

Kingdom News

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

Volume 3, Issue 9

September 2009

Knowledge of Good and Evil Part III

All scripture is paraphrased from the KJV Bible.

This is the third part of a three part series. In this article, we will be exploring another problem with having chosen the tree of knowledge of good and evil. There may be more to come on this subject, at a later date. As I know that the Lord has said so much more to us in this one historical event.

The choice between the tree of knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life is a choice that we all make every day. There are many that have said (as I have in times past) how ridiculous it was for Adam and Eve to have made that choice (hindsight is 20/20, right?) ... how that because of them we were all born in sin, and shaped in iniquity. Let's look into this a bit more, and pray that the Lord would grant us ears to hear, and hearts to receive Him, as He reveals Himself to us here.

Gen 3:6-7a

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened...

The three things Eve saw regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil were these:

Knowledge of ...

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Knowledge of Good and Evil – Part III
- 1 Leadership Living
- 4 Journey to Intimacy
- 5 Life's Rods of Correction

The Leadership Corner Leadership Living, Inc.

Touch God & Be Healed of Spiritual Blindness

There are many things people want to be healed of. Some people may have physical illnesses. Others may have emotional and/or mental illnesses. Still others may have financial challenges where healing or deliverance is desired. However, as believers, there is one thing we need to be healed from more than anything else. What might this be? Valid question. Believers need to be healed from spiritual blindness. It's true that when we came into the family of God, we were given sight. Whereas we were totally blind when we were in sin, now that we have come into the Kingdom of God, we can see, but we still have a great deal of spiritual blindness. It's true. When seemingly negative events happen to us, we usually pray and often think we are waiting for God to come and deliver us or make our circumstances better. We don't yet realize that God is at work in our lives at all times. Therefore, we are often blind to what God is doing in our lives, especially when things are not going the way we think they should.

For example, I recently went shopping at Wal-Mart. I spent over two hours in the store loading my cart with things my family needs. Then, when I got to the check-out counter, the Holy Spirit told me to check my purse for my wallet. It was strange that He would say this to me because my wallet is always in my purse. But, low and behold, it was not there when I stood in line and looked for it. I was in shock.

“How could this happen to me? I am very organized and God talks to me all of the time. Why

1. That it was **good** for **food**.
2. That it was **pleasant** to the **eyes**.
3. That it was to be **desired** to make one **wise**.

The one thing that God said regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil:

1. "...in the day that you eat thereof, you shall surely die." (Gen 2:17)

God may very well have said, "Eve, how could you see those qualities concerning this tree when *I AM* taught you otherwise? How could you see this tree as good, pleasant, and desirable; when *I AM* told you it was deadly?" For death is neither good, nor pleasant, nor desirable. God said one thing, but when Eve looked at the tree, somehow she seemed to have seen something quite different. How was that possible?

What God told them about this tree was the objective truth. Objective in the sense, that it was true whether or not they believed it so. He said that by eating of the tree they would surely die. Just as God had promised, death came, expressing itself in three very distinct ways.

- Immediately mankind was *spiritually* dead, intimate communion with the Divine was terminated. Whereas before, they were ever in His presence almost seamlessly; afterwards the sound of His voice walking in the garden, evoked fear and trembling in them.
- The *soul* was condemned to eternal death; judgment on the docket, execution pending but certainly forthcoming.
- The *body* began the process of gradual death, one of the fruits of which we call aging; the clock began to wind down. Many others of the fruits we, as the descendants of Adam, are confronted with on a daily basis. One such is the inability to discern the movement of God in our daily lives.

So we see that what God said came true immediately.

That being the case, what then was it that Eve saw? What she saw was the result of her subjective opinion. What she saw, having been persuaded of the enemy, was her own perspective. A perspective that opposed God and was apart from Life; having its foundation in a source other than Truth.

