

# Kingdom News

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

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## The Chief Cornerstone



### Pressing the Battle to the Gates

*Part I - Introduction*

And the gates of hell shall not prevail against ...<sup>(1)</sup>

**Warning:** Gird of the loins of your mind.<sup>(2)</sup> Fasten your seatbelts; this is going to be a rocky ride. This series will not (by any means) be for the faint of heart.

“Upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”<sup>(3)</sup> Will you allow me to give a very soft “translation” of this beautiful proclamation? There is a sense in which Jesus is saying that “upon the grounds of the revelation of the Spirit of God, I will build and strengthen My Body (church).”<sup>(4)</sup> The authorities and emissaries of the enemy shall be helpless to withstand the military campaigns of the Body of Christ.” For the record, this is an “offensive” strategic proclamation, instead of a “defensive” one.

That being the case, over the course of the next 4-5 editions of this column the Lord will talk with us about “pressing the battle to the gates” of the enemy. He will take us on a guided tour through the munitions plant of the enemy. The Lord will disclose the enemy’s strategies and tactics. Ahh the “Art of War.” The Lord will cause us to know how the enemy wages and engages war against the “saints.” From these disclosures, we will be directed in how to take our appropriate place of

Chief Cornerstone

*Continued on page 5*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 The Chief Cornerstone & The Leadership Corner
- 2 Son of My Wisdom & Journey to Intimacy
- 3 Precepts in Practice & Love and The Truth
- 4 Boot Camp

## The Leadership Corner *Leadership Living, Inc.*

### Back to School!!

We are nearing the end of the summer season. Many of us have taken exciting vacations or “stay-cations.” Others have revamped schedules to accommodate having the children out of school. And, there are those who have just tried to stay cool during times of extreme heat.

As August comes in, we now have to prepare to get children young and old ready for the coming school year. From kindergarten through college, our kids will be depending on us to help get them back into the educational groove.

This brings something interesting to mind. Are there times when God has to get us, as Christians, back into the educational groove? Do we ever fall into the rut of reacting to life instead of learning from it? Have we given up our lifelong school ID badges in exchange for simply “dealing” with the issues of life? If so, maybe God wants us to think about what we need to do to get back to the basics of being a student of life.

The apostle Paul had to encourage his student, Timothy, in this same manner. In II Timothy 2:15 (KJV paraphrased) Paul instructs Timothy to “study to show yourself approved (or acceptable) to God, being a worker who knows how to apply the word of God.” He wanted Timothy to become skillful at applying God’s word in everyday situations. We must note that before we can apply God’s word to a situation, we have to at least believe that God has power over the situation.

If we do not believe that God has power over the situation, why then would we try to apply His word to it? This principle holds true in our lives. We will want to become skillful at applying God’s word to the

The Leadership Corner

*Continued on page 6*

# Son of My Wisdom



## The Gifts of Genesis 3

All scriptures paraphrased from the KJV

I had been studying Genesis chapter 3 regarding what the Lord God meted out as “judgment,” after the fall of mankind. The particular verses in reference are Genesis 3:16-17. Let's take a look-see; shall we.

*Gen 3:16-17* Unto the woman He said I will greatly multiply thy **sorrow** and thy conception; in **sorrow** thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam He said because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee saying, thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed is the ground for thy sake**; in **sorrow** shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.

Now I had (for some time) thought like many, that what God was declaring in these verses was simply “judgment.” Since the Lord has been dealing with me on this, I can no longer see these declarations as simply “judgment,” rather grace and mercy. “Now,” you say, “how can this be?”

Well first let's look at what is common between what God said to woman and to man. The common theme between both of them is **SORROW**. “In sorrow shalt thou bring forth children,” and “in sorrow shalt thou eat of [the ground].” How can sorrow possibly be an expression of grace and mercy? Well the scriptures are clear that there are two types of sorrow, each having differing effects. Let's see what they are, what their effects are, and which of them God intended in Genesis 3.

2 Corinthians 7:10 Tells of two types of sorrow.  
*“For godly sorrow works repentance to salvation not to be repented of; but the sorrow of the world works death.”*

So we see “godly sorrow,” and “worldly sorrow.” At this point in my studies, the Lord asked me “which 'sorrow' did you think I was talking about in Genesis 3.” I said, “Hmmm, godly?” “Indeed,” He said, “my intent for both man and woman, in my pronouncements after the fall, was godly sorrow, which works repentance unto salvation.” The purpose for the sorrow of woman's labor, and the sorrow of man's labor was to prepare the way for the gospel. There is a sense in which Genesis 3:16-17 was intended to prepare us for John 3:16-17.

What is interesting is that if you Google “Genesis 3:16” you



## A Journey to Intimacy

### Philosophy: Qualia

#### The “Learning” and the “Living” ...

“What's that?” you say. What is “qualia?”

There is a philosophical (I like to call it a physiological) concept that *the things that we experience have certain qualities and that these qualities affect us each in a certain (somewhat measurable) way*. The details of how “qualia” works (where it does and does not apply) are still hotly debatable within the scientific discipline; so we won't trouble ourselves with those particular arguments. We will however, take license to enlarge upon, some part of, the concept itself; because there is a particular application that we as Christians **MUST** grasp. Our prayer is that we “get” this; that we really *get* what is being shared here. I believe that you see my point as you read on.

Qualia are (in my words) the various qualities that make up the phenomenal (sensory) character of your experiences. Said otherwise, “qualia” are the peculiar qualities or attributes of personal experiences that we each know intimately as we live through certain events in life. These same qualities do not come from knowledge itself; no textbook can convey “qualia.” By way of quick (but crude) example: You can read of someone describe what it's like to be burned by a branding iron. But the actual experience of such an event affects our mind, will and emotions in ways that cannot be properly represented in a textbook. Allow me to offer a personal example.

It is one thing to “talk about or hear about” near death experiences. It is quite another thing to be driving down an icy, wet highway between two major cities and have your car hit a patch of ice and go into what I call a combination “360 degree/fishtail tantrum” across three lanes of oncoming traffic. We knew that the radio was on quite loudly, but still the silence was deafening. Our car spun and spun; we saw first tail lights; then head lights; then tail lights; then ... I knew that I was supposed to “turn into the spin.” But I saw the steering wheel twisting and turning frantically. We didn't know which car or truck would hit us first. We didn't know just how badly this would turn out. So I stopped trying to “catch the steering wheel” and said, “Lord, we trust You.” Immediately, our car slid softly off the expressway, and within fractions of a second we saw the oncoming cars and trucks speed right past us on the highway, as if nothing had just happened. We wondered where they had been,

## Precepts in Practice



### Be Perfect – What !?!?

Most Christians have heard people say one of the following phrases, “I’m not perfect,” or “I’ll never be perfect,” or “Only Jesus is perfect,” or “God does not expect us to be perfect.”

If you’ve ever gotten yourself into one of these conversations with other Christians you already know that this is a volatile subject even among so-called mature Christians.

The concept of perfection has been debated for many years. And, I have no idealistic notions that we will put this discussion to rest in this month’s article. I would, however, like us to consider a few points regarding “perfection,” what God intends, and what is possible for believers.

Let’s start with natural truths. Scientists, doctors, and other healthcare professionals will tell you that each person has a unique physical and physiological make up. We are all different from each other in some way. Even identical twins are not truly identical in all aspects. In addition, although each person has two hands, two feet, two eyes, and two ears (usually), both eyes are not identical. Our feet, hands, and ears are also different from each other. One eye could be larger than the other. Or, one ear could be more rounded than the other.

We also understand that in a physical, mental, or emotional sense no one is without flaws. Most people in the U. S. are able to comprehend basic information like primary colors; identification of trees, water, and common structures; as well as recognition of familiar sounds. Still, each individual has a unique learning style and ability.

We can then clearly see that since God did not make us without physical, mental, or emotional flaws, He surely does not intend for us to be perfect (flawless) in these areas. As humans we will always forget things, misunderstand communication, and have accidents.

## Love and The Truth



### The Fruitful Vineyard: What Can Be Learned-Husbands and Wives

Scriptures paraphrased from the KJV

In the previous article, in this series, we were discussing marriage. We discussed some of the roles of the husband and some of the bride’s roles. We looked at this relationship through the lens of the parable of the husbandman and the vineyard (Matthew 21:33-44). God had therein told us that wherever there was a lack of intimacy; the husband is to first inspect himself. That, however, was just one revelation from God on the subject of marriage which can be seen from the parabolic relationship between husbandman and vineyard. We will dig further to see what else can be understood through the lens of that same parable, God willing.

I started seeing more by doing just a basic search of all the references in the scriptures to 'vineyards,' then to 'fruit(s).' This was not the first reference, but it was my first stop. Exodus 23: 10 “*And six years thou shalt sow thy land, and shalt gather in the fruits thereof: but the seventh year thou shalt let it rest and lie still, that the poor of thy people may eat...*”

Just so that we see this directive clearly, we will lay out some basic definitions:

1. Sow – to work in order to facilitate fruitfulness.
2. Gather (receiver) – to receive the fruit of a vineyard, garden, olive yard, farm, etc.
3. Rest – leaving off from sowing and gathering, or limiting sowing and gathering.

First, the husbandman is responsible to *sow* into his garden; that is to work to facilitate fruitfulness. Likewise the husband is responsible to *labor for*, which means to love and to live godly before his wife in such a way as to facilitate her own fruitfulness.

A very critical part is this: the husband must recognize that he too is a part of the bride of Christ; as such he must also submit to the *sowing* of God in Christ, through the Spirit to bring about his own fruitfulness. **Sidebar:**



## Boot Camp

### Christianity 101 – The Basics

#### Obedience



So far we've covered **Forgiveness**, **Repentance**, and **Faith**; tonight we'll talk about **Obedience**.

Over the course of the coming sessions, the Lord will disclose to us foundational principles of the Christian faith. Here are some of the basic tenets:

- Forgiveness – What's your flavor of "forgiveness?"
- Repentance – To so agree with God on a particular truth as to align one's self (in word and deed) with that truth.
- Faith – Is an act of worship.
- **Obedience** – Obey who and why? What does *faith* have to do with *obedience*?
- Truth – In the words of Pilate, "What is *truth*?"
- Prayer – What is it and how do we do it? Is there a relationship between *truth* and *prayer*?
- Sin – You know "sweet in the mouth; and bitter in the belly."
- Righteousness – What is it? How does sin and *righteousness* relate to each other?
- Etc. as the Lord pleases

#### QUICK RECAP (Excerpts)

**Forgiveness** - When you pray "forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us... you are invoking a Kingdom law (very similar to the law of sowing and reaping). It has the characteristics of both a logical and of an analogical formula. The "if ... then" and "like ... as" imperatives. Remember when you pray, "Father, forgive me "like/as" I forgive my offenders;" you're invoking a solemn pledge that the Lord is not "permitted" (pardon the expression) to forgive beyond your forgiveness.

In the Kingdom there is only one "flavor" of forgiveness. Plan ole' vanilla. You're either forgiven, are you aren't.

What's your flavor of "forgiveness?"

**Repentance** - True *repentance* is a Kingdom principle by which reconciliation is facilitated. *Repentance* facilitates reconciliation between man and man; as well as reconciliation between God and man.

In the Kingdom, it can be said this way: "*repentance* is to so agree with God on a particular truth as to align one's self (in word and deed) with that truth." In the Kingdom, there is only one type of *repentance*. That is a *repentance* that results in such a change in the posture of the heart so as to be reflected in one's behavior.

One good example of *repentance*:

[28] But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. [29] He answered and said "I will not," but afterward he repented, and went. [30] And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. [31] Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They said unto him, "The first." Jesus replied to them, "... the publicans and the harlots will go into the kingdom of God before you." (Matthew 21:28-31 KJV adapted)

Why?

**Relationship between Forgiveness and Repentance** - Why does our Lord keep (*pardon the expression*) harping on *repentance*? It is because the Lord genuinely wants to *forgive*. But the law of the Lord is *perfect* (it won't change); therefore it is the soul that must be converted; it is the soul that must change (repent).

However, there is a sense in which God is not at liberty to step over *repentance* and *forgive*. Why? It is because the delicate relationship between *repentance* and *forgiveness* is inherent in the very nature of God. For God to side-step *repentance* in order to *forgive* someone; would necessitate that He set Himself at odds with Himself.

If God could *forgive* without the prerequisite genuine *repentance*, then the Plan of Salvation (Calvary) would not have been necessary. It would be the same as "a criminal being brought up on legitimate charges and then being released without penalty." This would amount to an egregious and most distasteful miscarriage of justice.

**Faith** - But true, Kingdom *faith* is an "act of worship," therefore it must terminate on a Person. Worship is derived from two Old English words "worth" and "scipe." A very old use of the term was "worth-ship." Worship is a league of honor; it is an allegiance. Worship is to esteem or to bestow honor upon one.

#### WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN TO OBEY?

Where does obedience reside? Does it reside in the hands or in the heart? Is it identified by one's will or by

dominion over our selves and over our lives.

During prayer one day, the Lord said these things to me, “The gates of hell shall not prevail against you, and so press the battle to the gates. He is not omnipotent. He is not omnipresence. He is not omniscient.” I don’t mind telling you that I knew that we were preparing to disturb the hornet’s nest. But we trust the wisdom of God; this is His battle anyway, isn’t it?<sup>(5)</sup>

If we have heard the Lord correctly (I pray that we have) our current understanding of this journey is this. This month we’ll introduce the series. In the following months the Lord will disclose, expand, enlighten and equip us to move out into warfare.

- August 2010 edition – Introduction
- September 2010 edition – He [the enemy] is not omnipotent – Here the Lord will show us the boundaries of the enemy’s power.
- October 2010 edition – He [the enemy] is not omniscient – Here the Lord will disclose the circumscription of the enemy’s knowledge.
- November 2010 edition – He [the enemy] is not omnipresent – Here the Lord will educate us on the prohibitions and restrictions of the enemy’s presence.
- December 2010 edition – Wrap up

We hope you’ll come along with us; as the Lord prepares us for battle. He commands that we take back our lives and our land from the enemy. However, the “doing” of this warfare will be left to the “volitional election” of each of us. The Lord has fitted us with weapons and other resources.<sup>(6)</sup> He is also laying before us the strategic framework of the enemy’s military efforts. In warfare, it is vital that we understand what we’re dealing with. If we “size-up” our adversary correctly, we are better able to exploit his weaknesses and compromise his vulnerabilities. You’ll see that it is the exact same strategy that our enemy has been using against us (and our predecessors) for ages. A hint to the wise ...

**Disclaimer:** As one can appreciate when you trample the territory of your adversary (unannounced) you tend to stir up things a bit. So get ready.

I know ... I know we often shy away from the idea of engaging in warfare. May I ask you a question? If you are in a war, would you rather “know” or “not know;” especially when so much is at stake.

In closing, this of course, is an unusual article, because it is very simply an introduction, a “warning,” and a petition.

- It is an “*introduction*” in that we’ve laid out the road ahead; pointing out the various landmarks and milestones along the way.

- It is a “*warning*” in as much as we would fail of our duty, if we neglected to alert you to the potential rebuttal that may come from the enemy’s camp. Our ignorance is one of the means by which the enemy has been able to wreak havoc in our lives, as much as he does. Paul said to the church at Corinth that “lest Satan should get an advantage of us ... we are not ignorant of his devices.”<sup>(7)</sup> It may just as likely be said that we “ought not” be ignorant of the enemy’s devices. Because in many unfortunate ways, we are very ignorant of the enemy’s strategies, etc. But all of that is about to change. If one does not respect the potential danger of a loaded gun; one may very likely leave it lying around the house.
- Finally it is a “*petition*” both to you and to God. “*To you*” because we are asking for your prayers that we would so humble ourselves as to hear God clearly on this matter. And that we would say what He says (no more and no less). “*To God*” our petition is that we (collectively) would seriously undertake this responsibility, before Him. And by it; that we may pull down the strongholds of the enemy; cast down his imaginations and destroying every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.”<sup>(8)</sup>

May we not be ignorant of His righteousness, and go about to establish our own?”

God willing, next edition: *Pressing the Battle to the Gates – He is not Omnipotent.* <CC>

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

#### **Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)**

- <sup>(1)</sup> Matthew 16:18
- <sup>(2)</sup> 1 Peter 1:13
- <sup>(3)</sup> Matthew 16:18
- <sup>(4)</sup> John 16:13-15
- <sup>(5)</sup> 2 Chronicles 20:15b
- <sup>(6)</sup> 2 Corinthians 10:4-6; Ephesians 6:11-18
- <sup>(7)</sup> 2 Corinthians 2:11
- <sup>(8)</sup> 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

## GOLGOTHA



For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

(Romans 5:14 KJV)



situations we face each day. But first, we are to take the position that God has power over every circumstance we will ever face.

We will also want to understand that God uses all situations to bring about His will in us and in the earth. As believers, it is impossible for anything to happen in our lives that God is not using for our good. One of our main challenges is to believe God is actively at work at all times in our lives. Another challenge is for us to submit to what God is doing in our lives.

Now, you may ask, “How do I know if what I am going through is something God is using to grow me, or if it is something brought on by the enemy?” This is an outstanding question! I am honored to address it (on God’s behalf). The Christians that lived in Corinth had this same question. The apostle Paul gave them sage consolation. In II Corinthians 10:13 (KJV paraphrased) Paul said, “No temptation has come upon you except what is common to all people; but God is faithful, who will not permit you to suffer more than you are able to bear; but He will with the temptation also make a way for you to come out of it.”

Let’s note that God will allow the challenge to come and at the same time allow us to escape it. Now, we usually think that this means God will deliver us physically out of the trial so that we do not have to go through it any longer. But, I submit to you that what Paul really wants us to know is that God can re-educate us about what we are facing (by His Spirit and through His word) so that we no longer *see* the

situation as a negative and/or harmful trial. Instead, once God shines the light of His word in our hearts, we will see the situation correctly, as an instrument for God to grow us and bless us.

God wants us to begin to see our lives the way He sees them. He wants us to become students of life. No longer are we to be content with just “dealing” with the issues we face (often unsuccessfully). On the contrary, God wants us to thrive in the midst of the challenges. He wants us to ask him to show us what is really happening as we face various circumstances. And, finally, He wants us to submit ourselves to what **He** is doing with the situation to bring about His will in our lives and in the earth.

When this happens we stop being victims of our environments (where we think that everything negative is happening **TO** us) and we start being partners with God to cause his plan and purpose to come to fruition in our lives (where we know that everything is happening **FOR** us).

So, now that it’s time to get our kids ready to return to the “student” mentality; how about us making a conscious effort to also go “back to school” – **permanently?**

Be blessed. ~LLI~

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### THE PAVEMENT



Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeks and intermeddles with all wisdom.

(Proverb 18:1)



will be astounded at how many people call it “woman’s curse.” We are to see the covering and admonition of God to live lives of repentance every time a woman goes into labor, and every time a man goes out to labor. We are supposed to wipe the sweat of labor from our brow in the spirit of gospel repentance. The Lord God in no way cursed us in Genesis 3; He covered us, and prepared us for reconciliation. There is a small difference between what God did in Gen 3:16 and the use of animal skins to cover in Gen 3:21. Both were a covering: one spiritual, one natural.

Next time I hope to discuss the last part of Gen 3:16, and explore how that is not a curse, but another gift. And as always, we welcome your comments and questions.  
-SOMW-

David L. White

what held them back, while our out-of-control car went spinning across their lanes of traffic. The intimate details of that event are what are called “qualia.” They are the intricate, transactions, thoughts, feelings, etc. that come with the actual “living” of the experience.

Sometimes we don’t really know what we think about our life, itself (or whether or not we really value it); until it is about to be taken from us. Paul said, “I am not only ready to be bound, but to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”<sup>(1)</sup> There is this ring of certainty in Paul’s voice here; can you hear it? Somehow we believe that he means what he says. But where does this certainty come from? How are we sure that Paul is ready to give up his life. Well because Paul, had to address that very decision with himself a number of times before.<sup>(2)</sup> The telling of Paul’s multiple beatings, imprisonments, shipwrecks, etc, are indicative of the “qualia” of his experiences. We know that he is not telling “someone else’s story.

Allow me to introduce another scenario. Then allow me to translate this concept in terms of our Christian walk or way of life. Is that acceptable to you?

Scenario: (I cannot cite the author, so please forgive me) It is said that there was a young lady who was born color-blind. She was so interested in the concept of the ability to see colors that she engaged a rather extensive research and investigative study to learn e-v-e-r-y-t-h-i-n-g she could about colors. What they are? What comprised them? What are the physical characteristics and attributes of color? You name it, she researched it. Although she was color blind, she came to be known as one of the far-most respected authorities on the science of color or “*Chromatics*.”

Now here we have a person who is literally, physically and clinically color-blind. But who has amassed such a wealth of data and information about the “world of color.” In many ways, she knows more about “color” than persons who are not likewise “color-blind.” She has physical facts, raw data and statistics. But none of this is indicative of the “qualia” of the actual experience of *seeing* color.

In one sense, the concept to of “qualia” hints that there is a vast difference between the “learned” and the “lived.”

Qualifier: Here we use the term “learned” to imply the means by which we collect data and information, just short of the empirical transaction itself (i.e., personal experience itself). Contrariwise the term “lived” implies the full spectrum of knowledge and experience.

“Qualia” says (in my words) that there are specific qualities that come from our experiences that are not (and cannot be) made accessible to us otherwise (e.g. through

simply reading, or talking, or hearing).

What’s that?! Do you hear that??

I hear the conversation between Jesus and the “rich young ruler.”<sup>(3)</sup> The young man comes to Jesus asking, what he must do to have eternal life. Jesus’ reply was most beautiful and telling, He said “keep the commandments.” Jesus goes on to very specifically enumerate most of the “horizontal” commandments (regarding murder; adultery; stealing; lying; honoring parents and love for one’s neighbor, etc.).

The young man said, “Great!!! Been there; done that. I already know all of these things, what more could you require?” Jesus replies, “If you want to be perfect, sell what you have; give the proceeds to the poor; ... and come follow Me.”

What correlation does this have with the concept of “qualia?” you ask. Good question. I’ll tell it to you this way. If you read the small print, it says this. “There is a certain knowledge or understanding that you can get from knowing and keeping the “horizontal commandments.” But much of this is *theory*, as compared to actually “giving up everything you have to follow Christ.” It meets the *letter* of the ordinance; whereas, the *spirit* of the law is completely lost on the young man. No disrespect intended, but simply knowing and understanding the commandments lacks that specific experience; that certain intimate quality of life and development of character required of “the sons of God.”

Now on another level, however, one can very easily get along in life and not (in the legal sense of the terms) murder, steal, bear false witness, etc. The Scribes and Pharisees thought themselves very capable of just this. One can actually treat his neighbor as his equal, without much internal turmoil. There is one (carnal) sense in which these activities do not require the “qualia” of “sacrifice or relationship.” But one CANNOT give up the cares of this life (in one sense); take up his cross and follow Christ;<sup>(4)</sup> without both “sacrifice and relationship.” The development of character resulting from the latter is just what it takes to be conformed into the image of Christ.

The scriptures teach that the God intends to *conform* us into the image of Jesus Christ.<sup>(5)</sup> The process of conforming us (aka the sanctification process) yields such “qualia” that cannot be acquired otherwise. That goes a “few” steps beyond simply confessing a belief in Jesus Christ. There is one “basic” sense in which at conversion we become “sons of God.”<sup>(6)</sup> But there is another “deeper, richer” sense in which we are given the ability (or permission) to BECOME the “sons of God.”<sup>(7)</sup> For as many as are lead by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.<sup>(8)</sup> Everyone who is converted is not “lead by the Spirit of God.” To be conformed into the image of Christ means;

- To actually do the things that He did; you know, to learn obedience by the things we suffer.<sup>(9)</sup>
- To respond to life the way He did; for example praying for those who hate and misuse us.<sup>(10)</sup>
- To avoid behavior and postures of the heart that He shunned; like not answering evil for evil.<sup>(11)</sup>
- To submit to God the way Jesus did; He did what He saw the Father do.<sup>(12)</sup> Surely “imitation is the highest form of flattery.”

There is a certain way in which we may *know* God, by reading His Word. By this activity we can *know* that God *does* heal. But by this we do not personally know Him *as* a healer. We lack the empirical qualities (qualia) of this type of transaction or relationship.

It is one thing to *read*, “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake ... Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad ...”<sup>(13)</sup> It is quite another thing to actually have to look into the eyes of one who is persecuting you falsely, and bless them (without wrath and doubting; without a heart of vengeance towards them). There is a “dying to self” that takes place in the “living” that is inaccessible (or otherwise unavailable to us) in the “learning.” No amount of “learning” will get us to the “qualia” attained by “living” through experiences.

We experience the “qualia” in the “living.” You can sometimes see subtle deference to this concept in the “new-hire interviewing” process; when one is seeking to fill an open job or position. (Since everyone may not be familiar with the “behind-the-desk activities” of the hiring process; you won’t mind if I use my own personal experience would you?) For those of you who have the responsibility of hiring personnel (or others); you will possibly be familiar with this. For those of you who do not “hire” I will try to give concise, but sufficient, details.

When I am interviewing candidates for a particular job, I ask the candidate open-ended questions about how they performed their jobs or specific job-related tasks. I also ask them to describe particular duties, tasks or projects. Sometimes I ask them to walk me through “a-day-in-the-life-of ...” their former/current role. I do this because I am listening for subtle details, thoughts, decisions, activities and nuances that are germane to the role itself. I am listening for those peculiar nuances that are present (and known) to those performing the tasks of that role. I am looking and listening for the “qualia” that is indicative of one’s experience in certain activities.

[Examples: If you are interviewing someone for the role of an IT Applications Developer/Programmer you may ask them how they (in their former/current

job) identified and resolved programming errors or programming loops. You may ask them about Change Control activities, etc. Or if you’re hiring someone to manage a “server farm,” you may ask them to walk you through the “procurement-to-implementation” process for a new server. You would then listen for “qualia” that would be known only to those having experience with those roles or processes. By these you are able to determine (for the most part) whether or not they actually performed these roles.]

All that to say this: There is a *knowledge* that can be gained from the study of the Bible. But this “learned” knowledge lacks the “qualia” specific to the actual “living” of the truths of the scripture. One can know that we ought to love one’s enemies. And still not know what it feels like for the flesh to deny itself; how it feels for the flesh to forfeit its rights and privileges in order to genuinely love one’s enemies. We can read “blessed are the meek.”<sup>(14)</sup> We can actually believe that the meek are blessed; and still not know how to be conformed to meekness.

We as Christians **MUST** move past simply “reading” truth; and press on to “doing” truth. Because it is in the “living” that our character is being developed; that we are being conformed into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is in the actual “denying of the flesh” that we die to sin, self and to the world. There is a certain “qualia” that can only be known or experienced in the “living” of truth.

It’s one thing to read, discuss or memorize truth. It’s quite another to LIVE it. Let us press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.<sup>(15)</sup> What is that “high calling?” Is it not to be holy, even as our Father in heaven is holy?<sup>(16)</sup> – JTI-

*Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG*

#### **Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)**

- (1) Acts 21:13
- (2) 2 Corinthians 11:24-26
- (3) Matthew 19:16-22
- (4) Matthew 16:24
- (5) Romans 8:29+
- (6) 1 John 3:1-3
- (7) John 1:12
- (8) Romans 8:14
- (9) Hebrews 5:8
- (10) Matthew 5:44; Romans 12:14
- (11) Romans 12:16-21
- (12) John 5:19
- (13) Matthew 5:10-12
- (14) Matthew 5:5
- (15) Philippians 3:14
- (16) Leviticus 11:44-45; 1 Peter 1:15-16 paraphrased

“Perfection” is truly impossible in this sense.

So, let us explore what the Word of God says about “perfection” and believers. In Matthew 5: 43–48 (KJV paraphrased) Jesus, our Lord, teaches us about what God expects and in what form. Jesus spoke here about love and forgiveness. He taught that Christians (all Christians) are to love our neighbors **AND** our enemies. He said we are to do good to people that do wrong to us. And, He summarized this type of behavior as “perfection.”

Webster’s Dictionary tells us that “perfect” means “whole, complete, and faultless.” Now, we understand that without Christ we cannot be any of these things. However, because of the finished work of Christ (death, burial, resurrection), and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we are covered. This means that our un-wholeness, incompleteness and faults are hidden by Christ’s fullness, wholeness, completeness, and faultlessness.

Jesus’ sacrificial love is seen as “perfection” in God’s eyes. Then, our decision to love and forgive all people (friend and foe) is also seen as “perfection” in God’s eyes. Basically, we have the ability to choose to live in Christ’s “perfection” every day. We do this by an act of our will. When people do us wrong, we choose to forgive them and continue to love them.

We are able to love and forgive because we have received (and continue to receive) God’s love and forgiveness when we make mistakes (and we always make mistakes – and sometimes do wrong intentionally). In a nutshell, “perfection” in God’s eyes is the love we commit to give to all people without bias. We treat everyone the same.

Now, this does not mean that if a husband (in this case) abuses his wife that she should stay in this harmful situation. Instead, even as she leaves and goes to a place where she can be safe and grow, she forgives and releases the person. She does not hold hatred in her heart for him. She may never be involved with him again, but she can pray for him to yield himself to God and turn from this negative behavior (for his own good, as well as the good of those affected by his

behavior).

Love and forgiveness are the areas where God expects “perfection.” He wants us to give to others what we receive from Him. And, we know we can be “perfect” in this area because it is a choice. It is an act of our will. When we submit our wills to the work of the Holy Spirit, He helps us to walk in love and forgiveness with all people (no exceptions).

If you are struggling with love and forgiveness, may I ask you a question? Is it because you simply *don’t know how to* love and forgive a particular person in a practical sense; or is it because you *choose not to* love and forgive someone because you think they don’t deserve it?

If you don’t know how to walk in Christ’s love and forgiveness, this can be handled by seeking God’s counsel. If you ask Him to show you how to do it, He may send someone across your path with the answers you need. Or, He may use another method to answer your request (because it will not go unanswered). Then, it will be up to you to apply what you learn.

If, on the other hand, you believe someone is not worthy of your forgiveness, this may be a sign of false pride. Scripture tells us that pride goes before destruction and a haughty (arrogant) spirit before a fall (Proverbs 16:18 KJV). I don’t know about you, but I just cannot allow Satan to gain access into my life to bring destruction because of my pride and disobedience to God’s word.

No human being deserves to be forgiven, including you and me. God loves and forgives us because of who **He** is. Therefore, we are to love and forgive others because of who God is in our lives and what He has done for us (and continues to do).

So, be perfect. How? In love and forgiveness.

It is an act of the human will. You can do it, God will help. ~PIP~

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

You'll recall the brief discussion between Jesus and the centurion, who said "I am a man under authority who also has soldiers under me. I come and go at someone else's command and they come and go at my command. (Matthew 8:9+; Luke 7:2+) The centurion realized the severity of being both "in" authority and "under" authority; so too must the husband also see himself between authorities.

The husband must live godly, and fruitfully, before his wife; that is part of his sowing into her. For she will partake of (behold/experience) the fruit of his fruitfulness unto God, and it will be in her the *sowing* of godliness.

Second the husbandman has the pleasure of receiving and partaking of the fruit of the vineyard. For as the Scriptures say "*The husbandman that labors must be first partaker of the fruits.*" (2 Timothy 2:6) And again, "*who plants a vineyard and eats not of the fruit thereof?*" (1 Corinthians 9:7)

However the husband has the responsibility to recognize that although he *sows* into his wife, he is not the **only** one "*sowing.*" For God also *sows* into the wife that she may be fruitful. But the husband is perhaps the most important "earthly" tool by which God does this. Again the husband may be the "most important," but by no means the "only" tool. So in all of his *sowing* there must be the recognition that his sowing is only a part of her development.

The husband must understand that although he is the primary *receiver* of her fruitfulness, he is not the "only" recipient. He is the primary person in this world to whom she ministers. But again, he is not the "only." The woman has a ministry of being a wife, but that is only part of her ministry. She has children, family friends, associates, colleagues, and strangers, all of whom she ministers to.

These external considerations associated with the sowing, and the gathering; are not to be used by the husband to stifle or withhold the ministry of the wife. They are only points of guidance in the mind of the husband concerning these two things: the husband is not the only *sower*, so he should not act as if he is her Savior, for there is only one Lord and Savior. Secondly the husband cannot be so demanding of his wife as to destroy or oppose all of the other areas of ministry that the Lord has given her. Another role for the husband is that he must **give his wife rest.**

This is one among a number of instructions for marriage, which can be learned through the parabolic lens of husbandman and vineyard. We will continue to explore this mystery.

Again we appreciate all comments, and questions. - LATT-

*David L. White*

## Poem

When God wants to drill a man, and thrill a man,  
and skill a man,

When God wants to mold a man, to play the  
noblest part;

When He yearns with all his heart, to create so  
great and bold a man,

That all the world shall be amazed.

Watch His methods, watch His ways!  
How He ruthlessly perfects whom He royally  
elects!

How He hammers him and hurts him, and with  
mighty blows converts him,

Into trial shapes of clay which only God  
understands;

While his tortured heart is crying, and he lifts  
beseeching hands;

How He bends but never breaks, when his good  
He undertakes;

How He uses whom He chooses, and with every  
purpose fuses him;

By every act induces him, to try His splendor out  
God knows what He's about

(Author Unknown)

Collected 7/23/10 from <http://skyisblack.blogspot.com/2008/04/god-knows-what-hes-about.html>

one's works?

May I submit to you that Kingdom *obedience* resides predominantly in the heart? What is done with the "hands" may or may not be an expression of *obedience*. Transactional obedience is not, itself, Kingdom *obedience*.

Kingdom obedience issues from a heart that has a pre-commitment to live "subject to and in compliance with" the governance of God; and with the precepts of the Kingdom.

Here's where it gets close to home. You have two children. You are able to identify a heart of obedience in one child (child A); and not so much so, in the other child (child B). [Sidebar: I was child B, pray for me.] Now both children, for the most part, "do what they are told." But one does it out of a pre-commitment to obedience to the parent (child A). The other does it "when and how" it suits their particular needs or preferences (child B).

We can do (what I call) transactional "acts of obedience" and yet be disobedient. This happens when our motives for acting issue from a heart pre-committed to Self-service.

The scriptures expose this when it says,

[34] ... How can you, being evil, speak good things? It is the case that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. [35] A good man out of the good treasure of the heart brings forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. (Matthew 12: 34-35 KJV *adapted*)

**OBEY WHO AND WHY?**

Obey God.

It may seem counter-intuitive at this point in the discussion to identify the "who" of *obedience*. Of course, we are to obey God; who else?

Well ... is it possible that sometimes we are obeying our own directives and attribute the *obedience* to God?

Disobedience is not necessarily a "categorical departure" from the precepts of God (think about what Eve did). Often, dare I say, most often disobedience is the result of us having redefined for ourselves the precepts of God; and that apart from the leading and interpretation of the Holy Spirit.

Example: if we are predisposed to be selfish, we redefine things like "giving." If we are predisposed to

sexual impropriety; we redefine the concepts of "chastity and abstinence."

Why is it important to obey? The answers are many, but some of them are:

That we may properly represent a right relationship with God (all of creation is "dying" to see this). That life may go well with us; that we may eat the good of the land. (Deut. 28; Isa. 1:19-20 KJV)

**WHAT DOES FAITH HAVE TO DO WITH OBEEDIENCE?**

Again, Kingdom obedience issues from a heart that has a pre-commitment to live "subject to and in compliance with" the governance of God; and with the precepts of the Kingdom. Obedience issues from a heart that believes (faith) that God is "Who He has identified Himself to be" and subsequently that He worthy of our *obedience*.

If *faith* truly is an "act of worship," then there ought to be (no ... there **will** be) a corresponding posture of the heart. There will be an aligning of one's life with the precepts of the Kingdom. Obedience *IS* to be a natural next step or outworking of that *faith*. In a very real sense, *obedience* comprises the works of *faith*. We recall James' expression of this very solemn truth:

[20] Can I get you to accept as common knowledge, that faith without works is dead? [21] Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had (obeyed) offered Isaac his son upon the altar? [22] Are you able to see how faith displayed with its works, and evidenced by its works is made perfect? [24] You see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. [26] For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (James 2:20-22, 24, 26 KJV *adapted*) -JTI-

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**THE GARDEN**



To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

( Rev. 3:21 )



## ❧ SUMMARY ❧

### The Chief Cornerstone



That being the case, over the course of the next 4-5 editions of this column the Lord will talk with us about “pressing the battle to the gates” of the enemy. He will take us on a guided tour through the munitions plant of the enemy. The Lord will disclose the enemy’s strategies and tactics. Ahh the “Art of War.” The Lord will cause us to know how the enemy wages and engages war against the “saints.” From these disclosures, we will be directed in how to take our appropriate place of dominion over our selves and over our lives.

### Son of My Wisdom



He said, “my intent for both man and woman, in my pronouncements after the fall, was godly sorrow, which works repentance unto salvation.” The purpose for the sorrow of woman's labor, and the sorrow of man's labor was to prepare the way for the gospel. There is a sense in which Genesis 3:16-17 was intended to prepare us for John 3:16-17.

### Precepts in Practice



We can then clearly see that since God did not make us without physical, mental, or emotional flaws, He surely does not intend for us to be perfect (flawless) in these areas. As humans we will always forget things, misunderstand communication, and have accidents. “Perfection” is truly impossible in this sense.

### Boot Camp



May I submit to you that Kingdom *obedience* resides predominantly in the heart? What is done with the “hands” may or may not be an expression of *obedience*. Transactional obedience is not, itself, Kingdom *obedience*.

## ❧ SUMMARY ❧

### The Leadership Corner

But, I submit to you that what Paul really wants us to know is that God can re-educate us about what we are facing (by His Spirit and through His word) so that we no longer *see* the situation as a negative and/or harmful trial. Instead, once God shines the light of His word in our hearts, we will see the situation correctly, as an instrument for God to grow us and bless us.

### Journey to Intimacy



Qualia are (in my words) the various qualities that make up the phenomenal (sensory) character of your experiences. Said otherwise, “qualia” are the peculiar qualities or attributes of personal experiences that we each know intimately as we live through certain events in life. These same qualities do not come from knowledge itself; no textbook can convey “qualia.”

### Love and the Truth



First, the husbandman is responsible to *sow* into his garden; that is to work to facilitate fruitfulness. Likewise the husband is responsible to *labor for*, which means to love and to live godly before his wife in such a way as to facilitate her own fruitfulness.

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