darkness. “*Is not...the body more than raiment.*” Matthew 6:25

The Matthew 6 portion of Jesus’ sermon terminates with this command: “*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,*” and this promise that “*all these things [life, meat, body, raiment from 2 & 3 above] shall be added unto you.*”

To restate this in the context of the series: this Christian life is indeed secret. Not only do we do the most fundamental things of the Christian life secretly. We also hope in things that are hidden to and from this world. We seek after a kingdom which is hidden to and from this world. And in seeking this hidden kingdom of righteousness we are nevertheless given life, meat, and raiment, both in this world **and the next...**

This “and the next” is what we’ll study next time, God willing. -LATT-

David L. White

JEWELS



WORSHIP is the submission of all of our nature to God. It’s the quickening of conscience by His Holiness, the nourishment of mind by His Truth; the purifying of imagination by His Beauty; the opening of the heart to His Love and the submission of the will to His Purpose.

– by Arch Bishop Wm. Temple
(Quoted by Ravi Zacharias in *Exclusive Truth in a Pluralistic Society*)

something borrowed ... now all we need is something blue, right.

- a. Something old: the *body* was formed from the dust of the ground, the earth was created beforehand. ⁽¹⁾
- b. Something new: the *soul* was created on the sixth day⁽²⁾
- c. Something borrowed: the *spirit* is loaned to us by God for the purposes of revelation and communion⁽³⁾

The faculties of the human spirit are the Intuition, the Conscience and the Communion. More on that in the February 2011 edition, in the Chief Cornerstone column. And more to come in a later edition of this column.

The human spirit is the vehicle by which the Spirit of God communicates with the soul and body. It is my understanding that the Spirit of God does not interact directly with the soul or the body. We get a hint of that when we see the construct of the tabernacle and later of the temple in the Old Testament. There God would visit man in the Most Holy place and did not commune with man in the inner or outer courts.

Why is there value to knowing about the human spirit? There are many more reasons than time will allow us to disclose here. But some of the reasons are: so that we will gain a greater understanding of scripture and of the process of salvation and sanctification. When we repent and receive the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God restores life to our human spirit. Just then the soul is “Under New Management.” The human spirit is aware (although not fully knowledgeable about) what has happened; but the soul may still be quite unclear about what has just occurred. While many other things may change, the flesh (while legally relegated to the cross) still intends to usurp authority over the soul. This is why it is vital to begin immediately (following conversion) to nourish the human spirit in the Word of God, so that it will take its rightful place of authority over the soul. If this doesn’t happen, the flesh will continue to attempt to lead the soul into bondage; which causes massive chaos in the life of a new Christian.

Just as the first minutes of a new born baby’s life are critical; so too are the first months of the life of a new born Christian. This is the time where the Intellect/Mind (in the soul) is to be educated about

what has just happened to the new believer. Further, the new Christian is to be given directions on what comes next for them. They need to be taught: the ways of the King and His Kingdom; their roles and responsibilities within this new Kingdom; the warfare that is upon them and much more.

As the human spirit is fed the Word of God, it can begin to mature. It is then able and ought naturally to take the place of leadership over the soul. The human spirit should begin to lead the soul into compliance with the statutes, precepts and ordinances of the Kingdom. And thus the soul embarks upon this new way of Life. -BC-

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, SMHG

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

⁽¹⁾ Genesis 2:7; 3:19

⁽²⁾ Genesis 1:27; 2:7

⁽³⁾ Ecclesiastes 12:7; Job 34:14-15

Living Waters

Continued from page 4

outward. When Jesus prayed for us, one of the things He asked of the Father, was that we would be made one (a unit, a body), like He and the Father are One. ⁽⁵⁾