No doubt, you've seen trees before, you know; redwood, birch, oak, cedar trees; fruit-bearing trees and trees with blossoms. These are relatively

didn't He tell me this before I left the house? It's an attack of the devil. I've wasted half my day and I've gotten nothing out of it. This is so embarrassing." These are the thoughts that would have run through my head if this had happened to me a few years ago when I was still spiritually blind. But, by the grace of God, not this time.

I've finally come to the place where I know that **everything** that happens in my life **IS** the will of God. No longer do I pray as if I'm waiting for God's will to be done in my life. It is being done on a daily basis. Before I came to understand this, I was a spiritually blind Christian. I used to think that the seemingly negative things that happened to me were from the devil and I would always pray for deliverance. But, once God healed me of this paralyzing blindness, I stopped praying for deliverance from seemingly negative situations. Now, I embrace whatever life brings my way because I know God uses everything to work His will in my life and each situation always carries benefits for me. This principle comes straight from Romans 8:28 (and we know that all things work together for the good of them that love God...).

Ok, now that we have established that many Christians need to be delivered from spiritual blindness so that we can see God, how does one come to this place of healing? How can a Christian be made whole in this area? It is one thing to say that God uses all things for our good, but it's quite another to embrace this truth and base all of our behaviors on it. Well, God let me know that this type of healing comes by "touching" Him. It's not enough to talk to God or talk about Him. No, we need to literally touch Him.

Many people touched Jesus in the Bible and were instantly healed. Others touched Him and nothing changed for them. What was the difference? Our answer can be found in Mark 5:27-34. It's the age-old story of the "woman with the issue of blood." She was one of hundreds, if not thousands, of people in a crowd that were pressing against Jesus as He walked. He was on his way to someone's home when the woman with the issue of blood touched Him and was instantly healed. When this happened He looked around and asked, "Who touched Me?" His disciples were confused as to why He would

objective descriptions of types of trees. *That* the tree is good for food is not objectively discerned by looking at it. *That* the tree is pleasant to the eyes is a fair assessment; but it is also a subjective assessment. Lastly, *that* the tree is to be desired to make one wise is certainly not something that one can distinguish upon visual inspection. This too is a subjective opinion. The reason we're marking the differences between objective truth and subjective opinions will be more apparent as we go.

With these things in place we can begin to see the problem. *That* Eve had an opinion was not itself the issue. *That* Eve exalted her opinion above the Word of God (as her measurement of good, bad, beautiful, ugly, wise or unwise) this was the problem. Eve raised her subjective perspective to a position of supremacy; thereby determining for herself what was right or wrong. Herein is the crux of the issue. And we will see that this whole affair was not simply that they made a wrong decision. The issue was that they sacrificed their relationship with God. Hopefully the following will make this abundantly clear.

Let's look at the relationship between a person who's visually impaired and a caregiver. When a visually impaired person has a trusting relationship with their caregiver, there is a sense in which their caregiver is central to their world. There is shared confidence, security, closeness, and much else between the visually impaired person and their caregiver. There is a sense in which the visually impaired person can "be themselves" with their caregiver, can confide in them and can express vulnerability with them. These are just a few small expressions of the potential depth of that relationship. That caregiver determines on behalf of the visually impaired person what is good, bad, healthy, or beautiful. So again I say, the caregiver is a central figure in their world.

What, do you suppose, would happen if one day, the visually impaired person came to see (sight restored)? Soon they would begin to develop their own perspectives. They would no longer rely on their caregiver to determine good, bad, beautiful, ugly, etc. The caregiver would cease to be the center of this person's world. The caregiver would no longer be the person by which all things are measured.

ask such a strange question because pretty much everyone was touching Him.

Oh, but there was a difference. While many people were pressing against Him, they were not touching Him in a spiritual sense. This lady was the exception. She not only touched Him physically, she touched Him spiritually. It was this touch that made her whole. If you are wondering if we are talking about the touch of faith, you would be correct. But, it's really much more complex than this. It wasn't just that she believed she could be healed. More to the point, she believed in who Jesus was and what He could do. Her faith did not rest in what she wanted. Instead, it was founded on the truth of Jesus' identity and purpose.

