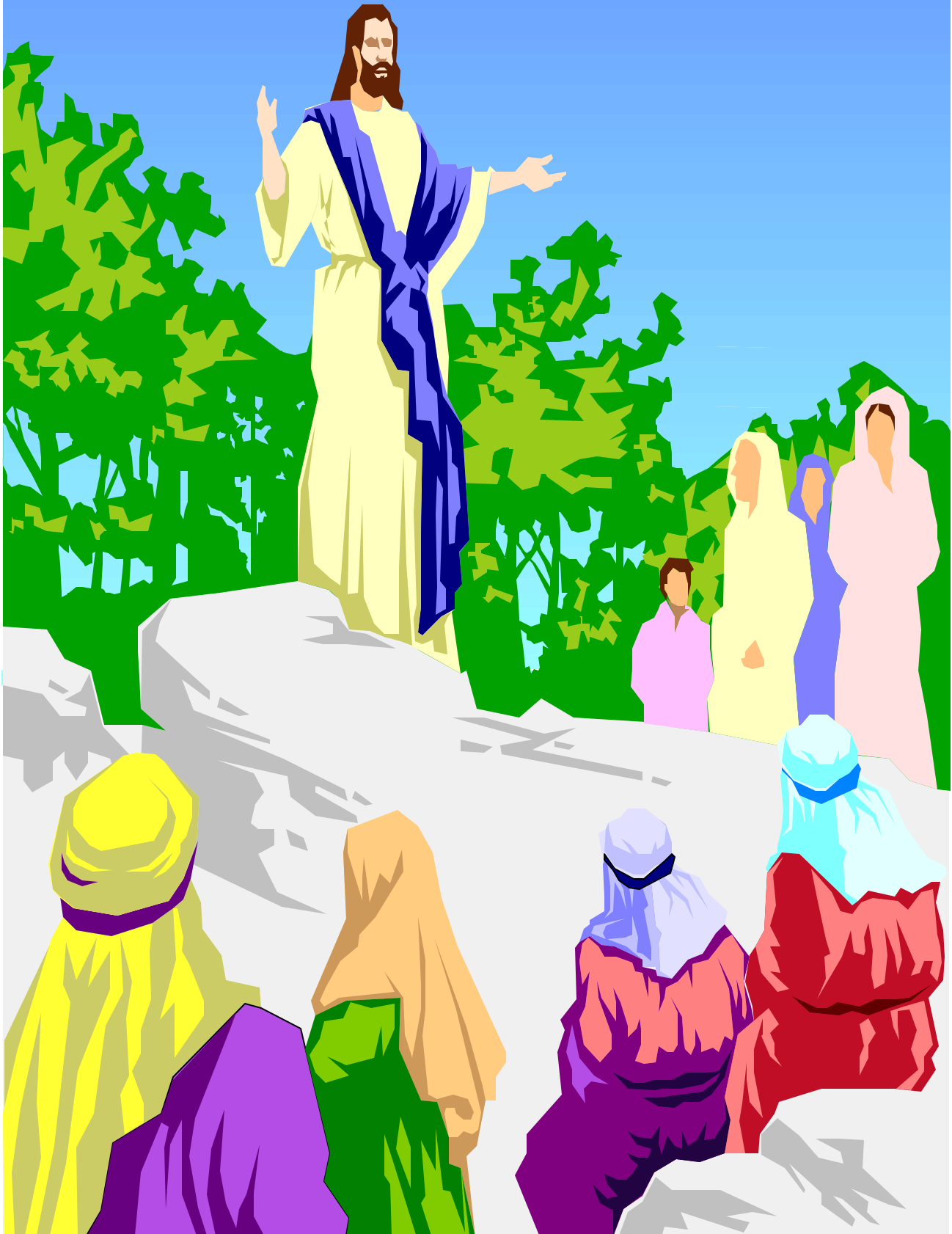


**THE
SERMON
ON THE
MOUNTAIN
AND THE
MIND OF
CHRIST**

**BY
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The Sermon On The Mountain



A CLOSER LOOK AT THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Eccl:8:17: Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.