PERSONAL TESTIMONY: I remember very clearly, one evening I was praying and talking with the Father about some things and some situations that I needed His direction and providence concerning. If I could put into words, what I heard and saw it would sound like this: As I stood before the Throne of God with my petitions, I saw Him looking beyond me. It was as if He were looking around the room for other people. As quickly as my mind conceived the curiosity “Father, what are You l-o-o-k-i-n-g...?” He asked, “Where are the others?” Dumb, I asked, “What others?” My understanding being enlightened, literally as I was speaking; He was asking “where are the other petitioners?” “Have you come alone?” He went on. “Are not there many others in the earth, who have the same petitions as you, who have the same needs as you? He asked, “Did you come to the Fountains of Living Water with a teaspoon? To draw only for yourself?” He scolded, “If you have been given access to the Almighty God, this access was not given for you. It was given for the earth.” What He said next, I will never forget (I pray God). He said, “Do not ever come into My presence alone, like that, again.”

I cannot tell you how *selfish* and how *foolish* I felt just then. Very sincerely, I don't think that I can describe it. And every time I recount that experience (even now), I re-live the embarrassment of it, all over again. Please don't feel sad for me, it is a beautiful and very

needful pain. There the Lord taught me the “bane of individualism.”

When Our Lord, sprinkled His blood on the Mercy Seat, He sprinkled our blood with His. Jesus never traveled alone (whether in Heaven or in the earth) we were always with Him; we were always in Him. When He was carried from judgment hall to judgment hall, it was the chastisement of our peace that was upon Him. ⁽⁶⁾ He stands as Mediator between God and man. When He faces God, He represents man; when He faces man, He represents God. He was never for Himself. This did not occur when He reached the manger in Bethlehem; this has ALWAYS been His posture. For as a Lamb, He was slain before the foundations of the world. ⁽⁷⁾ He was there to Mediate for Adam in the Garden. And in as much as we were created in His image, we too were created to mediate between God and man (both in heaven and in the earth). So you see we have our work cut out for us. It is not the work of an individual contributor; it is the work of a body.

- The Way of the Kingdom is to recognize that we are part of a larger body. And that we are accountable both to God and to others.
- When we go about our lives we are to be cognizant that we owe a duty to God and to those *to* whom we are accountable and *for* whom we are responsible.

Although (at the judgment) we will stand before God alone; we are not to live our lives for ourselves. -L.W.-

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

⁽¹⁾ Matthew 8:12; Luke 15:4

⁽²⁾ John 13:35

⁽³⁾ 1 Corinthians 10:24

⁽⁴⁾ Galatians 6:1

⁽⁵⁾ John 17: 21

⁽⁶⁾ John 18:28, 36; Isaiah 53:5

⁽⁷⁾ Revelations 13:8

water; likewise wounding and bruising are not supposed to bring forth healing.

The *second* event (the speaking to the rock) *was supposed to* represent that Jesus (our Rock) upon request would give us of the Living Waters of God. Jesus put us on “speaking” terms with the Father. Jesus said that if you ask anything in My name, I will do it. ⁽⁵⁾

But because Moses didn’t obey God (and because I didn’t obey), these events come to us as a warning, instead of a prophecy. All disobedience is a stumbling block, not just to the disobedient one and not just in this age; but for ages to come it stands as a warning instead of praise or a prophecy, as it should have been. < KN >

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, SMHG

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

- (1) Numbers 20:2, 7-12
- (2) Exodus 17:3-6
- (3) Numbers 20:2, 7-12
- (4) Isaiah 53:5
- (5) John 14:13-14

My Personal Creed As a Child of God

Who we are as Christians, determines what we do.

Example: I am created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26); therefore I am committed to love the Lord with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength and my neighbor as my self (Luke 10:27). Now that I know who (and whose) I am; I no longer engage in contrary actions and attitudes of the heart. For this same reason I am also committed to refraining from lying, stealing, committing adultery, coveting, engaging in idolatry, dishonoring my parents, etc. (Deut 5:16-21) I am committed to

Are You Sure?