Jesus came to heal the people. That's what He was doing. He was the Healer and she needed to be healed. She came to Him because of who He was. This is the faith that made her whole. This is what "touched" Jesus. When we come to God, our faith should rest not in what we want from Him, but in Who He is. God is the Healer. God is the Deliverer. God is the Answer and if we have God resident in us via the Holy Spirit, we have the Healer, the Deliverer, and the Answer with us at all times.

This means that each day we open our eyes we have everything we need. We must agree with God and declare that we are prepared to go with Him each day. We will trust Him each day. And we will agree with His word each day. We do this because we believe in *Who* God is, not merely what He can or should (according to our plans) do. As we make these declarations, the scales of blindness fall from our eyes. Then, we begin to see how God IS working in each situation, as well as how the many situations that we face fit together.

It's a powerful thing to be healed of spiritual blindness so that we can see God. And, in order to receive this type of sight, we have but to touch Him. We do this by believing in Who He is (based on His word), and by believing that His will IS being done in our lives on a daily basis. We are then able to cooperate with Him and see Him like we've never seen Him before. || ﷻ ||

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

For additional information you may contact us at leadershiplivinginc@yahoo.com

The once-visually impaired would then have his/her own opinions; and their new perspective would take the place of the caregiver's.

Now of course this was an imperfect analogy; it breaks down because new sight would not necessarily bring about death *per sé*. But in this example, there is a sense in which a separation takes place. I'm sure that we can all agree that once that "newly sighted" person has their own perspective, their relationship with the caregiver will never be the same. Likewise, our Father Adam chose (on our behalf) to raise subjective perspective to a position of sovereignty, replacing the Word of God in our lives. Such that our perspective is what now discerns good from bad; and as a result our relationship with God has never been the same. We don't look to God's commandments as a lamp and His law as a light (Prov. 6:23a KJV reference). We do not hide His Word in our hearts so that we might not sin against Him (Ps. 119:11). Instead we lean to our own understanding and withhold our trust from Him (Prov. 3:5).

Practically, what does all this mean? Whenever we do something, knowing that a thing is contrary to the will of God; we exalt our perspective above the truth of God. We become wise in our own conceit, determining good from evil on our own terms, making ourselves as gods. Essentially, we make the same decision that Adam and Eve made; and we make this decision many times throughout our lives. It may be wise for us not to be upset with them, or judge their decision too hastily. For we, ourselves, choose the tree of knowledge of good and evil every time we disobey God. We exalt our perspective as supreme in opposition to God's Word. To attempt to dethrone God, though, is not just a small offense. An attempt to dethrone the Everlasting King is always an act of treason. Please understand that this is no small deed, its implications are immense and deadly. But ... the more abominable our sin is; the more thankful we ought to be to God for His grace toward us. Above all, the more we ought to love and obey Him. Regarding that, Jesus said, *if you love Me you will keep My commandments*. (John 14:15). Let us make this our focus. <DVD>

By David L. White

A Journey to Intimacy

Notice of Relocation

The Journey Continues – *We Have Moved* (New Address Given Below)

In our last edition, during Boot Camp the Father began our exercise in Ezekiel (6:6 KJV) where He chastened us regarding the destruction of our altars, idols, images and works. During the months of July and August, we began to hear the chains falling and the prison doors of our hearts began to swing open. We began to see the Lord drawing us out of our captivity. Certainly, our knowing the truth makes us free. As a result of the Lord's mercy and truth (Prov. 16:6 KJV) we are pleased to announce that we are relocating; and are posting the following relocation notices. We wanted to let you know as soon as possible.

Relocation Notice #1 (Residence)

This is just a notice to advise you that we have relocated, to avoid the hazardous conditions of our former residence. *Our* former dwelling places, in the cities are being laid waste; *our* images are being cut down; and *our* works are being abolished (City Ordinance: Ezekiel, Section 6:6 KJV).

New Location #1 (Residence) 9101 Psalm Ave.

We now dwell in the secret place of the Most High, and abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Not only did we get a new place of residence, but we have a new 24/7 security system. He is our refuge and our fortress. We are secure from the snare of the fowler; noisome pestilence; terror at night and arrows by day. We are each assigned our own personal bodyguards, as He gives his angels charge over us. And we are learning to trust Him.

As we are reading through the new lease agreement, we noticed that though a thousand fall at our side and ten thousand at our right hand, destruction shall not come near us. That's one of the reasons why we had to relocate. There were no such clauses in our prior lease; we had no protection. Our

Life's Rods of Correction

Keeping the "Main Thing," the Main Thing

The Lord is Holy!!!! What then, shall we say to these things? These light afflictions ... "forget about 'em" ... they are transient, they are momentary. They are intended to work into us a more exceeding and eternal weight of glory (2 Cor. 4:17 KJV paraphrased). I like to call them life's little *rods of correction*.

GLOSSARY by JoAnn

Rods of Correction – n: People, places or things specifically designed to expose you to opportunities to put the Word God to work in your life. These opportunities are hand-picked for each of us, tailor-made even, to create j-u-s-t the right situation to evoke from us a favorable response to the truths of God. These events can be either desirable or undesirable.

Example: The Lord told Peter, that Satan had petitioned the throne of God for permission to try Peter (not so desirable?). The enemy wanted to sift Peter as wheat (Luke 22:31 KJV).

Contrariwise: The Lord warned Israel that when they arrived in the Promised Land (desirable) to not become so full of leeks and garlic that they forget Who brought them there. Nor did He want them to forget the way by which He brought them out of Egypt (Deut. 6:10-12 KJV).

Essentially, the Lord was saying to Israel "when times get better for you, don't forget Me." And to Peter, He was saying "when times get worse for you, don't forget Me." Both of these types of events are intended to show us where our allegiance resides.

Lastly: The Lord told Israel, very specifically, that He lead them through the wilderness for the express purpose of *humbling* them, *proving* them, *disclosing* to them what was in their heart (Deut. 8:2 KJV). So when you walk through the wilderness or the valley of the shadow of death, know that these are simply life's little *rods of correction*.

Certainly we have heard that the trying of our faith works patience. Relax. Let's allow these tests and trials to run their course. Let's always respond in ways that are honorable to God. Of course, they will stretch us, and break us, and mold us in ways nothing

enemy seemed to take us captive, at will. Here, we have immediate access to the Landlord, we know Him by name. His name is Jesus, by the way. We can call Him directly and He has promised to answer our calls. I have never seen such promises and clauses in a lease agreement before, have you? I mean, because we set our love on Him, He will deliver us!?! We will certainly need to be trained in this discipline. We're excited about our new home. (Permit: Ps. 91 KJV).

Relocation Notice #2 (Place of Worship)

Because the magnitude of the destruction, we have also relocated our place of worship. We no longer worship in *this* mountain, nor at Jerusalem. During the chaos and destruction, we realized that we did not even know what we were worshiping (John 4:21-22 KJV). Additionally *our* high places are being made desolate; as we left we destroyed our altars and broke down our idols. (City Ordinance: John, Section 4:21-22; Municipal Ordinance: Ezekiel, Section 6:6 KJV)

New Location #2 (Place of Worship) 42324 Spirit & Truth Place

We now worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth, we've come to see that this is what the Father has always wanted (John 4:23-24 KJV). Who knew?!?

By the grace of God, we are certain that this is the last relocation notice; you'll ever receive from us. We are **never** going to move again. In the words of Solomon, "... I found Him whom my soul loves; I held Him and [will] not let Him go ..." (Song of Solomon 3:4 KJV).

If you're finding it necessary to relocate too, there's plenty of room here. Come and bring your family and friends.



JASPER



The weapons of our warfare are not carnal...
(2 Cor 10:4 KJV)



else can. Afterwards you will find yourself mature in the things of God; seeing the hand of God in your circumstances, trusting His every decision for you; lacking nothing. (James 1:3-4 KJV paraphrased. See also 1 Pet. 1:5-8)

Afflictions?!? Confusions?!? Tribulations?!? Stress?!? Contentions?!? They each have an assigned purpose and they all have an assigned timeline, which we can help determine by how we respond to the situation. For who knows, if you have not been brought “to *this place* in the kingdom” for such a time as this? (Ester 4:14 KJV paraphrased)

Your job is stressful? Your household is in turmoil? Your heart is disquieted within you? “What’s next?” you ask; “As a Christian, isn’t this all supposed to be different? You know peace ... tranquility ... roses ... myrrh ... that sort of thing.” In response to this, our Lord answers, “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword ... a man’s foes shall be they of his own household” (Matt. 10:34, 36 KJV). Lord why?!? W-h-y ??? I know .. I know ... This is “*so* not what you want to hear.” If I were making it up, I’d take it out. But it’s in the scriptures and I believe we need to know why it’s there. It may prove to be a very formidable weapon in our arsenal.

The Lord goes on to say, “He who loves “father,” or “mother” *more* than Me is not worthy of Me (Matt. 10:37 KJV).” “It is imperative that you know where you stand with Me,” says the Lord. Life’s tests (be they people, places, or things) all serve to disclose to each of us exactly where we stand with respect to the things of God and with respect to God Himself. Let’s talk about what the scripture intends as it references our love for “father or mother.” We like to argue with God (as I had often been guilty of doing). We say that, “It doesn’t seem fair; do you mean I cannot love my parents?” Some find this a hard thing to swallow. I submit to you that the difficulty here is found in both our lack of understanding and our lack of a willingness to understand. If a person you trust says something that sounds far-fetched, might you think to yourself, “perhaps I am misunderstanding them.” You then seek to gain an understanding, instead of dismissing what they have said “out of hand.” Such is the case here. The Lord is Holy!!! He is certainly Trustworthy!! And so we ask, “Father, tell us more of what You intend by this poignant, yet sensitive, reference to “loving father or mother.” Here our Lord is saying many things to us. But for the sake of this

discourse, He is saying, “that if we love those who gave us “birth” more than we love Him who gave us “life” our priorities are misplaced.” This can be further extrapolated as follows:

If we submit to the one who gives us a job or business opportunity, more than we submit to Him Who is the sum and substance of our provision. If we pride ourselves in our possessions (belongings), more than we boast in Him, to Whom we ourselves belong. If we extol our achievements more than we exalt Him Who is Himself the ultimate achievement. All of these are representations of misplaced love and honor. A very hefty toll they exact; with diminishing returns.

“But I don’t do that,” we say; “I put God before all of these things. I always put God first.”

Really?! Then why do we cry and rebel, when He touches these things in our lives? If they do not hold a place of value with us, why does their (often temporary) absence, or momentary disturbance, send us into fits of passion?

A woman was returning home from a trip overseas. When she had returned home and began to unpack and settle in; she noticed that she was \$100 short, for she had calculated her expenses along the way. She sighed, “That’s okay; perhaps I had given someone a \$100 bill as a tip, when I thought I had given a \$10. All is well.” As she continued to unpack, she realized that her prized diamond necklace had gone missing. She felt an enormous ache in the pit of her stomach. For the next three days, she neither ate (nor slept much) calling every single place that she had been since last she saw her beloved necklace. Might we be able to understand where this woman places her value?

The people, places and/or things in our lives that have meaning, affect us when they are in some sense withheld from us, or otherwise prohibited. The more meaning and value we ascribe to them, the more powerful their affect.

Is it possible that we may later find that all of these issues and situations involving our children, spouses, jobs/businesses, possessions, accomplishments, etc.

were *simply* instruments by which our allegiance and loyalty were being measured? Is it possible that these events, themselves, bear no intrinsic value? Perhaps the value of these things will be estimated by the responses to godly and God-ward love, honor and appreciation they each serve to provoke in us. Is it possible that we are misplacing value on the "creation," instead of the Creator? Is it possible that these are simply life's little *rods of correction*?

Is it possible, husband that the reason you are having such a frightful series of interactions with your wife; is because God is giving you an opportunity to love your wife as Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it? Or Wife is it possible that you feel as if you're running into a wall trying to get your Husband to see things your way; because the Lord wants to show you that your heart is not as humble as He requires? It is possible that your boss, your colleagues or your staff, seem to be contentious; just as a reminder that we are to love our neighbor as our selves.

I submit to you that every tick of the clock; every single one of our life's transactions are "hand-made" for each of us as an opportunity to draw from us a heart and expression of godliness. This is not Burger King; we do not get to "have it our way." *Right now*, might be the best time to realize this and submit ourselves under the might hand of God. We certainly do not want all of our life's *works* to be burned as hay or stubble, when tried in the fires of judgment (1 Cor. 3:11-15 KJV reference).

As we begin to understand how God is using the things of this world, to conform us into the image of His Son; we develop quite a different perspective of their value. We are then able to keep the Main Thing, the main thing.

What might your situations and circumstances be working out in you? Remember, they are just life's



Boot Camp



In last month's edition (August 2009) in the *Journey to Intimacy* article, the Lord shared with us the *Process of Reciprocity*, from a slightly transcendent perspective.

This month, you will see that an expansion of the *Process of Reciprocity* has become something of a "basic training" module for us. When the Lord gave this change in direction, I thought it a bit peculiar. "From *Intimacy* to *Boot Camp*?" I asked; "are You sure, Father?" From the "look He gave me," I knew most certainly that "He was sure." And if "He's sure," than "I am sure;" besides to obey is better than to sacrifice. So here we are.

As a refresher, here is an excerpt from the August 2009 article:

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, somewhat. 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, etc. to give to the Lamb?"

This month (and it appears for the following months), Daddy (that's what I call Him) will begin to share with us specific details of how we receive each of these precious gifts to give to the Lamb, that was slain.

As you can appreciate "God is Holy." He is preeminent; He is Set Apart ... in the words of one of our mentors, "He is wholly Other." Why is this important at this juncture? "Now that's the right question;" and I'm glad you asked.

GOLD



And all things are of God; who has reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

(2 Cor. 5:18 KJV paraphrased)



It is important, here, to note that God is Supreme and Set Apart, because from that we can understand that God will ONLY receive from us that which He gives to us. Let's read that again, because it is imperative that we *get* this. God will ONLY receive from us that which He gives to us. We cannot of our own volition *give* God anything, apart from Himself. He cannot and will not receive it from us. Whatever we offer to God must itself be holy (set apart) as ascribed by Him. And given that ALL holiness resides in Him, it follows that ALL things *holy* must come from Him.

Example: When the Lord gave Israel the instructions for the work of the temple, He gave very specific directions for the sanctification of all of the utensils and artifacts. He gave extremely detailed instructions on what could (and could not) be offered as a sacrifice; defining types of sacrifice, when to offer and who could offer, who could touch the sacred items, etc. (Throughout the book of Leviticus). He did not leave these details up to us. And He would not tolerate anything, not already circumscribed by His instructions; and that on the penalty of death. *The weight and gravity of a law is known by the severity of its penalty.* (1 Sam. 6:19; 2 Sam. 6:6-7) This is a descriptive expression of a prescriptive reality. Here God is teaching us how to approach His Holiness.

That being said, let's return to this month's exercise routine.

These are the gifts that the scriptures teach are due to the Lamb (that was slain); these gifts we are obliged to give to Him:

POWER and RICHES and WISDOM and STRENGTH and HONOR and GLORY and BLESSING

This month, we'll look at **POWER**

How are we to give these great gifts to our Lord? I mean you certainly can't give something of which you are not in possession. Right? If we are required to give these gifts to our Lord, then we must at some point have received them. Well let's see ... when and where have we received POWER from God? If we have POWER at all, then certainly we have received

this POWER from God. If we think otherwise, then we must answer this question "what do we possess that we have not, in one sense or another, received?" (1 Cor. 4:7 KJV paraphrased) Let's see where God has endowed us with POWER.

- And God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion (POWER!)... (Gen. 1:26 KJV)
- Whatsoever you shall bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven (POWER!!) ... (Matt 18:18 KJV)
- Ask, and it shall be given, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened (POWER!!!) ... (Matt. 7:7 KJV)
- Behold (look), I give you power ... over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall be any means hurt you. (POWER!!!!) ... (Luke 10:19 KJV)
- For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power (1 Cor. 4:20 KJV) ... I will give to you the keys to the kingdom of heaven (POWER!!!!!!) ... (Matt. 16:19 KJV)
- If you shall ask a-n-y-t-h-i-n-g in My name, I WILL DO IT (P-O-W-E-R!!!!!!) ... (John 14:13 KJV paraphrased)
- Etc.

Whew!!! That was exciting, huh (smiling).

"POWER" is expressed in one's ability or authority "to do things;" "to get things done;" or to "affect change." Some of us do a great many things, others of us "not so much so." In either case, we ALL "do" or "affect" things. We all get things done in the course of our lives. There is a sense in which we all exercise POWER.

Brief Diversion: A wielding of POWER is engaged sometimes by "control," and sometimes by "influence." In the battle between the Kingdoms (Light & Darkness), the adversary wields his POWER by the use of "control;" whereas, our Lord, wields His POWER by the use of "influence." If the Lord pleases, we'll explore this discourse at a later date.

Okay so we see that "POWER" is (and must be) a gift from God (Rom. 13:1 KJV). And we see that we are to offer this POWER to our Lord, as a living sacrifice. How, exactly, are we directed to do that? Our God-given POWER and its uses throughout our lives are like a mighty tree whose root system runs deep and

wide. The use of our POWER affects everything in our lives. We could not, in this space, give due diligence to the expansion on all of its manifest expressions here. Let us then talk about our use of POWER in bringing the “Self (aka the flesh)” under subjection. Even this is a very broad, colorful, multi-strand fabric; but we must begin somewhere, right?

Let’s have a look at exercising POWER over Self.

To this point we had not addressed one pivotal question. What POWER? If you don’t mind, I’ll condense the reply this way; the POWER “to will” and “to do.” Some of its expressions are seen in our ability to:

- Reason and/or Think (Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus – Philp. 2:5 KJV);
- Speak (Death and life are in the POWER of the tongue – Prov. 18:21 KJV);
- Choose (I have set before you life and death, choose life – Deut. 30:19 KJV).

This POWER man has apart from all other beings created in this world, for we were created a little lower than the angels ... You made him [man] to have dominion or the works of Your hand ... (Ps. 8:5 KJV).

One manifestation of our POWER can be seen by how we regard our *appetite* (which includes preferences, desires, lusts, and passions). There is a sense in which various expressions of our appetite drive our use of POWER. I submit to you that we would be extremely surprised to find, that how we satiate our appetite portrays our regard for God. One of the bodily symbols of “appetite” is our “belly.” While the appetite is not solely representative of what we “eat;” it is included. But the appetite is MUCH broader than our relationship with food. How we use our POWER to control our appetite speaks volumes about our ultimate dedication and allegiance. We are admonished to “hunger and thirst” after righteousness (Matt. 5:6 KJV); both of which are expressions of appetite. Why does the Lord use this analogy to drive His point? Is it possibly because ... all the labor of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled (Eccl. 6:7 KJV). James even tells us that we ... ask and do not receive our petitions because our motives are misplaced. We intend that our petitions should appease our lusts or appetites (4:3 KJV). Now please understand that our appetites are not intrinsically wrong. They were given to us by God, to the end that we would hunger and thirst after Him. (Just as our

eyes were given to us, as descriptive expressions of our need seek after God.) Our Lord has made full provision for the just gratification of all of our appetites. However the only item on His menu is “righteousness.” All other requests must find their own sources, apart from God.

We are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33 KJV), and all other needs and provisions will be given to us as (what I like to call) “door prizes.” To “seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness” and to “hunger and thirst after righteousness” are the same thing. The one we do with the eyes; the other we do with the appetite. There is a sense in which we are to have one appetite; righteousness. When our appetite for righteousness drives what we think, what we say and what we choose (essentially, our use of POWER), we are giving back to God in sacrifice and obedience exactly what He was gracious enough to give to us.

I don’t know about you, but this makes my Christian walk considerably easier. It sharpens my focus. We don’t have to work for, strive for or chase after health, wealth, beauty, esteem, intelligence, etc. If we do it God’s way, these are all door prizes, He gives these to us. Imagine that; shoot for the moon and get all the stars thrown in for good measure.

In the case of our appetite, we are to hunger and thirst after righteousness. And harness all of our energy, influence and authority to bring all of our resources under the dominion of our Lord. This is how we give our POWER to the Lamb (that was slain).

A proper use of POWER brings wealth and RICHES. Next edition, we’ll hear what the Lord says about RICHES.

All that talk about appetite and food is making me hungry? How about you? (smiling). ==BC==

BERYL

=||=||=||=||=||=||

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory, with exceeding joy.

(Jude 24)

\\||=||=||=||=||=||=

Are You Sure?

If you are not certain of your standing with Jesus Christ, I'd admonish you to consider a few things:

- 1) Every man has an appointment with death; after that the Judgment. (Heb. 9:27 KJV) Because He has appointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness... (Acts 17:31 KJV)
- 2) We are required to love the Lord with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength ... and our neighbor as our self. (Matt. 22:37-40 KJV)
- 3) Every one of us will give an account of himself to God. (Rom 14:12 KJV) God will judge every man according to his deeds. (Rom. 2:6 KJV)
- 4) All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23 KJV)
- 5) God commands all men everywhere to repent. (Acts 17:30 KJV)
- 6) Jesus Christ has come that we might have abundant life. (John 10:10 KJV) And to save us from the wrath to come. (1 Thess 1:10 KJV)
- 7) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, whosoever believes on Him shall have everlasting life. (John 3:16 KJV)
- 8) Repent therefore and be converted that your sins may be forgiven. (Acts 3:19 KJV)

Be Sure

❧ SUMMARY ❧

[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]

Knowledge of Good and Evil

The choice between the tree of knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life is a choice that we all make every day. Whenever we do something, knowing that a thing is contrary to the will of God; we exalt our perspective above the truth of God.

[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]

The Leadership Corner

Her faith did not rest in what she wanted. Instead, it was founded on the truth of Jesus' identity and purpose.

[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]

Boot Camp

One manifestation of our POWER can be seen by how we regard our *appetite* (which includes preferences, desires, lusts, and passions). There is a sense in which various expressions of our appetite drive our use of POWER.

[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]

Life's Rods of Correction

Rods of Correction – *n*: People, places or things specifically designed to expose you to opportunities to put the Word God to work in your life. These opportunities are hand-picked for each of us, tailor-made even, to create j-u-s-t the right situation to evoke from us a favorable response to the truths of God. These events can be either desirable or undesirable.

[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]o[V]

Journey to Intimacy

New Location #1 (Residence) 9101 Psalm Ave.
We now dwell in the secret place of the Most High, and abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Coming Soon!!!! *New Website is under Construction*

Scheduled to debut in October 2009, our new website.

We also have electronic copies of the newsletter available for you at KingdomNewsletter@yahoogroups.com. Here you will also find the prior monthly newsletters.

Do you have questions? Please send us an email at KingdomNewsletter@yahoo.com. We also welcome comments on any of the articles represented in these newsletters (past or present).

Enjoy them and feel free to share them at your leisure.

Editor: J.C. White, sMHG

KingdomNewsletter@yahoo.com