

Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

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Knowledge of Good and Evil - Part II

All scripture is paraphrased from the KJV bible.

We will be exploring the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in this three part series. We will consider something that the Lord has revealed to us as an overarching principle of life. This is the principle of *division*. The Lord says "...if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand" Mark 3:25. We see many times in scripture that division in a person, house, kingdom, etc leads to the *desolation*, and destruction thereof. Therefore this is a choice of Shalom, or *division*.

Now let us consider ... Where did Adam and Eve choose division? Let's begin with what the Lord said regarding these two remarkable trees.

-Of the tree of life, God said this: "...lest he put forth his hand and takes also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever," in Gen 3:22.

Name: Tree of life.
Consequence, reality: **life**

-Of the tree of knowledge of good and evil God said this: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eat thereof thou shalt surely die." in

Knowledge of ...

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The Leadership Corner Leadership Living, Inc.

Allow God to Fund You, His Way!

God told us recently that He chose an employer to fund the ministry that He has given to us. That's right. God identified and chose a particular, well-known company to hire me, and to fund our ministry and destiny. If you can believe that God would do this, He will also do it for you.

Ok, so your mind is racing one hundred miles per minute wondering what this means. Alright, let's back up and entertain some details. I recently accepted a position at an established company. The work schedule is very flexible. As a result, we are able to continue to progress the various projects that we'd been working on prior to accepting the position. There are opportunities to grow our small businesses, teach college classes, create training curricula, and teach Sunday school.

The additional income will help fund other project expenses. And, if that isn't enough, as part of the new job, God has placed me in a position to help my employees. We create professional development plans for them. We groom them for advancement opportunities both within and outside of the company. And, I have access to vendors who can also assist with other projects we are working on.

While there is a lot more that could be said about this new job opportunity, you get the picture. God has blessed me with a "dream" job. It funds the business, ministry, and personal ventures He has called us to do. And, within the job, God uses me to be a practical blessing to others.

When we realized how awesome this was, I began to ask God why He did this. He let me know that He was not doing anything special just for us. He said if we

Gen 2:17.

Name: Tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
Consequence, reality: **death**

So then we see that the reality behind **the tree of life** is **life**; but the reality behind the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil** is **death**. Now we are in a position to better see the type of choice they really had before them. The choice was *not* a competition between “life” versus “knowledge.” This choice was between wholeness, unity, and Shalom in God (represented by the tree of life); versus division, separation, and destruction outside of God (represented in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil). The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was indicative of the problem of sin and selfishness. The reality (death) of the tree of knowledge of good and evil was separate from the name of the tree. The tree of life, however, had a reality (life) that was consistent with its very name.

Think of it a bit like this. You are desperately thirsty. I approach you with two bottles, of which you can only have one. Regarding the water bottle, you see that the security seal hasn't been broken on this bottle, so that what it says on the bottle you know is actually in the bottle. The other bottle is a soda bottle. Of course this label is for one of your more preferred sodas; but ... I tell you that what's in the soda bottle is poisonous or deadly. You also notice that the seal is broken on the soda bottle. Which bottle would you decide on with this information available to you? Of course you would choose the water bottle. Why? Because the content of the water bottle is consistent with the label, whereas the content of the soda bottle is not consistent with the label, additionally it is poisonous.

What does this translate to in our own lives?
Whenever we have choices before us between what our conscience approves as right, and what

reviewed some of the Old Testament stories, we would see the same thing. So, I did just that. And here is what I found.

Deut. 6:1-11 tells how God promised to bless the Israelites to inherit houses they did not build, wells they had not dug, etc. if they would obey His word. Genesis chapter 30 shows how God supernaturally prospered Jacob while he worked for Laban. Genesis chapter 41 speaks of how God advanced Joseph to be second to the king in the land of Egypt. And, the book of Esther shows how God advanced Mordecai to rule next to the king from India to Ethiopia.

The scriptures are replete with examples of how God blesses His people and causes nations and kingdoms to fund their destinies. Now, you will also notice that these people had to go through various tests and trials that actually prepared them for advancement. They had to be obedient and faithful.

We must understand that it is a kingdom principle that God will have people and businesses to fund the destinies and ministries of His people. As we seek His face, obey His word, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us, we will see this principle manifest itself in our lives.

Proverbs 13:22 speaks plainly of this principle. It says that the wealth of the sinner (disobedient) is laid up (reserved) for the just (obedient). This is a powerful truth. And, it can change our lives if we will embrace it.

God ordains the revenue or income of unrighteous people and companies to fund the destiny and calling of His children, when we obey him. With that, let's go back to our personal story.

Before I accepted this new position, my husband and I were struggling to grow our businesses and freely engage in the ministry God called us to. Then, God told me that He would provide an investor who would fund the work He called us to do. He also said not to be picky about how He would choose to do this. So, once I accepted the job, He let us know that this company is who He had ordained to fund our ministry, business, and destiny (at least, in part).

Once I grabbed hold of this revelation, the Lord began to show us how to see and utilize the blessing He'd provided. He taught us how to set up our work,

our conscience reproves as wrong; these choices are yet more expressions of the same choice that Adam and Eve had to make. Either we can choose what is consistent with God's nature, what brings about unity with God in Christ, what results in peace within the conscience, OR we can choose what brings division from God, destruction, and desolation.

The Lord says to us "I set before you life and death. Choose life Deut. 30:29.

By David L. White



Boot Camp

In our first article of Boot Camp (June 2009 edition), we shared a meditation that the Lord had given. In the article, there was an acknowledgement that the heart of man is deceitful and could not be trusted. But that if we confessed (and not covered) our sins, God would faithfully and justly forgive us and show mercy. There we also meditated on the creation of a clean heart.

In the prior article (July 2009 edition), we focused more specifically on the deceitfulness of the heart as portrayed in the story of Esau and Jacob.

This month, the Lord is telling us about how we can partner with Him in the "creating of a clean heart and the renewing of a right spirit" (Ps. 51:10 KJV reference).

In all *your* dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate; that *your* altars may be laid waste and made desolate, and *your* idols may be broken and cease, and *your* images may be cut down, and *your* works may be abolished. (Ezek. 6:6 KJV)

- *Our* "dwelling places" are the places in our lives (and in our hearts) where we find what we consider to be "rest and security."
- *Our* "high places" speak to worship; the places where we "give our selves to something or someone." Among the Israelites, God was to be worshiped in the temple. Other gods were

business, ministry, and personal schedules to coincide. He told us to use some of our income from the new job to fund the business and ministry. As part of the new job, He exposes me to resources that are also a benefit to our business and ministry. God also blessed me with a leader who knows about the businesses and ministry we are involved in and she has given me approval to manage my schedule to accommodate these projects.

Now, can you see the wisdom of God? God chose this company to fund the business pursuits and ministry He called us to. It came as a result of our consistent obedience to His word and the Holy Spirit. And, He told me to share this story with you.

He can choose (and in some cases – has already chosen) businesses and people to fund **your** destiny. I encourage you to embrace this kingdom truth and ask the Lord to show you who are the investors He has assigned to you. Secondly, allow the Holy Spirit to teach you how to see and properly utilize these investors to further the work He has placed in your heart. In this economy, we can't be picky about who God chooses to invest in what He has called us to do. And, it might surprise you to discover that some of your investors look like employers, companies you volunteer for, or people God uses you to help.

Now go ahead and ask God to give you insight into who He has ordained to fund you!



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BERYL



As a body of believers we ought each day to celebrate our independence from the law of sin and death.

(Romans 8:2, et al)



worshiped in “high places.” The term “high place” is analogous to the term “mountain” and signifies spiritual authorities other than the One True God.

- *Our* “altars” are the objects upon which (or in which) we sacrifice ... you know ... the kitchen, the bedroom, the club, the garage, the mirror, the office, the TV, the internet, and the imaginations of our own hearts, etc.
- *Our* “idols” are the actual things that we worship. The things that hold sway over us, to whom we have enslaved ourselves; food & drink; sex & pornography; ambition & wealth; illicit forms of entertainment; cars; beauty; excessive work; television shows; the world of web, etc. You name it.
- *Our* “images” are the worldviews that are inconsistent with Truth; our perspectives on sin and salvation that are incongruent with what the Bible reveals; the characteristics that we superimpose on God that are not supported by scripture; how we misinterpret propositional truth to fit our preferences; etc.
- *Our* “works” are the incoherent thoughts and intents of the heart; the works of the law; self righteousness; works that issue from arrogance and haughtiness of heart; self-exaltation and self-aggrandizement; all works that are not born of a heart of love for God; etc.

Here the Lord is telling us that in our partnership to create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit; He will lay waste our cities and desolate our high places. This is done by the renewing our minds through the Word of God. As we see the truth of the revealed Word of God, we begin to see the things in our lives and hearts that are inconsistent and otherwise incongruent with what God has said is true. As we believe and do according to this revealed truth we are transformed. We are then able (by the grace of God and the work of the Spirit) to tear down our altars and break down our idols. We are able to dismantle our images and misconceptions and abolish our own works of righteousness.

We abandon these for the living God. We give the Word of God its rightful place in our hearts and lives. As we begin to study and agree with the Word of God and the person of Jesus Christ we take on appropriate perspectives on sin, salvation, the condition of the heart and sanctification.

Why Doesn't God Answer Prayers?

Or Does He?

While listening to one of my mentors, I heard repeated references to the fact that people are in turmoil over why “God does not answer prayers.” Believers and unbelievers alike are at odds over this situation.

People are asking: “If God is “all-loving why doesn't He answer prayers?” And by this, some seem to console themselves that God doesn't answer prayers because God is either a “figment of our imaginations;” or because “God does not exist.” For others they resolve that God does not answer prayers because, “Prayers don't work.” Still others say because God “arbitrarily chooses which prayers He answers and which He refrains from answering.” In either case, the scriptures do not support these positions. In fact the scriptures represent quite a different picture. We'll see that here in just a moment.

I asked the Lord, “Father, if someone asked me that question, what answer I should give them?” I was asking for an answer with substance. I wanted something that could help those seeking in earnest to understand. I wanted an answer that would encourage and sustain the hearts of believers who heretofore, didn't really know how to answer this question (for themselves or for others). But more importantly, I wanted an answer that would honor God and enable us to know something more of His Character and His Person. After all, His ultimate goal for mankind can be expressed in His desire “that we might know and understand Him.” (Jer. 9:23-24 KJV by reference)

A gentleman went into his local grocer, looking for a side of beef. When told by the store clerk, that they didn't sell sides of beef, he became indignant. The store clerk asked, “Sir, did you see an advertisement or something stating that we were selling sides of beef?” The gentleman replied, “No,” as he left the store disappointed.

Unfortunately, this is how we approach prayer. Often we pray for things that we believe that God “ought” to provide; for reasons that may (or may not) make sense to us. But is this how God operates? If not, are we justified in expecting Him to make exceptions for us? Allow me to share another analogy.

There were a couple of scenes in the movie *i,Robot*, where the character Detective Spooner (Will Smith) talked to the hologram of the newly deceased Dr. Lanning (James Cromwell). In one scene, Detective Spooner began to ask the "Dr." a series of questions, for which he really needed answers; if he was to resolve this dilemma. The response to some of the detective's questions was, "I'm sorry my responses are limited. You must ask the right questions." In another scene the detective talked with the Dr.'s hologram; as he asked his final question, and the hologram replied, "That detective is the right question." Granted this was fictional, but there is a sense in which getting answers to prayers are much like this discussion.

How can we KNOW that God will answer our prayers? Can we know? When Jesus was at the tomb of Lazarus (John 11:41-43 Complete Jewish Bible), He began to pray, saying, "Father I thank You that You have heard Me. I myself know that You ALWAYS hear Me." Do you ever wonder how *the man* Jesus knew that God would ALWAYS hear His prayers? The Lord has given us a hint.

This is the confidence that Jesus had; He knew that if He asked *anything* according to God's will, He knew that God would hear Him. He also knew that if God heard Him, that whatsoever He asked of God, He knew that God had granted His petition (1 John 5:14-15 KJV). The exact same promise is true for us today. This is not such a far-flung concept either. Think about it, who does not love to be asked to do something that they are, themselves, already pre-committed to doing? That's like asking a woman, if she "wants to go shopping." While the question is still in your mouth, she's backing the car out of the driveway en route to the nearest mall. (Isa. 65:24 KJV paraphrased)

While God may not be as fond of shopping as some of us are, there are things that He is already predisposed to do. If it were possible, He'd literally be sitting on the "edge of His throne," waiting for us to ask Him to do what He is already pre-committed to do. And we know this to be true because He said that He has already given us ALL THINGS that pertains to life and godliness, in Christ Jesus (1 Pet. 1:3 KJV paraphrased). You can't be any *more* predisposed, than to have already done or given a thing. One definition of "pre-commitment" in God is that He has "given before the petitioner asks." Is this not what He has done for us at Calvary? Jesus didn't come because mankind had first asked for a "way of

salvation." We didn't even know we were lost.

God says, I have given you EVERYTHING in Christ Jesus; and EVERYTHING that I have given you in Him, when you petition it, the answer comes back a resounding "Yes and Amen." (2 Cor. 1:20 KJV paraphrased). Very specifically, this scripture says; "for all the promises of God in Him [Christ Jesus] are yea, and in Him amen." However, in order to get a "yes and amen" answer to all of our prayer petitions; we have to "ask the right questions." I know I know ... it sounds like some kind of game, doesn't it. Well it's not a game. But it is a Law. It is a Law that stems from the very nature of God, Himself. How many of us know that it is far easier to live and transact in a country, when we understand their laws? Let's explore that.

For the sake of this discussion, we'll call it the *Law of Granted Petitions*. We have the following factors: God, the petitioner, the petition and the response. Their relationship is as follows: The petition comes from the petitioner; the response comes from God.

Now, we must understand that God will NEVER grant a petition that is inconsistent with the law of His Nature, NOT EVER. In order to do so, would require that He deny Himself. As one can appreciate, this will NEVER happen. Therefore, in order for God to grant a "Yes and Amen" response to a petition, the petitioner must make a request that is consistent with the nature of God. Essentially the petitioner must make a petition to which God has already given a "Yes and Amen" response. Now where in the world can we find out to which petitions God has already given a "Yes and Amen" response? Well, in the words of Jesus "It is written...."

The scriptures teach us that every good and perfect gift comes from God; and that everything that God will ever give, He has already granted to us in Christ Jesus. We see this in (John 16:23-24 KJV paraphrased) when Jesus said that until now, you have asked nothing in My name. But the time will come that *whatsoever* you ask the Father in My name, He will give it to you. Here you have "pre-commitment" at its best. There will come NO valid request or petition, before the Lord, for which God has not already made provision and to which He has not already responded "Yes and Amen." So why, then, do so many prayers go unanswered? It is safe to assume that the problem is not with God or His responses to our prayers. All then that is left is the

potential discord within the petition or the petitioner.

A young lady, we'll call her, Patricia walks up to a bank teller with a withdrawal slip. The teller tries to enter the account number on the withdrawal slip, nothing comes up. She tries a few times and then calls for help, this being only her 3rd day as a teller. By this time, the teller in the next window has served 4-5 customers. Patricia sees this and asked the teller what is taking so long. The teller says, "Ma'am we cannot grant your withdrawal petition." Patricia asks, "Why not?" The teller advises, "Ma'am are you sure this is the right account number?" "Yes, I think I know my account number by now, I've been a customer of this bank for years." Patricia retorts a bit frustrated at the delay. The teller says rather softly, "Ma'am this account number is inconsistent with our bank's account numbering scheme. Are you sure that this is correct?" Patricia looks again at the account number, and embarrassingly recognized that she had written her credit union account number on the withdrawal slip, inadvertently. She apologizes and leaves quietly.

Now do you think that if Patricia had pressed the issue, at some point the bank would have conceded and granted her withdrawal request? It's highly unlikely that she would have ever been able to have her request granted under those circumstances.

Such is the case with petitions, asked of God. It may help if we take a slightly different perspective on prayer and petitions; referencing again the *Law of Granted Petitions*. There are certain things that God is predisposed to do in the earth. By the wisdom of the Triune Counsel of the Godhead; He has already made up His mind about them. Likewise, there are certain things (and a great many of them) that God is NOT predisposed to do under any circumstance. No amount of prayer, fasting or tears will draw a favorable response to those petitions. If we conceive of prayer and petitioning as a method by which we get God to do things we deem valuable and/or necessary; we could very likely be perpetually disappointed and frustrated in our prayer life. However, if we conceive of prayer and petitioning in light of the *Great Condescension* we will hardly be finished asking; when God will have already answered.

What, you ask, is the *Great Condescension*? Here is one expression of it: The Sovereign God, has looked across the spectrum of time and contingent events; and every good and perfect thing that ought to be done, He has pre-committed to do and provide. Salvation is one of those things; and there are many, many more such things. Prayer and petition is an opportunity for us (His children) to enter into this great work. We are able to glimpse this work throughout the Bible.

There may be some who may come away thinking, "Do you mean to tell me that we can only ask God for certain things that He has already agreed to do? And we cannot ask Him for things that *we* want done? Oh I see, it's His way or the highway? Suppose I want something "good" done, that He hasn't already decided to do? Or suppose I want something done that He doesn't necessarily want done? That's not fair."

All of these can be valid questions, to which I would ask or respond:

There is a sense in which this is not much different from an employee's relationship with the company that employs them. A business entity exists to accomplish a specific goal. As the business grows, persons are hired to help accomplish its mission. When persons are hired, it is for the purpose of entering into the pre-established mission and strategic goals of the business. Contrary to what some may believe, the business entity is not there to support the strategic goals of the employee; it's quite the other way around. This principle is everywhere prevalent throughout our world.

It is not so far-fetched to conceive that our prayers and petitions ought to cause us to enter into the great work that God has already designed. Everything that will support Gods overall purpose has already been established and provided. And when our prayers and petitions accord with His design, we may often receive immediate and favorable responses. And this is true in every area of our lives. There is not one single area of our lives that God has not taken into consideration; and for which He has not already made provision in accord with His grand design. It is our responsibility to enter into relationship with Him and thereby become privy to His will and intentions. We then, in sympathy and in agreement with His

wisdom, submit petitions to that end.

The scriptures teach us that “whatsoever we bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever we loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (Matt. 18:18 KJV paraphrased). Allow me to say it this way: Whatever the Lord is pre-committed to bind in heaven; may, by us, be bound on the earth. And whatever He is pre-disposed to loose in heaven; may, by us, be loosed on the earth.

God went to great lengths to help King Nebuchadnezzar understand one thing. By a dream, God communicated that Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom would be kept for him until he had learned that “*Heaven rules everything*” (Dan. 4:26 The Complete Jewish Bible). The same is true for us today.

That being said, it would behoove us to align with the works of God in our prayers and requests. The Lord has promised to answer “Yes and Amen” to all such petitions. God speed. 

A Journey to Intimacy

The Journey Continues - *Process of Reciprocity*

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)

I asked the Father, “From whom does the Lamb receive these gifts?”

Of course the man Jesus Christ receives these from the Father in the receipt of His kingdom (Matt. 25:31; Luke 22:29-30 KJV reference). This part I understood.

But the Father said that the Lamb also receives these things from us, His servants (Rev. 21:26 KJV reference). By this I was a bit puzzled. I said, Father “from where do we (servants) get POWER and WISDOM and HONOR and GLORY to give to the Lamb?”

He said “through (what I’ll call) the *Process of Reciprocity*.” Certainly, I was familiar with reciprocity in an ecological sense (water comes down to the earth as rain and returns through evaporation). I was familiar with reciprocity in a legal sense: *quid pro quo* (something for something). I had even heard of reciprocity in a benevolent sense (you do

something for me and I’ll do something for you). I may even relate reciprocity in a biblical sense (do unto others as you would have them do unto you). But I had never, ever heard of such a process in a transcendent sense.

The Lord then referred me to St. John 17 (verses 11, 21-22 KJV); here our Lord prays for us that we would be made one with each other. Jesus went on to petition that we would be made one with (the Triune God). The Lord showed that our being made one with Him enables us to enter into the *Process of Reciprocity* that has long since been characteristic of the Trinity.

The Father gives to the Son and the Holy Spirit; the Son gives the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit gives the Father and the Son. (Perpetual Communion)

We then see this internal *Process of Reciprocity* reaching out to include mankind; again a glimpse of the *Great Condescension*.

The Father gives to the Son (a body); the Son gives to the world the Holy Spirit (a Comforter), the Holy Spirit gives to us (an understanding of the Father and the Son); thereby giving to the Father (more sons). But it doesn’t stop here, because there’s a sense in which we have not entered into the cycle.

As we receive this gift of salvation and die to the flesh and the world (by the sanctification of the Holy Spirit), we enter into this *Process of Reciprocity* and the cycle looks like this.

The Father gives to the Son (a body); the Son gives to the world the Holy Spirit (a Comforter), the Holy Spirit gives to us (an understanding of the Father and the Son); we give to the Triune God and to the world (in Jesus’ name) ourselves as a living sacrifice.

As we continue to grow (and die to self) we receive from God, what our Lord received from the Father, we are joint-heirs with Christ.

The Son receives from the Father (POWER and RICHES and WISDOM, etc.); the Holy Spirit receives from the Son (POWER and RICHES and WISDOM, etc.); we receive from the Holy Spirit ((POWER and RICHES and WISDOM, etc.); and God (in Jesus’ name) receives from us (POWER and RICHES and WISDOM, etc.).

And the cycle continues. []