Ps:15:2: He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

Ps:37:31: The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.

Prov:23:7: **For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he**: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

Ezek:14:4: Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;

Ezek:14:7: For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself:

Dan:1:8: But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Compare these teachings to the following teachings of Jesus:

Mt:5:28: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Mt:24:48: But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

Mk:11:23: For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Too many sermons have already been preached on not doing evil deeds, don't drink, smoke, lie, steal, kill, or commit adultery. The Pharisees were masters of keeping little rules so that the outward physical man was pure to the world. Yet Jesus had greater contempt for them than any other group of people. They were the religious people and if people wanted to know God then they had to come to them and follow their rules. Note that the Son of God was not a pharisee nor did he follow their rules for righteousness because He knew a better way. No matter what your denominational literature tells you, what you are on the outside comes from what you are in your heart. If you are good are evil on the outside, it is only a manifestation of what you think in your heart.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN “IN THE HEART”?

True Believers have an entirely positive influence in all things. The Holy Spirit comes into a person's life at the time of salvation to make it fuller, richer, larger, wider, better, and more exciting. No one ever lost something worthwhile by getting saved! You do not lose good by knowing the truth! Is there sacrifice? Yes, only it is sacrifice of those things that impede your joy. The lost world thinks that getting saved means giving up everything that one enjoys. Knowing God better does not require giving up anything that one will regret losing. One does not get good to come to know God, one gets saved and God works out the problems and brings the believer to the point that he will want to do away with the evil in his life.

Gal. 5:19: Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20: Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21: Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

How did the church miss the point? Change comes from the inside out and not the other way around. If change could be done from the outside physical body, then we could make a law and everything would be great. Drugs are against the law. Therefore no one takes drugs. Right? Of course not, physical rules do not work on the spiritual man. When one comes to Christ in salvation, the thing that is sacrificed is adultery, wrath, hatred, etc. Note that it does not happen in a day but on a continual basis. I John 3:3: And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

The heart is the inner being, the real you, it is the thoughts of your mind and soul. The soul that is built on prayer cannot be hidden! It blesses all around it without even trying and even in silence. The believer in touch with God will bring peace in his presence even in the face of panic situations. The desirable thing for every believer's life is to purpose in his heart to walk as Jesus walked. Understand that that is a spiritual walk that starts in the heart and inner thoughts of you deepest mind and in time manifests itself in actions and deeds and even until it becomes a life-style that includes all habits and normal actions of life. You never did a good thing or an evil thing except that you first thought it in your mind before acting upon it!

Think about the teachings of Jesus in this light, He was teaching, not about the physical things but about how to think in one's heart. Not rules of what to do and what not to do but principles to guide one's thoughts and inner being throughout this part of your eternal life. Salvation is about bringing this spirit man in me in alignment and fellowship and faith with the one who created me and loves me and sent His only begotten son into this world to offer Himself as a perfect blood sacrifice for my sins and in doing so He showed me the way to live a sinless life in the will and presence of the Holy Father. Paul says that, "I die daily yet I live, not I but Christ in me." This is what the word is teaching! Die to the physical lusts and live in the fruits of the spirit and in the fellowship of Almighty God! The Pharisees were "good" people. Yet Jesus said that you have to do better than they do to be in the presence of God. They acted good on the outside but they didn't clean up the can of worms on the inside. Understand that God is speaking to the inner man and the inner thoughts in the next several pages and not to suppressing certain deeds. It is a new way of thinking and right thoughts bring right actions and right thoughts bring the blessings of God.

JESUS TEACHES THE BEATITUDES

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO REALIZE THEIR NEED FOR HIM

Matthew 5:3: Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Bible is a textbook for spiritual growth of one's soul and should be read as such. It sees everything in relationship to the human soul and the human soul in relationship to God. The common things of life are used to illustrate spiritual things because people have such a hard time in visualizing the things of God. When Jesus said that he was the bread of life, it was in the sense that Christ is the nourishment that sustains the human soul and it is indeed necessary to internalize the teachings of Christ deep within our hearts that we may know God. Prosperity is another word in which modern preachers have preached as a greed theology but in reality, the greatest prosperity is in that of praying and having our prayers answered. Material wealth is the least important part of a prosperous life that the Bible teaches of. The salvation of one person is worth more than the national debt if you can count that high!

To be poor in spirit brings to mind in today's world a picture of a person who for lack of courage is being beat up on every side but in fact it is just the opposite of that. The poor in spirit have emptied themselves of their strong will and have given up their prejudices and traditions and have removed everything that could stand in the way of doing God's will. Everyone knows the story of the rich young ruler who could not give up his riches to follow Jesus. His fault was the love of money. Many have traditions that they will not give up because of the love of tradition. Many have prejudices and will not give them up because in my family we never... The pharisees stood face to face with the Son of Almighty God and did not accept Him because He did not meet their expectations and follow their traditions. Don't think that things have changed today, if Christ were to walk in most churches, they would not let Him sit down until He got a haircut and a new suit. Churches have let people know over the years that you must look like me, walk like me, talk like me, dress like me, and even smell like me or you can go on down the road until you get what we got. What they have, didn't change their lives and they are still trying not to curse out the driver who darts in front of them on the freeway. The poor in spirit have poured out all the evil self willed desires and taken in the same spirit which was in Christ Jesus to recognize how destitute in spirit man is without Jesus and enjoy the joy of their salvation in spite of and in the face of both the good and the bad outward conditions. Have you ever noticed that the humble and unlearned of this world accept the message of Christ more openly than the learned because they do not have so many possessions to get in the way of them accepting the truth while the great minds of the world try to explain away God. The poor in spirit have no pride in academic, social and financial prestige because they did not have it or they have risen above it. When one recognizes that all of the best ideas of man fall victim to being incomplete and partially false, and is ready to start over again and listen to God and study His word to look for the truly right way, he is poor in spirit. And for the poor in spirit there is the promise that yours is the kingdom of heaven. You shall see the kingdom of heaven because you of your right thinking. You did not rely on tradition and the teachings of man but you listened to that same Holy Spirit that was in Christ Jesus and allowed the Holy Spirit to teach you of the things of God and His ways and His way of thinking and in thinking in His way, your actions aligned themselves with His will. By being personally poor in spirit and giving up self, you became rich in spirit because you allowed the Spirit of Christ within you to come to fullness. "Gal:2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:"

THOSE WHO MOURN WILL BE COMFORTED

Matthew 5:4: Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Happy are those who are sad? Actually it is Blessed and enviably happy with a happiness produced by experience of God's favor and especially conditioned by the revelation of His matchless grace are those who mourn, they shall be consoled and will be given courage and comfort.

Mourning is not a good thing in that it does not feel good. How can sorrow be good? Look at Jesus, the one who came that we might have salvation and joy. He was a man of sorrows. Was He a failure? No. He accepted the times of pain, suffering and sorrow because it was a part of what He had to experience to complete His mission here on earth. His mission was greater than His comfort so He laid down His place in heaven to come and suffer so that we might have salvation. The truth is that God would suffer hurt in order to bring man to salvation because of the great love of the creator for His creation.

The sad state of man is that usually he does not find need of God until things go wrong! When the finances dry up, man can pray. When one faces a serious health problem, man can pray. God must allow problems to come into the believer's life to remind him that God is the source regardless of the need. The same God supplies health, finances, friends, and family and without God holding it all together, it will come apart. I believe that for the person that tunes in to the teachings of the Holy Spirit as He shapes and forms us into the image that God would have us be, it would be possible for a person to know no sorrow and be Godly and acceptable in His sight. But it has been my experience never to meet such a person because it is in sorrow and pain of the mind and spirit and even the body, that one will listen more carefully to what God is doing in his life and it seems that the greatest progress of the soul is made in the times of sorrow and pain. For it was in the time of pain that the real comfort is to experience the presence of God in our lives.

In short, there is no need for man to learn by pain and suffering and trouble. The rule for that is seek God first. If you will not do it the easy way, then God is fully able to get your attention in order to teach you the truth that you need to know. Pray for divine power in your life that you will understand that God is your source for all things, your best friend, and the sustainer of your life. The risen Christ seated at the right hand of God intercedes for us at all times so that God is present with us and where God is, there is no morning, no sorrow, no more hurt but there is comfort in His presence that cannot be described in words.

BLESSES ARE THOSE WHO ARE GENTLE AND LOWLY FOR THE WHOLE EARTH WILL BELONG TO THEM

Matthew 5:5: Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Here is the secret of overcoming! How do you have dominion over the earth? Be meek! First notice that if there are at least three believers, they can't all inherit the earth in the sense of total ownership of all of the globe, right? Therefore, that was not what Jesus was saying. The word earth is in reference to the all of those things which you come in contact with. It is all of the surroundings around your physical body. When you inherit the earth, you have dominion the "things" of the outer world and you have power to overcome the conditions, situations, and experiences in your life and bring them into full harmony with the will of God in your life. How do you get the power to do this? Meekness !

What is meekness? Is it the thing that comes to mind so often for modern man that one is meek if he is afraid to do anything or constantly afraid to hurt the feelings of others so he is withdrawn from people for lack of courage and of poor self image? Meekness has come to mean to today's society almost uselessness because aggression is in vogue and is taught as being the only emotion that brings success on the ball field or on the highway. America is full of aggressive people who may shoot another driver for passing them on the street and children may shoot parents, teachers, and other students when things don't go just right. When the seeds of ungodliness are sown, the harvest brings pain.

Meekness is a quality mental state that is made up of one part of love for others, one part of respect for the other creations of God, one part of open mindedness toward what God is doing in one's self and in others, and one part of willingness to allow God to do the work that He wants to do in the lives of the individuals He has created. There must be a trust in God that He is and that He loves and does what is not only good but the absolute best for each individual believer so that in His Divine Wisdom, He is shaping the believer into Christlikeness. Sampson refused to see the evil of his ways and acted toward God and his parents in rebellion and not meekness and note that he died prematurely doing what God had for him to do but his spiritual blindness led to his physical blindness and it was his physical blindness and bondage that brought him to be meek enough to hear God. Moses started off proud and killed a man his way. God sent him to farm for forty years to bring about meekness of mind that He might be able to talk to a listening Moses. When Moses became meek and close to God, who else was a greater man? Only Christ inherited the earth in a greater degree than Moses. Did they not both by prayer and words call forth the power of God for good. By speaking words they called the power of God into action to work wonders for the glory of God. It appears to be a law of God that the man of pride and selfishness will never tap into the power of God, His wonders to behold. But the meek have the respect of the will of God in that they believe that God intends good in everything and in conforming to His will it is not that they give up anything of importance, only the useless things are given up that there will be room for the blessings which God will pour out on them. It is kinda like having a garage sale to make room for the good stuff that God has on the way! But, the things of God are eternal and one never tires of them, in sharp contrast to the things bought on the credit card that broke before the card was paid off. Not only do the meek inherit the earth, they get the good stuff. Take Moses for example, he held up a rod and the Red Sea opened up. What do you have that you wouldn't give up to be that close to God and to be able to call upon God and see the answer in front of you.

GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY AND THIRSTY FOR JUSTICE

Matthew 5:6: Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

What is righteousness? Righteousness is imputed to believers through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross as a sin offering of blood to pay the price for my sin. It is not the “not doing” that is so often preached from too many pulpits that makes one righteous. In fact, the steady diet of, “thou shalt not” has the average church going person convinced that if he doesn’t steal or fall into adultery, that they have arrived at righteousness. The righteousness that we have is a gift of God to as many as are saved by the blood of Jesus. This was not the end of all things but the beginning of a new life in Christ. In the new life it is becoming of every true believer to seek after righteousness and to be in right standing with God. One is what one thinks. Therefore, one must go to the very source of actions. Righteousness demands right thinking. This is so simple. Righteousness demands right thinking. If one is to act right then it must be the produce of right thoughts. The one who thinks good thoughts will have good actions, while the one who thinks evil thoughts will have evil actions. The mind and heart within you has the power to produce external actions. The law of planting applies here. You reap what you plant, later than you plant and more than you plant. Plant good, reap good. Plant evil, reap evil. Out of the mind comes thoughts, out of thoughts come actions, out of actions comes habits. Good thoughts bring good actions that lead to good habits that lead to freedom in the truth. Bad thoughts bring bad actions that lead to bad habits that lead to bondage to evil.

Happy and fortunate and spiritually prosperous is the born again child of God who enjoys his salvation and whose heart’s desire is for righteousness, uprightness and right standing with God for they shall be completely satisfied.

How do I think right? If I rise in the morning and do not feel well, I say, “I think that I am going to be sick.” By noon I am sick. If I rise in the morning and do not feel well, I say, “I praise God for this glorious day that He hath given and He is the source of all things including my good health.” By noon I am blessed. Which is the case of right thinking? It is hard at first to think positive good thoughts while it appears that things are going wrong. On the first occasion it is hard to see everything you have breaking down and needing to be fixed or replaced and think “Praise God who blesses me in all my finances.” Many people find trouble, think negative thoughts, and the negative seeds produce negative fruit and the cycle continues so that it seems that all things are negative. Think positive thoughts, plant positive seed and watch the positive harvest. Right thinking brings right results.

Understand that trouble comes on every believer. Some deal with it well and some do not. When God allows some trial to come upon you, it is to make you better and stronger in the faith and to stimulate spiritual growth. Do not confess defeat. Confess wisdom, power, and prosperity in prayer to God. Ask for the spiritual growth, as in the prayer of Col. 1 that God shall give you wisdom, knowledge and understanding of spiritual things. We know that this is in the will of God so He will be happy to answer this prayer. Seek a right standing with God and spiritual growth for it is better than bars of gold.

THE MERCIFUL SHALL BE SHOWN MERCY

Matthew 5:7: Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

The true believer needs to be aware that the major application of this beatitude is mental. There is no greater hypocrisy than to do good or to pretend to do good and all the while have hate and anger toward the person that in your actions you show mercy to. People do things to help others for many reasons, the least of which is mercy. At the same time that one shows mercy by outward actions, the minds should bless and love the one who needs mercy. But is it not the case that while many do things that require trivial dedication on their part to help others they also judge the recipient without mercy? The believer should be one in truth and in deed. You will receive the same treatment that you give out to others and you will receive the same mercy in your hour of need. So that as you give forcefully help to another, bless and judge not so that it will be possible for you to stand without condemnation in your hour of need.

In the story of the good Samaritan, there were good religious people who passed by and did not help and by their traditions they remained ceremonially clean and right before God. But did not the man who fell among robbers and was beaten, represent Christ who suffered the injustice of the world that He might fulfil His work and ministry? Was it not the “religious” people who should have come to his aid in love and mercy? The Samaritan was a man looked down on by the chosen people and the Samaritan people were considered the lowest class of people. Did not the Samaritan represent Christ coming to the aid of the one that needs help. Your brother is the one near you that needs mercy. You the church are the body of Christ rushing to show mercy to those who are weak or need help or need a Saviour. Too many churches look to outward physical things to determine if they minister to others. The social status, financial status and race of the person make too much difference to too many people. Let the mind of Christ be in you that you go past the physical and not evade the responsibility of the Bride of Christ to show mercy to those who need it most.

Remember that the mercy that you show shall come back to you! If your thoughts are directed by hypocrisy or self glory, that shall come back to you also. Oh, that we could love with a true love and see the needs of others and from that heart of love desire from our inmost feelings to show mercy and love to meet the needs of the Godly and the sinner alike and in doing so show them personally and the world also that the love of God lives in our heart and spirit and where the love of God is, it will be seen because it is too exciting and powerful to be hidden for long periods of time. Christ in him is calling out for help. Christ in you is trying to use every resource at your disposal to meet that need to help a brother and strengthen him that he may glorify God because of it.

THOSE WITH PURE HEARTS SHALL SEE GOD

Matthew 5:8: Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

What this beatitude says could not be contained in volumes! Jesus did not give ten thousand rules do this, don't do this etc. He just said the pure in heart shall see God! This does not mean that God is going to come to earth and take on the form of a person and be seen by the pure in heart. The pure in heart shall be in heaven in the presence of Almighty God. It is not God that will change but it is man that will have a glorified body without the three dimensional limitations that we now know and man will have his mind opened so that he can comprehend the glory of God. Man on the earth is like a blind man in a rose garden, there is so much beauty to behold but his eyes are unable to comprehend what is there and enjoy the fullness of it. Man on the earth is like a man next to a radio station without a radio, we have such a poor sense of how great God is. But in that day, the dark glass that separated us from God and kept us from being burned up in this sinful body by the Holiness of God, will be removed and we shall have our eyes opened and our ears opened and we shall know and understand God's plan for creation in it's fullness if and only if we are one of the pure in heart.

The pure in heart are those who recognize that man is not a power of himself but all power and authority is in God alone. The only reality is the reality of God. All things that we do, see, and spend our lives working to buy are temporary and passing and will soon be gone and the world is no better for the few things that come and go. The only part of our lives that will continue to be is that part which is dedicated in singleness of thought to God. The pure in heart is the one who has listened to the teaching of the Holy Spirit and when strongholds of sin and evil are pointed out have fallen on their face before God and asked forgiveness and allowed Him through his Spirit to clean out the evil and fill the void with Christlikeness in that area and every area of thought in a wholehearted effort to allow God to shape us in the likeness of Christ.

As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. If a man seeks with all his being to be pure then from his heart will come pure actions. Knowing about purity does nothing. It is in the practice of purity that in all thoughts we allow Satan no room to come in and contaminate our mind with evil and selfish thoughts that lead toward sin and the displeasure of God. Until that day that we shall forever more be in His presence, we can come into his presence in prayer. In fact, it might be said that prayer is a practice of being in the presence of God. The pure in heart shall be able to come into the presence of God in prayer and He shall hear their words and shall answer their prayers.

THOSE WHO WORK FOR PEACE SHALL BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD

Matthew 5:9: Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Peacemakers must first have peace in their own souls. That that comes from a man must first be in his heart. The heart filled with anger and hate can never be a peacemaker because evil can never produce goodness and peace which come from God. "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Jn:14:27: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. To have peace one must eliminate hate, anger, anxiety, and fear. How can one do this? Simple, trust God and believe Jesus the son of God, not in words only for by words only there is no peace, but with all of the mind and heart and inner being and fellowship with Him continually. Some would say that one cannot go around being religious all the time. Those are the words of an immature believer! The more mature believer has no religion!!! The mature believer has a personal relationship with almighty God. He reads the word and prays to the father by the sacrifice of the blood of the Son and while the Holy Spirit brings things to mind that needs to be repented of and instructs one in the ways of God while he studies the word and prays and in teaching the believer, there is a dramatic, dynamic change in the very character of the believer toward Christlikeness. Read John 14, and notice that the peace that Jesus was talking about requires the word and the work of the Holy Spirit on the heart or inner being of the believer. A person without prayer and Bible study has no peace because there cannot be peace flowing forth from the heart of anyone who has not been in the presence of God because the presence of God is the secret and mystery of having peace. The world can never have peace because it does not live in the presence of the Almighty. When the believer bows before the great white throne and seeks God, God hears and answers that prayer. God in His Sovereignty may change the circumstances around the believer or He may choose to change the believer to overcome the circumstances that He has given him authority over. In either case, it strengthens the faith of the believer because the words from his heart, mind, and inner being were heard by the Almighty God who acted upon the request because the believer was adopted into the family and is a child of God Himself. Not that on some day out there in the future God may accept the believer as a child but that the believer has already attained that position by faith in Christ!

The peacemaker does not make peace by interfering with other people's quarrels for in doing so one becomes the target of the anger of both parties. Compromise and pressure from without does not bring peace in others. The thing that brings peace, satisfaction, forgiveness, and love is the word fitly spoken under the influence of prayer and fellowship with the Father. God gives the peacemaker the proper word at the appropriate time to bring forth the power of love, wisdom and forgiveness in others as a result of study of the word and prayer, not of human wisdom.

The peacemaker is the one who through the word and prayer has spent time in the fellowship of God and allowed the Holy Spirit to change the character by changing the thoughts and attitudes in his life daily and after many days has come to manifest in outward actions the Christlikeness that is deep in his heart. All that is real comes to one through being in the presence of God. Spiritual growth, healing, peace are all manifestations of being in the presence of God in prayer.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE THEY LIVE FOR GOD

Matthew 5:10: Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The will of God for us is harmony, peace, joy and all good things from Him. The way to attain these things is by righteousness or “right thoughts”. You, the believer, can have peace, joy, health, prosperity, inherit the earth and be the child of God by right thinking. You must bring your mind under control and think right from the innermost thoughts. The believer cannot afford the slip of thinking evil of others and thinking of revenge. It is not others that is so greatly hurt but the believer himself because with evil thoughts the fellowship with God is interrupted. When you forgive the wrongs or things that you believe to be wrongs to you that are done by others, it is not them but you who is the greatest winner because wrong thoughts do more harm to you than to the object of your wrong thoughts! Do you feel that you have the right to hold on to fear, anger or depression because you think that you have been done wrong? It would be saying that I have the right to break the fellowship that I have with God because someone did me wrong and I lose in both accounts. But if I give over every evil that is done to me and lay it at the feet of Jesus and allow him to take care of it which He does anyway because the word says, Rom:12:19: Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore we are to allow God to do His work and not try to take over His duty, which we could not do anyway but we could get out of His will.

There is a persecution that is against the person that walks in the way and will of God in all things because there are so few that show their relationship with Him in everyday life in the manifestation of the inner thoughts. Be happy that you have been salt and light to the world so much so that you are counted worthy to be persecuted as the great prophets before you. It is fantastic when others say evil things against you falsely and take your words out of context and try to bring blame to you because it means that they have seen in you something different and they want to do something about the uncomfortable feeling it caused them to have because they did not have the kind of relationship with God the Father that you do so they must strike out against you. Be happy, remember to have right thoughts, thoughts that come from your fellowship with God. Never, never let what other people do or say cause you to react or to change your relationship with the Father (this statement assumes that you are walking in right standing with Him now.) You will have victory and they will be the object of the vengeance of God for attacking His child and everything in the physical world is taken care of. Continue in the word and in prayer and listening to the teachings of the Holy Spirit so that your soul and spirit make spiritual progress in Christlikeness.

Weak, vain, and self-righteous believers many times feel persecuted for their spiritual superiority and become puffed up in thinking that they are of great spiritual significance. Take care that you do not get a martyr's mentality and have pride in it. The truth is that all shall have trials to deal with in this life and God sends some to break down the pride which he hates in His children. Our first question when trials and troubles hit us should be, “Lord what are you trying to do in my life at this time?” Praise God, He is in control and nothing can happen to me today that does not add to my reward in Heaven!

SALT AND LIGHT

Matthew 5:13: Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

14: Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15: Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16: Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

It is given to each believer to live a life-styles that is as Jesus would live your life-style if He were here today living in your circumstances. I John 2:6: He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. As Jesus was the example to man in the flesh that you heard about and you have learned of His attitudes and love for others and the Father, so it is that you should continue to live as He would live today. It is as Paul says that we die to ourself daily and it is no longer me that lives but Christ Jesus living within me. The only sermon that some other people will ever really listen to is the one that you live out in your life. You are a witness by the things you think, say, and do. Some have yielded themselves to Christ and His will so that they are wonderful witnesses in all things. Some call themselves Christians but have not yielded the self will to God's will and still live in the flesh. That also is a witness to the lost but it is not the witness that causes them to want to know your Saviour because of what they see in you.

The world is a dark place and the only light is the light of Jesus shining through the true believers so that the people of darkness can see the light. Every person should evaluate themselves and determine if the light that shines through your own life is light that reflects the light that you see in Jesus or if that light that comes from you is truly darkness and does nothing for the lost world. If the light of Jesus is within you, it will find it's way out. You cannot hide the person of Jesus indwelling your body. When there is good on the inside, it manifests itself in good coming out in the actions that you take. Good people do good deeds. People without Jesus do bad stuff! There are no gray people in between. You are good, and light, and salt because Jesus is in your life and your life is yielded to Him knowing that you are powerless and apt to sin but in surrender to Him you have victory in you new birth because, like a seed, you died to the old life with Jesus on the cross and your sins were blotted out and now God has placed His Holy Spirit in your body and a new spiritual person is growing up strong in the word of God and fellowship with Him. Praise God, because it was all done through His grace, mercy, and love. Now I have that same grace, mercy, and love growing up in my spirit man that He is forming me to be Christlike through every experience that I have in this life so that when Christ returns for His bride I will be ready, I will be waiting, and I will be anxious to be in His presence! Now I must be light and salt on the earth so that nonbelievers will see Jesus in me and so that weak believers will gain strength and faith until the coming of our Lord.

To be salt and light to the world, set your mind upon Jesus so that you will not waver when the evil one attacks you.

A NEW LOOK AT GOD'S LAW

Matthew 5:17: Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18: For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

19: Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20: For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

21: Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 17: Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

22: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

There are those who believe that after Jesus came, the Old Testament Law is no longer is required of the New Testament Believer. That is a half truth. The ceremonial law of the temple passed away with the death of Jesus on the cross and one no longer needs to go to a priest to have sacrifice offered up for his sins as evidenced by the ripping of the temple veil. Jesus is here speaking of the moral law of God. The ten commandments are just as real today as they were when God gave them to Moses. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Did God change His mind about that? No. Thou shalt not kill. Did God change His mind about that? No. Thou shalt not ... Well you get the picture. There are commandments that some would wish were not there because they convict them of their sin. That is what the law was given for!

What about the Pharisees, the great keepers of the law? Jesus says that we must have greater righteousness than they to be saved. No man enters God's kingdom based on the righteousness he has by keeping the law outwardly before others, it is by faith through the grace of God, not by his deeds. So should we keep the law? Yes, and more than keeping the law outwardly, our mind must be controlled to think right thoughts. Not only are we to not kill, we are to not be angry with another nor give such disrespect as to think another of God's creations is a fool or has no good thing to offer us. To consider one to be without worth is the same sin as to kill that person. This is the heart of the sermon on the mount, that sin or righteousness come from the heart and mind of a person outward and acts are outward manifestations of the inner thoughts. Righteousness begins in the mind and heart of a person and so does sin. Even if one controls the outward actions, like the Pharisees, and does not kill another person, even more is required. God sees and knows when you are being good on the outside and yet keep on sinning on the inside where others do not see your innermost thoughts and desires of your heart. Your judgment shall be for every act that you do, right? Your judgment shall be for every word that you say, right? Your judgment shall be for every thought that you think, right? Every person shall stand before God with God knowing every thought and desire of the heart, mind and inner being. God will make no mistake if you are a sheep or a goat because He knows all about every thought that ever passed through your mind. Oh, that I could continually purify my thoughts and desires that they be acceptable to the Lord and I keep more than the letter of the law but also the spirit of the law and be in right standing before my God. Not only that I physically sin not but that I do not, in my mind, desire to sin.

ENTER THE PRESENCE OF GOD WITH A PURE MIND & HEART ONLY

Matthew 5:23: Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

24: Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

25: Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

26: Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing. To do physical worship, first clear the mind of sin so that good can come forth. If you would worship God, you must first be in right standing with the people that you come in contact with. To all of those around you even those that you casually know on to those are close to you, even to those who are very close to you in your family, you must stay in right standing. Anger and differences come up with other people from time to time. One must love others out of respect that they are the unique creations of God. 1Jn:4:20: If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? There is no coming to God without love for all fellow man. One only fools himself if he thinks that God will accept his behavior when he is disobedient in relationships toward others. There are groups going to some churches that hate each other but still go to church in the same place and assume that God is on their side. