

Kingdom News

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

Volume 4, Issue 1

January 2010

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❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone

The Dangers of *Not* Taking the Truth Personally

We live in an age of information overload. There is a sense in which we can (and in many cases have) developed a rather unhealthy relationship with information. It seems to be a law of our very nature, that “familiarity breeds contempt.” It has come to the point where we have information almost as it were “coming out of our ears.” We’ve become too familiar with it. Unfortunately that includes “truth.” I remember a time when you could only buy a Bible in a Christian or religious book store or at a church, of sorts. Now you can buy a Bible or other religious books at Wal-Mart, at the gas station, or at...you name it. Imagine that. A couple of generations ago the Word of God (Bible) was coveted. It held a position of esteem among the possessions of those who had it.

Now it has become too “common” to us. So common, that even unbelievers can study it, and quote it and (if you’re not careful) teach it to you. Discussions on its topics are on the radio, TV, podcasts, internet, iPods, bill boards, cell phone ring tones and in this newsletter. You can become engaged in deep conversations about the Word of God; even with persons who are not of “like precious faith.” Please, do not mistake me to be saying that these developments are necessarily “bad” things; heavens “no.” What I am saying, is that scripture has become so familiar to us, that many of us (dare I say most of us) do not regard it with the fear and reverence that it deserves.

The Leadership Corner

A Call to Order

What we want to consider is that God calls us to order to meet with us. And, He meets with us for the purpose of transacting business. In this month of January 2010, God has some business He wants to discuss with us. There are plans and projects He has “on His 2010 calendar.” And, He needs to get our attention so we will be ready to receive His instructions and execute His plans.

I submit to you today that this month's Kingdom Newsletter *is* the "Call to Order" for 2010. And, as would be a normal process for us to approach a meeting with God, there are two things we need to do right away.

First, we are to set aside time to worship him. We are to sing praises to Him. And, tell God how awesome He is in our lives. This activity causes us to focus on Him. It also draws Him near to us; as He arrays Himself upon our praises.

Son of My Wisdom

From Root to Fruit

In Psalms we hear the heart of man praying "Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me." This is the cry of man, one that can only be answered by God. We know that our heart is abominable. Our spirit is dead to Him. We desperately need a new heart and a right spirit. We so desire to love as we ought; but we of ourselves cannot bring that about. We cannot so love Him that we give ourselves to Him "with both hands open;" until we see the truth that He so loved us that He gave Himself to us "with both arms open." I don't mean until we read the verse, for we have probably all read that verse; I mean that until we know this truth personally we cannot live righteousness which yields holiness.

Journey to Intimacy

Analogy of a Parable: *He Who Knows Not*

Here is what we will enlarge upon this month (borrowing a bit from the prior article to maintain the primary thread of the topic).

"He who knows not *and* knows not *that* he knows not" represents the fallen state of the human spirit; it must be taught.

"He who knows not *and* knows *that* he knows not" represents the state of the human soul; it must be lead.

"He who knows not *and* thinks *that* he knows" represents the perpetual state of the flesh; it must be controlled by a posture of continual prayerfulness.

Now let's see what the Father is telling us about each.

The unregenerate soul is dead in trespasses and sin; because the light of the spirit is "off." Therefore the spirit "*does not know that it does not know.*" On the other hand, the soul begins to be taught as soon as the child is born. As we continue to grow, we are aware that we know some things and that there are some things that we do not know. So we see how the soul "*knows that it does not know;*" When we receive the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God awakens our human spirit. Our spirits then must be taught: the things of God; the testimony of the Lord;⁽¹⁹⁾ the Truth. The human spirit is then able to take its rightful place of leadership. The awakened human spirit leads the soul in a walk of obedience. The soul then brings the body under subjection; allowing and enabling it to express the intentions of God; or to "do" truth.

Precepts in Practice

Reign: The "How to"

This information is important to us because what we do as individuals has an impact on the corporate body. We then have an obligation to God and our sisters and brothers in Christ to reign (manage and govern our lives in a way that is pleasing to God).

With this in mind, we understand that God has given us the ability and responsibility to reign in our personal lives. He also views us as a collective community of kings and priests who are to effectively manage our lives and govern our environments for his glory.

Love and the Truth

The Great Why –Pt. 4

We have seen in previous editions of *The Great Why* that the heart of man is desperately wicked. We asked why God loves fallen man to such a degree as to send Christ. The Lord revealed that He loves us because He Is Love. Within the very nature of God there is intimate, loving relationship. He also revealed a few gifts that He has given to us to make “relationship” possible. We began to explore those gifts: *Image*, *Likeness*, and *Dominion* and something of how they function. We will continue to explore these three gifts and see how they facilitate relationship.

The three attributes “*image*, *likeness* and *dominion*” ultimately break down like this. “*Image* and *likeness*” are given for God to communicate Himself to us in the fullest way possible. “*Dominion*” is given so that we can communicate (or reflect) God in the fullest way possible.

Boot Camp

Worthy is the Lamb to Receive: *Honor*

How is HONOR expressed in the Kingdom?

When we HONOR one who is “honorable,” the motive for our behavior is inherent in the person or object itself. But when we HONOR one who is not necessarily “honorable,” but who holds a position of HONOR (as established by God); then the motive for our behavior is inherent in the Person of God; as ought to be the case for all of our motives. We are then giving HONOR based on the transcendent wisdom of God; which sometimes allows dishonorable persons to hold positions of HONOR for an appointed time.

Quote: God is not as interested in making your circumstances right; as He is interested in your circumstances making you right. – by Pastor Dave Shepardson

We are mistaken to think that we hold no obligation to HONOR, based on the perceived absence of virtue(s) in a person or object; especially where the Word of God has said otherwise.

Living Waters

Like Father, Like Son(s)

Jesus did what the Father directed. Although Jesus is (Himself) God; nevertheless, He did not act arbitrarily at any time. To act arbitrarily; is for one’s behavior to be whimsical and ungrounded; lacking reason or manifesting lawlessness. Jesus did not get any new and bright ideas of His own making. He followed a Kingdom law, that every word (or proclamation) must be established in the mouth of two or three witnesses. Meaning that everything that Jesus said (or did) had to have the witness (or approval) of the Father and the Holy Spirit. The Lord was very judicious to teach us that if He behaved in any way arbitrary His words or deeds could, reasonably, be brought into question. The things that Jesus said (and did) He learned from the Father. This is a hint. Like Father, like Sons. It follows then that since Jesus Christ is the first of many, we (being the “many”) are obliged to follow in His footsteps.

Kingdom News

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

Volume 4, Issue 2

February 2010

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[Living Waters](#) – Divine Partnership: *From Words to Works*

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone

Pragmatic Atheism

I like the phrase “hands and feet,” because it typifies how we “do life.” I mean, essentially we live our lives with our “hands and feet.” We are to keep watch over our hearts with all diligence; for out of it are the “things we do with our hands and feet.” The heart directs the hands and feet. May I get a little personal with you (and with myself)? Is it possible that some of our friends, neighbors and/or family members won’t “come near God” because of us? Perhaps, because they do not see that He’s made much of a difference in our lives? We think it’s *them* (they just don’t want God); when it could very likely be *us*. It may be the case that they want to know a God; who is loving, who is forgiving and who will actually change their heart. And until they see Him change our hearts, they’re not interested. I’m afraid that, if we’re honest, we really can’t blame them.

So we see that it is possible for us to profess a belief in God and still live like “there was no God.” Our *mouths* say “bless God,” but our *hearts* say “what God?”

The Leadership Corner

God’s 2010 Planner

On God’s calendar there are major events planned. There are literally events scheduled for every day and every hour of each day.

Stroll on over to Ephesians 2:10. It says, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God had before ordained that we should walk in them.”

This is what God is calling each of us to do on a daily basis. And, at the end of each day we are to thank Him. We thank Him for what did **AND** did not happen. We agree that His plan for the day was far superior to anything we could have come up with.

Son of My Wisdom

From Root to Fruit - 5

This is where the threads should begin to come together. We (the light of the world) make manifest (as light does) the life of Christ that was given to us. God puts the new heart and spirit *within us*; this is God's doing. Then we must live this *out* (or make it manifest) through the things we do and say; this is our responsibility. This is how we make for ourselves a new heart and spirit. And we do that from the new heart and spirit that God has given to us.

Journey to Intimacy

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

In the Kingdom and in our relationship with the Lord, there are various degrees of intimacy that we may experience. Essentially, they can be loosely categorized as Servants, Sons and Spouses.

Servant - When we come to God, there is a sense in which we initially experience Him from the position of a servant. We know that we belong to Him; but we don't really know what it means to "belong" to Him. This whole "salvation thing" is all new to us. Allow me to say it this way. Prior to our conversion, we were slaves to sin. "Twice sold" into slavery: first by our forefather Adam; then of our own volition (choices). When we receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, we find that we are "twice bought" by God. "Bought" in this sense means the Lord incurred the expense for our "being;" first in creation, then at Calvary.

Precepts in Practice

Reign the "How To"

Webster tells us that an offering is something presented in worship and that it is presented in hopes that it will be accepted. As Christians we must understand that everything we do is to be considered as an offering to God. What does "everything" include? Everything!

When we read these scriptures it may be tempting to think that they are referring simply to our physical bodies. Well, this is certainly not the case. Our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit. The scripture is directing us to give our temples (our entire beings) to God. This includes everything we say, think and do. **WE** are the offering to our Heavenly Father.

As believers we no longer simply GIVE offerings as individual gifts. We ARE the offerings and everything we engage in must honor God.

Love and the Truth

The Great Why

Let's pull out the magnifying glass, and take a closer look at the nature of this **relationship** that we have with God. Here we will see the fine threads that run through the fabrics of these two series, illuminating their coherence. "... **Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.**" (Philippians 2:13b-14) We, who are the light of the world; manifest the life of Christ that was given to us as a new heart and a new spirit. God puts

the new heart and spirit within us; but we must manifest it. He worked it in; we work it out. Now there's a divine partnership.

Boot Camp

Worthy is the Lamb to Receive: *Glory*

So we see that the heavens declare His GLORY. And it is also true that the whole earth is full of His GLORY.

Another such expression of the GLORY of God can be seen in the moon's relationship with the sun and the earth. We understand that the light we see from the moon is a reflection of the sun's light on the surface of the moon. This is a beautiful expression of the GLORY of God, in nature. It also tells us something very powerful about our relationship with God. When Jesus was in the world He was the light of the world. Now it's our turn.

As the moon receives its light from the sun; so too do we receive our light from the Son. This is the GLORY of God; that we would reflect the light of His Son upon the earth; just as the Son reflected the GLORY of the Father. We are not, of ourselves, sources of light (wisdom, revelation, etc.). We simply either reflect the light of the Son; or we do not. To the exact degree that we reflect the light of the Son; it is to that same degree that we are able to "give" light (GLORY) to the world. No more and no less.

Living Waters

Divine Partnership: *From Words to Works*

WORDS

I don't know if you noticed, but there was a very subtle transition in the language of Jesus in that scripture above. From the *words* that Jesus spoke to the *works* that the Father did. While we may think that this was simply the choice of the translator of scripture, I don't think so. In the Kingdom, "to speak" is "to do." Words "DO", they don't just express thought. They do: they create and they destroy. This is why the scriptures speak so prolifically about our use of "words."

WORKS

You'll notice throughout the gospels that Jesus referenced the works as being "of the Father." He was doing the Father's works. The Father was working through Him. Greater works than these shall we do.

Here we see a divine partnership between the Father and the Son. Such is the work of salvation. It is a joint-venture; first between the Father and Son; then between our Lord and us.

Kingdom News

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

Volume 4, Issue 3

March 2010

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[Leadership Corner](#) – A Remedy for Your Burn-Out

[Son of My Wisdom](#) – Hidden in Light and Breath

[Journey to Intimacy](#) – From Servants ... To Sons ... To Spouses: *Role of a Son*

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✧ SUMMARY ✧

The Chief Cornerstone

Faith That Sees ...

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

The Leadership Corner

A Remedy for Your Burn-Out

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

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

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

Son of My Wisdom

Hidden in Light and Breath

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

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

Journey to Intimacy

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

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

What constitutes son-ship? Biologically, a son sustains a very different connection to the Father, than that of a servant. The Father acquires servants, but begets sons.

What is the role of a son? The role of a son is to carry on the father's legacy. In some sense a son "immortalizes the father."

In the Kingdom, there comes a time in the life of a servant when he should put off the role of a servant; and assume the role of a son. Now while it is the responsibility of the servant to desire son-ship; it is the work of the Father to make sons. And it is the role of the Spirit to mature, sanctify a servant into son-ship.

Precepts in Practice

Reign - The "How To"

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

Love and the Truth

The Two Become One

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

Boot Camp**Worthy is the Lamb to Receive:
Blessing**

God has the ability to **BLESS** us. But how does this teach us how to **BLESS** the Lamb of God? In the office, when I want to “**BLESS**” or reward someone on my team, I ask this question. “What matters most ... to them?” I wouldn’t want to reward/ **BLESS** someone monetarily, when what matters most to them is a better work/life balance. This of course explains the reason for the question, “What matters most ... **to them?**” This is the first thing I want to discern, before attempting to be a **BLESSING** to someone. And so we ask this question of God. “Lord, we want to bless You; what matters most ... *to You?*”

Now you can elect to decide on God’s behalf, what matters to Him. I wouldn’t advise it, though. Paul said, when instructing the church at Corinth; “Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, prophesy, and understand all mysteries ... it would all be a waste of time.” These things don’t carry as much weight as we think, with God.

Living Waters**Riches: Now You See Them
Now You Don't**

Where is the true wisdom in setting your sights; or having as your goal to achieve that which cannot be achieved? These earthly riches are elusive. They are but carrots dangled by the enemy to distract you from the high call of God in Christ Jesus. Do not store up for yourself earthly riches; where moth and rust corrupt. Where thieves and inflation break through and steal them. They do not make one truly rich. Earthly riches are that which seems to promise what it cannot deliver. It was only an illusion of that which is.

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

Kingdom News

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

Volume 4, Issue 4

April 2010

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- [Leadership Corner](#) – Living Bread
- [Son of My Wisdom](#) – Christ: Our Eternal Sacrifice – *The Lamb of God*
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❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone

The World's Greatest Losers: *When to Lose is to Gain*

Gypsy Smith had a little quote. “There are five gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the Christian. And most people will never read the first four.”

We, the Christian, are the only gospel that many people will ever read. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are living stories of good news, intended to be read of men. We daily present our bodies a living sacrifice to God ... so that our lives may prove that the gospel really is good news. Our lives ought to be lived as ones who always “bear about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus;” so that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in us.

A prudent man once said that “he is wise who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

The Leadership Corner

Living Bread

It should not be too difficult to understand that the Holy Spirit IS the bread of life that lives inside of us. Jesus told his disciples that He was the bread of life and that they were to eat His flesh. If they would do this they would have the bread of life living inside of them. In everyday language, to eat Jesus’ flesh simply means to accept His sacrifice for our sins by faith; then, to allow the Holy Spirit (the living word of God) to be resident in us.

Son of My Wisdom

Christ: *Our Eternal Sacrifice*

Rule 1: The extent of reconciliation for the guilty depends upon and cannot exceed the type and extent of death endured by the sacrifice.

Rule 2: The life of the one reconciled is only as great or substantial as the life which can be imputed from the sacrifice, itself.

Rule 3: Death embraced is unto reconciliation, whereas death rejected is unto damnation, and destruction.

Journey to Intimacy

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

DISCLAIMER #1

When you go to the movie theatre, as the opening credits roll you see there a warning (aka the movie’s rating classification) stating that the following movie contains adult content, graphic details and is suitable for mature audiences only. Consider this the disclaimer for the content of this article.

It is only fair that I warn you that this discourse is not for the faint of heart. It will demand of each of us some of the most inscrutable considerations and will require open-hearted honesty with ourselves, before God.

Precepts in Practice

God is in Our Environment

We don't necessarily have to lose our homes, forfeit our relationships, get fired or released from our jobs, become terminally ill, and so forth. While some of these events may take place in our lives (and God is present when they do), it is possible in several cases to actually avoid some of the drama by bringing God into the picture a little earlier. Or, when we do have to go through these types of trials, God is able to reduce the "fall out" if we keep Him at the center of our worlds (instead of bringing him in at the last minute).

Instead of waiting until things get ugly to call on God, why not include Him from the beginning? Yes, it's true that when we are at the end of our ropes and we call on God (from a pure heart); He will hear and help us. But, we need to know that things don't have to get this bad in the first place.

Love and the Truth

The Two Became One

Man has desires that are to be fulfilled. However, they can only be truly fulfilled in relationship with and in God. Man must recognize that God created man's desires, and they are **a part of his** relationship with God, not **apart from** his relationship with God. Since God created these desires, we must ask Him what they really are, and how to manage them. So then we see the source of relationship in God, and the need for relationship in man.

Our sensitivity to and responsiveness to the will of God is to be as real and innate as the body's responsiveness to the will of the soul. This is something of the work of sanctification, to bring us from just doing what is right, to being so very one with God that if He whispers, we move surely, authoritatively, consistently, and persistently to accomplish His will.

Boot Camp

Worthy is the Lamb to Receive:

Series Ensemble

Series Ensemble: Some of you may recall that this series began with the article entitled *Process of Reciprocity* in the August 2009 edition of the *Journal to Intimacy* column. For the past seven editions of the *Boot Camp* column we have been exploring and receiving light on how we as believers have an obligation to the Lamb of God.

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)

Living Waters

A Prayer: *Small But Powerful*

The prayer began this way: "Father, we are not worthy to be called Your sons. Make us as the hired servants ..."

I then began to see (to glimpse, even) the Holiness of God. I there recognized that we are not even worthy to be called His servants. You'll recall one of the roles of a servant is to increase the estate of his Lord. But we have nothing of any value to offer a Holy, Righteous God. We have nothing to "set before" Him. All of our righteousness is as filthy rags...

Kingdom News

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

Volume 4, Issue 5

May 2010

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❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone

The Hidden Life:

Expansion of the World's Greatest Losers

The “world’s greatest losers” live a “hidden life.”

They do not seek anything for themselves; they give all; they suffer all; they do all to the glory of God. They seek first the preeminence of the Kingdom of God and His righteousness for their lives and for the lives of those around them. The preeminence of the Kingdom is a “principled life.” A life lived by the precepts of the Kingdom. The statutes of the Kingdom govern every area of their lives and every faculty of their being. It is indeed a “hidden life.”

It is an expensive life; it will cost them everything they have and everything they are. Even so, it will never cost as much as a life lived otherwise; a life of rebellion and non-compliance to the things of God.

The Leadership Corner

Memorials

With this in mind, believers know that we are the sons and daughters of God. We serve a King who is gracious, merciful, and mighty. We never have to wait for Him to provide for us because in reality, God always provides everything we need before we need it. When we take time to remember how He’s been with us in the past, this should encourage us to know He will continue to be with us now and in the future.

Maybe you will take some time this month to remember, honor, and celebrate those people who have made a positive impact in your life. It would also be most appropriate to remember, honor, and celebrate the God Who gives us life and provides for all of our needs.

Son of My Wisdom

Christ My Eternal Priest

The scriptures also declare that “every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sin.” This is the place of the priest, both of the Levitical order and of the Melchisedec order (of which Christ’s priesthood is likened).

However, the scriptures tell very little (if anything) about the sacrifices of the Melchisedec priesthood. On the other hand, we may come to understand a great deal about the sacrifice(s) of Christ’s priesthood. Both Christ’s priesthood is eternal and He is our eternal sacrifice. As long as Christ has been our Sacrifice (for we know that the Lamb was slain before the foundation of the world), He has also been our Priest. So we begin to glimpse both the reality and the necessity of the eternity of Christ’s priesthood.

Journey to Intimacy

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

Just as the woman is the glory of the man, so too is the spouse the glory of her Lord. What’s more glorious than for one to be a reciprocal expression of our Lord? To be His expressed image and likeness. Wow!!

- There is *beauty* in the place of a servant.
- There is *strength* in the role of a son.
- There is *transcendent glory* in the service of a spouse.

The glory of a son recognizes that no weapon formed against us shall prosper (a defensive disposition); the glory of a spouse knows that we can do *all* things through Christ Who strengthens us (an offensive posture).

Precepts in Practice

Accepting the Path God Has Me On

Many times we continually wish we were “like someone else, had what someone else has, or could do what someone else does.” Let’s treat this tendency as a disease and name it “**Some-body-else-ittis.**”

I am not supposed to “be” anybody else. I am supposed to be me. I am not supposed to “have” what anybody else has. I am supposed to have what I have. And, I am not supposed to “do” what anybody else does. I am supposed to do what I do. Why, because it pleased my heavenly Father to make me this way, give me what I have, and cause me to do what I do.

As I’ve come to accept who I am, God has delivered me from that dreadful, debilitating disease “**Some-body-else-ittis**” and he has caused me to focus on what he is doing with what he made me to be.

Love and the Truth

It Was Always Faith

Then, without warning, and under the guise of innocence the next thought creeps in; it is poisonous (it comes to steal, to kill and to destroy); and it begins with “at least” It goes something like this, “At least I didn’t do or say ... (something worse).”

Now, let me tell you something about this statement, however it ends. It is almost completely, absolutely, unequivocally, inescapably one of the most anti-Christian statements or thoughts you or I could make or think. Now I don't mean to scare you, but I do mean to drive this point home to both of us. When we say, "at least I didn't do or say something worse;" we attempt to justify ourselves by our works (whether committed or omitted). In some sense we become a "law to ourselves." We presume to redefine righteousness by our own standards; as if God's standard of righteousness wasn't sufficient enough.

More than our "sin" problem, our "self" problem, our "submission" problem, we need to deal with our "faith" problem.

Boot Camp

Christianity 101 - The Basics: *Forgiveness*

He said to me, "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. It reads like this

IF/THEN - *If* I forgive those who sin against me, *then* Father please forgive my sins against You.

LIKE/AS - And in *like* fashion *as* I forgive others, then in this SAME fashion forgive me.

Now the "If...then" or logical formula is clear cut. It is much like an on/off switch. The light is either "on" or it's "off." It's not a little bit "on" and kind of "off." It's off or it's on. There are no shades of gray. If I forgive others, then please forgive me (lights on). If I do not forgive others, then please do not forgive me either (lights off). That's simple, right? H-O-W-E-V-E-R!!!!

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.

Living Waters

Non Satis Scire: *To "Know" is not Enough*

John's epistles (I, II, and III John) were written during the first century A.D. He was communicating to a people among whom Gnosticism was a social norm or a philosophical predisposition. One attribute of the Gnostic mindset was that knowledge was the means by which one attained a transcendent or lofty standing with God and man. In the gospel account of John, he is quoting Jesus "...you shall know the truth ..." Which of course, is 100% true. Nothing is to be added to it; and nothing is to be taken from this truth. The thing to be guarded against is an improper understanding of it. This is where errors such as Gnosticism originate.

To be in possession of "knowledge" is (by itself) dangerous. Because it imposes upon us a responsibility to "do." And if this responsibility is left unfulfilled, we find ourselves in violation of another Kingdom ordinance. To him who knows to do good and does it not, it is sin.

Kingdom News

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

Volume 4, Issue 6

June 2010

[Chief Cornerstone](#) – The Will of God
[Leadership Corner](#) – Time to Refresh Your Kids!!!
[Son of My Wisdom](#) – The Difference Maker - *Regeneration*
[Journey to Intimacy](#) – That is Not Your Job!!!
[Precepts in Practice](#) – A Healthy & Tasty Ministry
[Love and The Truth](#) – Proclamation
[Boot Camp](#) – Christianity 101 – The Basics: *Repentance*
[Living Waters](#) – La Vida es Sueño

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone

The Will of God

Here are some of the questions illuminated in this article:

What is the WILL of God? Where does it come from?

What is the will of man? Where does it come from?

What is the relationship between the two wills? When these wills are not in agreement; when they are in discord; when they are incongruent, which one reigns supreme?

“Dominion” is the “ox that knows its Master’s crib.” “Freewill” not only doesn’t know its Master’s crib; it doesn’t even believe it has a Master. “Freewill” admits of no governance, apart from self. It sings of its independence.

The Leadership Corner

Time to Refresh Your Kids!!!

You may wonder what this topic has to do with leadership... EVERYTHING! We, as parents, will want to embrace the fact that we are the managers of our children’s education, career paths, and their destinies (to a large extent). Before creation, God put in place principles that position parents as the priestly overseers of our children, until the children become adults.

Son of My Wisdom

The Difference Maker –
Regeneration

After reading these two parables and hearing all that the Lord was revealing about them I had one question really setting in. What is the fundamental difference between the vineyard in Isaiah (5:1-7), and the one in Matthew (21:33-44)? I hadn’t actually asked the

Holy Spirit yet, but as soon as I got my head around what the question was, He answered it: REGENERATION.

Journey to Intimacy

It's Not Your Job!!!

Necessity may indeed be the “mother” of invention. And desperate times may certainly call for desperate measures. But as children of the Kingdom, we must receive our direction from the Throne. We must!! Or we will find ourselves, carried about with every “wind of doctrine.” We owe to God a solemn duty to discharge our responsibilities in the things assigned to us. And an equal duty accords, that we are to refrain from engaging in activities and transactions that have not been assigned to us by God (no matter how “good and noble” they seem). It is not our job to “do good things,” just because they are “good things.” For then we would never know the boundaries of our duty to God or to man. For when you have done all the “good” you can; there is yet much, much more “good” to be done. Where is one to draw the line?

Dare I say that often we find ourselves immobilized because we are overwhelmed by the impossibility of our tasks or our calling? As a result, we do not do the “possible” for fear of our inability to do the “impossible.” There’s a sense in which, it is not our job to do the “impossible;” it is our job to do the “possible.” The “impossible” is left to the Sovereignty of God.

Precepts in Practice

A Healthy & Tasty Ministry

We know that God can and does offer salvation to anyone who sincerely calls upon him. We also want to understand that salvation (forgiveness of sin & coming into the kingdom of God) is not the same as conversion (changing behavior from being led by the flesh to being led by the Spirit).

Salvation is immediate. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, he or she is instantly welcomed into the Kingdom of God. This is when the real work begins. Conversion, on the other hand, is a lifelong process. Daily (as we seek God and yield to the work of the Holy Spirit), He teaches us Kingdom principles, points out to us any unacceptable behavior, forgives & corrects us, washes us with His word, and conforms us into the image of Christ. This process produces Christ-like attitudes and behavior that we previously did not have.

Love and the Truth

Proclamation

I recently heard a sermon from one of my favorite speakers. He said, “We must declare war on our flesh, war on our sin. We must declare war on our selfishness, our self righteousness, our pride, our slothfulness. Declare war on our unfaithfulness, our envy, our fretfulness. Declare war on our callousness, our belligerence, our stubbornness. Declare war on our self-conceit, our self-exaltation, and our self-glory.

We will be seeking God for light to be shed on the things about ourselves that we've hidden from ourselves. We will no longer accept a half-hearted Christianity.

Boot CampChristianity 101 - Basics:
Repentance

One secular definition of *repentance* is to have such a sense of remorse for one's past behavior or sin; as to change one's mind regarding it. However, over time the predominant iteration of *repentance* is: a *repentance* that results in merely a change in feeling (with no resulting change in behavior). I remember the days when the use of the term "*repentance*" had inherent in it the understanding that you were expected to change your behavior. Now, "I'm sorry" seems to have become the encapsulation of our expression of "*repentance*." Unfortunately, being "sorry" does not cause a corresponding change in one's behavior. What we call *repentance* today, is the same as a basic "apology." But biblically, they are not the same.

Living Waters

La Vida es Sueño

In all of our three score and ten years, the brevity of this life will be reminiscent of a "mid-summer night's dream," when this age is rolled up. And in the ages to come we'll look back at this life with a completely different paradigm. The things that we would presently "sell our souls" to have (or to be); will be less than a memory. For many of us they will be even a loathsome memory, at that. For some of the things left undone in this life; we will bless God for His wisdom in closing those doors. There will be some things that we thought we could not live without. We'll then appreciate the fact that we did not get them after all; although they seemed (at that time) to be the most important objective.

Kingdom News

The Kingdom is Yours, the power is Yours and the glory is Yours, forever... (Matt. 6:13)
Volume 4, Issue 7 July 2010

[Chief Cornerstone](#) – Weapons of Mass Destruction

[Leadership Corner](#) – A Personal Declaration of Independence

[Son of My Wisdom](#) – The LAW: The Letter and the Spirit – The Foreshadowing and the Image

[Precepts in Practice](#) – "Because I Said So"

[Love and The Truth](#) – The Fruitful Vineyard

[Boot Camp](#) – Christianity 101 – The Basics: Faith

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone**Weapons of Mass Destruction**

Imagine this: What *could* we ... what *would* we do if we knew we could not fail? No ... actually take a moment and meditate ... on it. What would you accomplish in this life, if you could not be stopped? "Why are we doing this?" you ask. Because, most of the things we forfeit (shrink away from) in life; we do so, not because our enemy has triumphed over us. It is more the case that we

have “failed ourselves.” It is more the case that we have “failed God.” In the promise that “no weapon formed against us shall prosper;” the Lord has given us a double-edged sword.

- On one edge: nothing the enemy intends can stop us from being conformed into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- On the other edge: we then have a responsibility to allow the Lord to so conform us.

In the eyes of the enemy, Calvary was a weapon of mass destruction intended to destroy Jesus; to dethrone the Heir of the Kingdom. We get a glimpse of this in the parable of the vineyard; where the wicked husbandmen sought to kill the son (heir) in an effort to gain his throne, his inheritance. The Lord whispered to Paul, that if only the enemy had known that Calvary was actually a scalpel (a precise surgical instrument) used to undo the effects of Adam’s sin; he never would have tried to hang him on a cross. If the enemy had only known that by Christ giving His life, He was saving ours; he never would have provoked the people to cry “crucify Him; crucify Him.” What the enemy did not know was that in his effort to destroy Jesus; he was destroying himself. The enemy sought to bind Jesus in the chains of death. What the enemy didn’t know was that Jesus was coming willingly to destroy him who had the power of death (the enemy) and to free those who feared death (us). Of a truth the law of the Lord is perfect. In deed, God is no respecter of persons nor will He be mocked, whatever the enemy sows; that shall he also reap.

The Leadership Corner

A Personal Declaration of Independence

Now, however, we are being touched by this massive economical burden. Every person in America (or someone we know) is being negatively impacted by the events that are going in our economy. And, God said that these events signal a need for a “breaking free” in the spirit and in the natural. God wants believers to break free. He wants us to declare our personal independence from reliance on anything or anyone other than Himself.

We don’t want to admit it, but many of us (dare I say most of us) relied too heavily on our jobs, our homes, our statuses, our investments, and so on. We winked at God as we went through our daily lives doing what WE wanted to do (not what HE wanted us to do). Now, the tables have turned. We, as believers, are finding ourselves in situations where we have to make up our minds that we are going to trust in, rely on, and seek God for who He is (first), and receive what he has determined is best for us at this time.

Son of My Wisdom

The LAW: *The Letter and the Spirit*

The law is composed of two parts. The letter, which is essentially the propositional expression of the law (i.e., thou shall not kill); expressed primarily in word and deed. However, there is also the Spirit of the law. The scriptures tell us that the letter kills, but the spirit gives life. Now the Spirit of the law is indicative of the Personality behind the law, which is the Personality of Jesus Christ. It is Him, to Whom the law ultimately points. Now, the reason why the deeds of the law do not justify us, is because the law is more than deeds. *The law is spiritual.*

The spirit of the law is communicating the **image** of Christ. Now these are laws like *children obey your parents; thou shall not covet; thou shall not bear false witness;* etc. These are **not simply foreshadows** of Jesus like the other ones. These are expressions of the very **image** of

Jesus Christ, which means they live on, in us forever. For we are the **image** of Christ in the earth, and are continually being sanctified unto that **image**. This never fades away.

Precepts in Practice

"Because I Said So"

When it comes to our love towards God, scripture is clear that it speaks of our obedience to Him. (John 14:23 paraphrased) says that “If we love God we will keep his commandments.” It is useless for us to tout how much we love our Great and Wonderful God if we do not do what He (by His word and through His Holy Spirit) instructs us to do.

Love and the Truth

The Fruitful Vineyard

If the husband is diligent, careful, tender, loving, and longsuffering, making it easy for his bride to yield fruit first to God; then God has made a promise. ... *Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your increase: so shall your barns be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst out with new wine.*

If the husband is tender and loving towards his wife in such a way as that she yields to God. God Himself will make sure that the husband's wine presses burst with new wine.

The image given here is of the bubbling up of sexual intimacy, and passion. For the fruit of the vineyard represents the essence of the bride, of her humanity in general, and her femininity in particular.

Boot Camp

Christianity 101 - The Basics: *Faith*

You can hope that a situation turns out okay. You can hope that decisions are made in your favor. But true, Kingdom *faith* is an “act of worship,” therefore it must terminate on a Person. Now we can see why *faith* is the substance (or evidence) of things hoped for; as it is the very joining of one in league with God. One, who is joined with God, has full access to the treasury of the Kingdom; nothing will be withheld from that one.

We see too, why whatsoever is “not of *faith*” (out of allegiance with God) must be sinful.

It makes sense, that it is impossible to please God, without *faith*. For a show of *faith* is to esteem Him. God cannot be pleased, where He is not honored and esteemed.

Kingdom News

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

Volume 4, Issue 8

August 2010

[Chief Cornerstone](#) – Pressing the Battle to the Gates: *Series Introduction*

[Leadership Corner](#) – Back to School!!!

[Son of My Wisdom](#) – The Gifts of Genesis 3

[Journey to Intimacy](#) – Philosophy: Qualia “The Learning” and the “Living”

[Precepts in Practice](#) – Be Perfect – What?!?!

[Love and The Truth](#) – The Fruitful Vineyard: What Can Be Learned-Husbands and Wives

[Boot Camp](#) – Christianity 101 – The Basics: *Obedience*

✧ SUMMARY ✧

The Chief Cornerstone

Pressing the Battle to the Gates:

Series Introduction

During prayer one day, the Lord said these things to me, “The gates of hell shall not prevail against you; 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?

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.

The Leadership Corner

Back to School!!!

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.

Son of My Wisdom

The Gifts of Genesis 3

Regarding the pronouncements that God made over Adam and Eve after the Fall; 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.

There is a sense in which Genesis 3:16-17 was intended to prepare us for John 3:16-17.

Journey to Intimacy

Philosophy: *Qualia*

"The Learning" and "The Living"

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, 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.

Precepts in Practice

Be Perfect - What!?!?

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.

“Perfection” is truly impossible in this sense.

So, let us explore what the Word of God says about “perfection” and believers.

Love and the Truth

The Fruitful Vineyard

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.

Boot Camp**Christianity 101 - The Basics:**
*Obedience***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 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.

Kingdom News

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

Volume 4, Issue 9

September 2010

[Chief Cornerstone](#) – Pressing the Battle to the Gate – *He is Not Omnipotent*

[Leadership Corner](#) – Your Need Versus His Supply

[Journey to Intimacy](#) – My Life, A Ransom

[Precepts in Practice](#) – What's the Weather Like in Your House?

[Love and The Truth](#) – The Fruitful Vineyard II

[Boot Camp](#) – Christianity 101 – The Basics: Truth

[Living Waters](#) – Teacher's Aide

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone**Pressing the Battle to the Gate***He is Not Omnipotent*

Contrary to popular belief: The enemy **IS NOT** omnipotent!!!

He's NOT. He wants you to *think* (or at least *act* like) he is omnipotent. But as soon as we get our "understanding" around this truth; then we are well on our way to defeating the work of the enemy in our lives; and in the lives of those around us. When it comes to wrestling with the works of the flesh and the adversary, we tend to shy away from the fight ("running away" is probably more indicative of our behavior). Is it because we have mistakenly "given the battle" to the enemy? Do we "throw" the fight because we are deceived into thinking that the enemy is in some sense omnipotent (although we would probably never openly admit it)?

To "deceive" has a couple of expressions. One expression is to "mislead by a false appearance." Another expression of the term to deceive is "to be unfaithful to." When the enemy "deceives" he

employs both of these expressions. The enemy “misleads by false appearance; by being unfaithful to the truth.” So we see that the scriptures have rightly discovered him; he is the Father of all deceptions (lies).

The Leadership Corner

Your Need Versus His Supply

One day when Jesus was teaching there was a huge crowd listening to Him. As was His custom, He spoke directly to what they had on their minds. One of the issues was their concern for basic human needs like food, clothing and shelter. Jesus encouraged the people by saying, “Do not worry about food and drink (basic human needs). Your Father knows you need these things (everyday). It is His good pleasure to provide them for you (even without your asking).”

Jesus is telling us that we have a Heavenly Father who loves us (more than we understand) and who provides for our needs before we need them. He does not wait to see what we will pray for and then go in a back room to try to create it. Unlike many of us, God is not a procrastinator. He also is not reactionary. Instead, God **ALWAYS** provides for **EVERYTHING** we need **BEFORE** we need it.

Here is the principle, “*First Provision – Then Need.*” This is the character of God.

Journey to Intimacy

My Life, A Ransom

... the Son of man came not to be ministered to, but to minister; and to give His life a ransom. (Luke 10:45)

We often say that “Jesus Christ was our example.” Do we really know what that means ... that Jesus is our example? When the scriptures admonish us to “mark well the man who is spiritually and naturally mature, and behold His upright “ness”; it was pointing to the man Jesus Christ. He is exactly what we *ought* to become, what we are intended to become.

The scriptures tell us that Jesus came to give His life a “ransom” for us. One definition of “ransom” is a means of deliverance or rescue from punishment for sin. He came to ransom us into reconciliation with God. Jesus gave His life as a sacrifice *to the Father*; that the Father would give His [Jesus’] life as a gift to us. This is what God does with the “ransom” of a life (Jesus’ life; my life; or your life). I like to call it the *Law of the Ransom*. When we lay down our lives before Him and take up our crosses and follow Christ; the Father pours out *Life* [Jesus] into others who desperately need Him.

Precepts in Practice

What's the Weather Like In Your House?

I believe we are to live our lives in a way that brings glory to God (in obedience) and in a way that helps others (including being an example of the love of God). Then, when catastrophes happen (or other events where lives are lost) we don’t have to try to figure out what God’s involvement was (too much, too little, or too late). Instead, we can rest in God’s word.

In addition, may I submit that as believers, we are to “sanctify God in the eyes of others.” This means that when people try to indict God, we can simply give our testimony (if we are so led) about His faithfulness and the natural and eternal life He has provided for anyone who will accept it.

Love and the Truth

The Fruitful Vineyard

If the husband is hoping to sow rightly in his wife, he needs to make sure that the atmosphere in the house is an atmosphere of real, substantial, abiding relationship, and intimacy with God. There needs always to be an open floor to talk about God, the things of God, the word of God, etc. Husbands there cannot be the “Bible study time,” and “prayer time,” and then other times when you are willing to talk neither about scripture, nor God. There must always to be that sort of unmixed purity in your household. For the Lord says “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.”

Boot Camp

Christianity 101 - The Basics: *Truth*

Pilate said to him, “*What is truth?*”

A while ago, the Lord taught me a very important principle. I like to call it the *Principle of Proper Inquiry*. He said, “In order to get the correct answer to a question you’ll want to ensure that you (both) ...”

- Ask the right person(s), and
- Ask the right question(s)

Surveying the scriptures (on the topic of truth) leads us to a most interesting need; a need to reframe the question itself. The scriptures teach us that “truth” is not a “*WHAT*,” Truth is a “*WHO*?”

Jesus said to him, I AM ... the *Truth* ...

Biblical Christianity is the only place (that I am aware of) where “*truth*” is a Person.

Living Waters

Teacher's Aide

As we go on through life, we sometimes get frustrated with the shortcomings in the lives of others. And unwittingly we may take upon ourselves the responsibility of “teaching” them how they *ought* to live and what they *ought* to think and do.

I would caution that we be very ginger and prudent in taking such a position. In the Kingdom, we are not strictly the teachers of men. We are more like teachers’ aides. Sometimes we think that it’s our job to “teach” each other.

The Spirit of God is the Teacher; He takes the things of Jesus Christ and **reveals** them to us (and to others, through us). The operative word here is that the *Spirit* teaches; we’re just the Teacher’s aide. Here is one expression of the Divine Partnership. The Spirit teaches; we are simply used as teaching aides. We simply prepare a table before us in the presence of the hearer. It is the Spirit Who causes the heart of the hearer to receive truth. It is the Spirit, *not us*; Who works in the hearer to both will and to do.

Kingdom News

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

Volume 4, Issue 10

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[Chief Cornerstone](#) – Pressing the Battle to the Gates – *He's not Omniscient!*

[Leadership Corner](#) – Developing Good Judgment

[Son of My Wisdom](#) – Let's Get Around to Agreeing with God

[Journey to Intimacy](#) – Give Me Children, Lest I Die

[Precepts in Practice](#) – Employment & Opportunities through Relationships

[Love and The Truth](#) – The Conscience

[Boot Camp](#) – Christianity 101 – The Basics: *Prayer*

[Living Waters](#) – Agree with the Adversary Quickly – Don't Argue with Him

∞ SUMMARY ∞

The Chief Cornerstone

Pressing the Battle to the Gates *He's Not Omniscient!*

“Omniscience” as a characteristic belongs solely to the Only Sovereign God. Again, the enemy is not omniscient!!! For those of you, who still aren't convinced, consider this; that one attribute of “omniscience” is that it has the quality of being *infinite*.

The enemy (the devil) is a created being; which means that he is not *infinite*, nor has he eternally existed. If the enemy were **omniscient**, he would have known the plan of salvation from the onset. If the enemy were **infinite**, he would have had either to participate or to refute the plan of salvation from its inception. The plan of salvation was intended to destroy the works of the devil, he certainly would not have agreed to it; had he any say in the matter. And if he were *infinite*, he would also have been *omnipotent* and would have been able to stop the plan of salvation. The enemy could not stop the plan of salvation in “the heavens,” for our Savior descended from there. Nor could he stop the plan of salvation “in the earth,” for our Lord finished it here. But the scriptures say that there is hidden wisdom and mysteries that are revealed to us that are not known by the princes of this world. The scriptures go on to say that “the things of God know no man, but the Spirit of God.” I think we all know that the enemy is not the Spirit of God; which again proves that the enemy is not omniscient.

The Leadership Corner

Developing Good Judgment

Here we see that wisdom (sound judgment) comes from having a proper reverence or respect for God. This basically means that we take the position that God knows everything that pertains to our lives. And, He knows everything about His creation. Further, He can see the past, present, and future all at the same time. In addition, He loves us and welcomes our invitation to allow Him to guide us on any issues we may have.

Taking this position results in our commitment to allow Him to be Lord of our lives and to give us daily instruction as to the decisions we need to make. This is a basic way to reverence God.

Son of My Wisdom

Let's Get Around to Agreeing with God

We approach a grave error in our thinking when we believe that what we “say or do” in some way provokes God to “do or say,” something that He was not already predisposed to do or say.

And so we see the *Spirit* of the scripture that says:

Whatsoever you bind on earth; shall be bound in heaven. And whatsoever you loose in the earth; shall be loosed in heaven.⁽²⁾ **Translation:** Whatever you provoke (whether binding or loosing) in the earth; shall have already been sanctioned in heaven.

The earth does not “create” in the truest sense of the word; implying “ex nihilo (out of nothing).” The “Heavens” *create*; the earth *makes*. The “Heavens” sanction; and the earth (man) provokes into being.

Journey to Intimacy

Give Me Children, Lest I Die

Jesus died that the Father might have “sons.” The Lord desires “sons;” and He shall have them. Jesus Christ paid a great price, to that end. What about you? Is your womb barren? Or are you pregnant with the children of the Kingdom? Have you borne to our Lord any “sons?”

Many generations ago, the Lord promised Abraham children; now “*Abraham*” promises the Lord children. Jesus is the seed of Abraham. What did Jesus do that God might have children. Well, our Lord was wounded for *our* transgressions and bruised for *our* iniquities. Now it’s our turn, to be wounded for someone else’s transgressions and to be bruised for someone else’s iniquities. Let it be duly considered, that we cannot know Him in the power of His resurrection, unless we first know Him in the fellowship of His suffering. That which does not suffer death; cannot experience resurrection and cannot bring forth fruit (sons).

Death is a prerequisite to resurrection. What are we dying to? We are ordered to remand the flesh (spelled backwards: *self*) to the cross. In so doing, we are sure that the children we bear, are “sons of God” and not born of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man.

Precepts in Practice

Employment & Opportunities through Relationships

When we build positive relationships with people, we gain access to resources they are connected to. We have a “give & receive” flow that works within our support network.

Historically, we see that God continued to provide for people during times of economic downturns. He does the same today. While this may be difficult to digest, I’m going to toss it out anyway. **God always provides for His people no matter what is going on in the economy.**

If you will recall, in the September newsletter, we shared that God always provides for us **BEFORE** we have a need. He actually does not wait until our backs are up against the wall to

pull some resources together for us. We just need to find out how to access what He has provided. So, let's jump right into this part of the conversation.

Love and the Truth

Conscience

The Lord led me to 1st John in the course of my studies:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

My question was this. If God forgave us our sins, why did He need to cleanse us from our unrighteousness? When God forgives, and we receive it by faith, there is a cleansing that goes on. Wherefore, if you look at many of Jesus' healings, He spoke in terms of their sins being forgiven and commanded them to sin no more. With that in mind, 1 John 1:9 seemed a bit redundant. But as I continued to read (backwards through the books of the Bible) I came to Hebrews. There in chapter nine is where He made clear to me the answer to my "1st John" question.

*"...in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the **conscience**. Verse 14 goes on to say "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your **conscience** from dead works to serve the living God." Hebrews 9:9*

Then I understood more clearly that in addition to forgiveness, there needed to be a cleansing of the conscience.

Boot Camp

Christianity 101 - The Basics: Prayer

Genuine prayer can only be offered on the basis of Truth. Now you'll recall that Truth is not simply a proposition. "Truth" is a Person; that Person is Jesus Christ. Therefore, genuine prayer can only be offered on the basis of Who Jesus Christ is.

Well the scriptures seem to teach us that we can both be certain that God hears our prayers and we can be certain that He will answer our prayers. How is that?

Let's take a close look at 1 John 5:14-15 (KJV)

And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Prerequisite: Ask according to His will.

Why? Because God will only do what He has already done. He will only do what He has already spoken. He will only do what accords with who He has revealed Himself to be. And all of these things are revealed in and supported by the scriptures.

Mandatory: Know that He has heard us.

Why? Because to ask God for something and then to not believe that He hears your petition smacks of “double-mindedness.” James says that a double-minded person ought not to expect to receive anything from God.

Natural Outworking: Know that you have the requested petition. How?

How can I know that? Because God said so, that’s how. If you meet the prerequisite and you sustain the mandatory requirement then naturally you’ll look forward to manifest fulfillment. At this point, we’re simply waiting for “time” to catch up with “eternity.”

Living Waters

Agree with the Adversary Quickly *Don't Argue with Him*

“I have an adversary. Okay, I can deal with that. But an *adversary* is not like a *friend*. They do not have “my best interest at heart.” So their efforts and intentions are to discover my flaws and exploit my weaknesses. And Lord, You want me to agree with them? I don’t understand.”

The Lord is gracious, I later came to “see” the meaning of this scripture.

This is essentially what is being said: ...agree with our adversary quickly while we’re still in discussions with him. If you argue, disagree or try to justify yourself and it be found later that you are actually guilty of the accusation; you will be allowed to be imprisoned until the due penalty of the infraction has been satisfied.

Example: the Adversary says that you are “deceitful;” and you argue with him, in a vain attempt to justify yourself, or to vindicate your name. Then the Adversary has to prove his accusation, support his indictment or recant before God for libel, against a child of God. How this is done is that the enemy is given a warranty (authorization) to tempt us to display “deceitfulness;” because this was his indictment against us. Now if we fail and are found to be “deceitful” we incur judgment; because all unrighteousness must be judged. If we do not fail, then we have suffered for righteousness sake, and this is acceptable to God. Now just here is the catch. As children of God, we are not allowed to justify ourselves; because Christ is our only justification. Therefore, the very act of self-justification is a violation of a Kingdom ordinance. In the Kingdom, Jesus is the ONLY justification. When indicted, we are to concede the possibility that we may in some sense be at odds with the things of God. When we concede in submission to God, he takes it from there.

Kingdom News

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

Volume 4, Issue 11

November 2010

Chief Cornerstone – Pressing the Battle to the Gates – He’s not Omnipresent!

Leadership Corner – Show Me the Money!!!!

[Son of My Wisdom](#) – Beyond the Cross - Glory
[Journey to Intimacy](#) – “IS” or “Is Not”
[Precepts in Practice](#) – Offensive versus Defensive Strategy
[Love and The Truth](#) – The Conscience: The Witness
[Boot Camp](#) – Christianity 101 – The Basics: Sin
[Living Waters](#) – Series Pt 1: The “BE” Attitudes

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone

Pressing the Battle to the Gates *He's not Omnipresent!*

Knowing that your adversary is *not* omnipresent is valuable because you can inquire (wisely) into the vulnerabilities and opportunities to take dominion over your opponent. You can press the battles, of your life, to the gates of the enemy.

“What then do you do when you get to the gates of the enemy?” you ask. You open the gates and retake possession of the things (people, places and things) that belong to our Lord.

Before Calvary, the enemy had the keys to death. He got the keys from Adam, in the garden. But prior to the episode at the tree; death had no authority over man. After the fall; from Adam to Calvary, man lived his whole life in fear of death. On Calvary, there was a “Great Exchange” made. There was a transfer made, when the “man” Jesus Christ took upon Himself the garment of “death.” The power of death was transferred to Him and to all that would come after Him. This is one reason that we are commanded to “take up our crosses;” because “death” is now a choice for us. The scriptures say “all things are yours” or “all things are under your dominion” or “all things are left to your discretion;” ... the world, or life, or death”

“Attack,” he will ... “win” he cannot. He is not “omni-anything.”

The Leadership Corner

Show Me the Money!!!

There are resources that God has provided to us and He expects us to use them to not only meet our needs, but also to step into what He has ordained for us this year.

I’ve run our businesses from my home office for quite some time now. Recently, God has been pushing me to secure office space.

For weeks to come God continuously told me how much He could grow the businesses once we relocate to commercial office space. He gave me all kinds of ideas on how to bring in new customers, partner with other organizations, and provide services that are beneficial to the community. Well, this was all great to hear, but one thought lingered in the back of my mind ... (where is the money?).

God said, “Joyce, if I show you all the money will you sign a lease and move your businesses into this space?” I cautiously replied, “Yes Lord, if you show us what monies you have provided for this project, we will obey and get the space.”

Son of My Wisdom

Beyond the Cross - *Glory*

For those of us in the Kingdom, we've each been assigned *crosses*. Beyond that, what really matters is *how* we bear our *crosses*. You can either "get on the *cross* yourself" or you can be "nailed there at the will of another." The blessing is in the "taking up" of our *crosses*; not in the "being taken up" by them.

Why so much talk about the *cross*; and so little talk about the resulting *glory*? Great question, let's approach it this way. When you are preparing to undergo critical surgery, most of the talk time between you, the doctor and the hospital staff, is about the surgical procedure itself. It is the one event that you'll need most to be prepared for. (Not intending to be cavalier.) The resulting health and restoration, in a sense, will take care of itself. And you'll have the rest of your life to be acquainted with it. And so it is that if we cannot get through the ordeal on Calvary successfully, talk of resurrection and the resulting "glory" is ill-begotten.

Journey to Intimacy

"Is" or "Is Not?"

Where did evil come from?

God told us where evil came from. He created it. Ouch!!!!
God created evil, the same way He created darkness.

Isaiah 45:7 says that "I form the light and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all of these things."

God is *light* and in Him there is no *darkness*. Said otherwise, God is light and in Him there is no "*disagreement*." Hang in there, don't leave me now. Light *agrees* with light. Darkness *disagrees* with light. *Darkness* does not comprehend *light*. For what communion does light have with darkness?

Evil, like *Darkness* "is not." Now I'm going to stretch your theology quite a bit here. *Evil* has always been an option; as long as there have been moral beings with the capacity to *disagree* with God. *Evil* is that which *disagrees* with God (on every level). *Evil is not* that which disagrees with "good;" it is that which *disagrees* with God (Huge difference).

Most, if not all, of the troubles that you will encounter in life; will be the direct result of the fact that you are preoccupied with the "*is not's*" of life; instead of being committed to "that which *IS*."

The commandments, directives and mandates in the Word of God "*IS*." And all advice, every argument, reasoning or philosophy to the contrary "*is not*."

It either *IS* or it "*is not*."

Precepts in Practice

Offensive versus Defensive Strategy

If the enemy attacks us, we pray and obey, and God brings deliverance. This is one of the ways God works and we are familiar with this process. It can be referred to as a "*defensive strategy*." Scripture is replete with examples of great defensive strategies to help us when the enemy attempts to bring us down.

Then, there are times when (as believers) we must understand that God wants us to employ an “*offensive strategy*.” This is the one that not many believers are familiar with and as a result, don’t know how to employ.

Love and the Truth

The Conscience: *The Witness*

The conscience both approves, and reprove. Remember that. It testifies of what is evil, but it also testifies of what is good.

The conscience convicts of sin. It must be trained according to the right law, or it will approve the things that are wrong, and reprove the things that are right. However, when it is rightly trained, it is a relentless voice against sin. Under such circumstances, therefore, we are left with three options concerning the conscience once we have sinned. The conscience must; be Cleansed, Reprogrammed, or Ignored.

Boot Camp

Christianity 101 - The Basics: *Sin*

“Sin” such a very broad and very deep subject. But in basic terms “sin” is transgression of the law.

All “real law” is an expression of certain attributes of the nature of God which are both true and impose an obligation of duty upon man. In simple terms, the Lord identified the “Law” as our responsibility to “Love the Lord with our all; and to love our neighbor as if our neighbor were our very own self.” Can you see how our Lord’s expression of our legal responsibility (to love God and man) accords with the attributes of His nature?

One thing is certain; ignoring sin won’t make it go away; neither will it help to deny that sin exists in your life. If we cover our sins, we cannot prosper.

Living Waters

Series Pt 1: *The "BE" Attitudes*

“BE” poor in spirit

The poor know that they are in need. To be “poor in spirit” means to recognize your need for God. It means to recognize your need to be lead by the Spirit of God.

“BE” mournful

This means that we live in such a way as to be constantly mindful of the fact that we live in a fallen world. And that although the grace of Calvary is available to all who will come; there are many who *will not* and/or *have not* come as yet. We are to pray and weep before the throne of God for the souls of men.

“BE” meek

This means that we are to be characterized by patient humility. Meekness is one of the nine fruits of the Spirit, which means as much so as we are lead by the Spirit of God; we display meekness as a way of life (as opposed to transactional occasions of meekness; which anyone can perform.)

Man shall not live by bread alone, but man shall live by every “BE” attitude that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Kingdom News

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

Volume 4, Issue 12

December 2010

[Chief Cornerstone](#) – Pressing the Battle to the Gates – He’s not Omni-Anything!

[Leadership Corner](#) – 2011 Changing of the Guard

[Son of My Wisdom](#) – The Ethos, Logos and Pathos of God

[Journey to Intimacy](#) – We Are the Mansions

[Precepts in Practice](#) – Illumination for the Journey Ahead

[Boot Camp](#) – Christianity 101 – The Basics: Righteousness

[Living Waters](#) – Series Pt 2: The “BE” Attitudes

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone

Pressing the Battle to the Gates

He’s not Omni-Anything!

This was initially intended to be the month that we wrapped up this series. It seems, though, that this may actually segue to another series. We will see what the Lord says.

Our duty this month is to look back over this journey (that we were so delighted to have you attend) and to tell you where we’ve been. We will also share some new light that our Lord has given, along the way, regarding these truths. From there we will put the “axe to the root of the tree” and finger our real enemy.

There is a more “formidable” enemy (one more difficult to defeat); that we must reckon with. That enemy is the *flesh*! The flesh is both a weapon against us and an enemy to us.

As we press the battle to the gates of the enemy, we will find that to the degree that we have **not** mortified the deeds of the *flesh*; it is to that same degree that we find ourselves routed by the enemy. The most potent weapon that the enemy has against us is our *flesh*.

He’s not omni-anything!!

The Leadership Corner

2011 Changing of the Guard

In 2011, God will do through His people what our government and business community could not do. He will begin to create new economies. He will release in His people innovation as some of us have never experienced.

Repent, Forgive, and Be Ready!

Repent for anything God placed in our heart to do, stop doing, change, let go of, take hold of, or anything else where we have not done what He has instructed us to do.

Forgive every person that has wronged us, offended us, left us, fired us, caused us to lose something valuable, failed us, or who has let us down in any way.

Make ourselves ready to take up the mantle of leadership. Begin a consecration for God to speak specifically to each of us about how He plans to use us in the coming year.

There is no time to wait, hesitate, wonder, or vacillate between opinions. The month of December is the only time we have left to prepare to “cause the people of God to inherit the land.”

Son of My Wisdom

The Ethos, Logos and Pathos of God

Yes, this topic will stretch you. But I promise that you come away knowing some things about God and yourself that you probably hadn't heard quite like this before. Fair enough?

- The **Ethos** of God is comprised as *character* and *authority*. We see both of these expressed in the names of God.
- The **Logos** of God is comprised as *thought*, *word*, and *deed*. We understand this to be the glory of God, the self-expression of God, the Person of Jesus Christ.
- The **Pathos** of God is comprised as *experience*, and *emotion*. Here we see the work of the Spirit of God.

All of this is to set forth a foundation for viewing scripture in light of the Ethos, Logos, and Pathos of God. In the months to come, we will explore salvation, sanctification, and a godly life among other things in light of these three categories.

Journey to Intimacy

We Are the Mansions

In My Father's house are many mansions ...

We often think of the opening scripture, as hinting that we *have* mansions awaiting us in heaven. I used to think that too. But, is it possible that we are being, here, told that “in our Lord's house *we* are many mansions?” Is it possible that Jesus is saying to us, “I go to prepare a place in My Father's house for *you to be* a mansion for Him to dwell in?”

Now that I have sufficiently wreaked your theology; in telling you that we are to “be” mansions; as opposed to “owning” mansions; allow me to qualify this point. In the Kingdom (or any kingdom for that matter) the citizens don't “own” anything. We are simply stewards of another's wealth. Further more, we ourselves are but possessions of the Kingdom's Sovereign. Now this truth may (or may not) give you goose pimples; but may I encourage you to read on?

In the earth, we *have* this treasure in earthen vessels; in the Kingdom we *are* the treasure in earthen vessels. In this world we *have* possessions; in the Kingdom we *are* the possession.

Precepts in Practice

Illumination for the Journey Ahead

I found out that God is not in heaven “sitting on His thumbs” waiting for me (or anyone) to bellow out commands for Him to fulfill. He is not patiently (nor anxiously) waiting for us to shine a flood light into the night sky to signal to Him that we need something (as if we are calling for the Batman).

You see, God illuminates our hearts with ideas and He lights our way to do what He has placed in our hearts to do. He brings the people, funds, and all of the resources we need to do what He has ordained for our lives.

As we close out 2010 and peek into 2011, we understand that each of us has a journey ahead. We don't have to know every detail about what is in store for us. Why? We have an “eternal generator” who illuminates our way.

Boot Camp

Christianity 101 – The Basics: *Righteousness*

WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS?

Righteousness is a free gift. The concept of “righteousness” is both broad and specific. It has both temporal and eternal elements; therefore I must admit my inability to do justice to this topic. It is with a great degree of reverence that I attempt this discussion.

True “righteousness” finds its definition in the very Person of God; in the Godhead itself. “Righteousness” is a full, manifest expression of “God-ness.” In one sense (for us), it is a *doing*, birth out of a “right” faith in or “right” relationship with God. In another sense, it is a “right” *being*. The term “right” in this case is defined strictly by the nature of God. Essentially it is a “right doing” that is defined by God; in that “righteousness” is both “who God *is*” and “what God *does*.”

Living Waters

Series Pt 2: The “BE” Attitudes

“BE” Hungry and Thirsty for Righteousness

Why righteousness? Perhaps, it is because “Righteousness” is characteristically the sum of many, if not all, of the other virtues. Righteousness holds mercy and judgment in perfect tension. Righteousness is a balance of both love and justice. Righteousness both cuddles and chastens with the same sure-footed flare. Righteousness does not wink at disobedience or sin in an effort to spare discomfort.

Why are we directed to be hungry and thirsty? When the body is genuinely *hungry*, it is not asking for something to “drink.” And when the body is genuinely *thirsty*, it is not asking for something to “eat.” Which means in a very real sense, these two appetites are different, and they cannot ultimately be substituted for each other. So we see, in part, why the scriptures identify both of them in our pursuit of righteousness.

“BE” Merciful

The Lord thy God is a merciful God; therefore He tells us to be merciful. Like Father, like son; right? He says “I AM merciful to you; now you be merciful to others.” Now here's the catch ...

the Lord has agreed to be *as* merciful to us; *as* we are merciful to others. The good you do to another, is the good you do to yourself. The merciful man does good to his own soul.

While we're talking about being merciful, it might be useful to understand what mercy really consists of. In a sense, "mercy" is a disposition to extend compassionate forgiveness. It is the refraining from harming an offender. We see this in the sinner's petition for the Lord's mercy. And we ought to see this same posture of the heart, when our offenders petition our mercy.

"BE" Pure in Heart

Okay, I see you sliding down in your seat. We hate to talk about *purity of heart*, don't we? Is it because we know that, on a personal note, we are not ourselves "*pure in heart*?" Is it because it seems so unobtainable?

Is it possible that ... to be *pure in heart* doesn't mean to be without flaw (as we have traditionally understood it)? It could *not* mean "to be flawless;" because that would exclude all of the sons of Adam from having pure hearts. If excluded, then this edict could not have been directed at us; could it? Is it possible that ... to be *pure in heart* means to have a heart that is "unmixed" or "without mixture?"

Man shall not live by bread alone, but man shall live by every "BE" attitude that proceeds out of the mouth of God.