There is a healthy contemplation that drives us to check our commitment to our various relationships with others. While I have your attention may I ask another question? Do you ever wonder if you’re really saved? I don’t mean to intrude ... okay maybe I do intend to intrude. Do you contemplate your loyalty and commitment to your relationship “with Christ” very specifically? Respectfully, we are not talking here about your relationship with a religious institution. We’re asking about a very up-close and personal relationship with the Person of Jesus Christ. The scriptures encourage us to periodically check our “fruit.” We are admonished to work out your own soul’s salvation with fear and trembling. (1)

I can just imagine Jesus standing before the fig tree, asking “Hey guys, what type of tree is this?” His disciples replied (almost snickering), “My Lord, it’s a fig tree.” And Jesus asks again, “How can you tell, that this is a fig tree?” His disciples reply again (almost bursting at the seams), “Teacher, we can tell by the leaves.” Jesus once again, “Okay, let Me ask you guys one more question ... what is the purpose of a fig tree, if it won’t bear figs.” They all fell silent. Jesus cursed the fig tree saying, “Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit, My Father will remove. It will not be allowed to continue to make demands of (or trouble) the ground.” (2) He looked at the disciples and walked away en route to Bethany. (3) So I ask again, how do we know that we have a personal covenant with God?

May I make a few suggestions on ways to discover the truth? (4)

- 1. How does your covenant with Jesus Christ affect your concept of God and your attitude towards Him?**
- 2. How does your relationship with God affect your attitude towards Jesus Christ (Him as a Person and His Lordship over your life)?**
- 3. How does your covenant with God affect your attitude towards the Holy Scriptures?**
- 4. How does your relationship with Christ affect your attitude towards your “self-life” or your “flesh?”**
- 5. How does your covenant with Christ affect your relationship with and attitude towards your fellow Christians?**
- 6. How does your relationship with Jesus affect your relationship with and attitude towards the world?**
- 7. Last, but in no way least, how does your covenant with Jesus affect your attitude towards sin?**

Perhaps we should take the next couple of weeks or months and grapple with this? Try to answer each question thoroughly in light of the scripture’s mandates on each of these respective relationships.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (5)

Be Sure!

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

- (1) Philippians 2:12
- (2) John 15:1-2; Luke 13:7
- (3) Matthew 21:17-19
- (4) Gleanings and adaptations from A.W. Tozer’s Man: The Dwelling Place of God, p.62-68
- (5) Hebrews 13:20-21

~ SUMMARY ~

The Chief Cornerstone



I don't understand this way of Yours. It hurts and I am confused." Words such as these would definitely sound course and disrespectful to one, who does not have a relationship with God. From this I have been the more enlightened that God wants the "hot ... sweaty ... passionate ... face-to-face" relationship with us; as opposed to the cool, aloof platitudes of distant reverence.

Son of My Wisdom



All that is done by God is done by His *Logos*. The *Logos*, we find, is personal. That is, the word is not simply proclaimed, but begotten as the Son of God. He does not simply come forth from the 'mind' of God. In fact He is the mind of God...

Precepts in Practice



He let me know that I was feeling like a victim because this situation was happening "to" me. He told me that the only way I could be healed of this sadness was to "choose" this path - of my own free will.

Boot Camp



When we repent and receive the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God restores life to our human spirit. Just then the soul is "Under New Management." The human spirit is aware (although not fully knowledgeable about) what has happened; but the soul may still be quite unclear about what has just occurred.

~ SUMMARY ~

The Leadership Corner

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I submit to you today that humans can NEVER keep people from being lonely. Humans cannot make people happy. And, humans are not by themselves "whole" and therefore cannot make other humans "whole." Only God can do these things.

Journey to Intimacy



"A *Life of Manna*?" you say. Who wants to live a *Life of Manna*, when we've already got all of this stuff figured out? Are you suggesting that we go back to the "stone ages?"

Love and the Truth



This is where I began to understand the secrecy of the Christian life. The secret is not in the heart, as much so as it is in the treasures.

Living Waters



As quickly as my mind conceived the curiosity "Father, what are You l-o-o-k-i-n-g...?" He asked, "Where are the others?" Dumb, I asked, "What others?" My understanding being enlightened, literally as I was speaking; He was asking "where are the other petitioners?" "Have you come alone?"

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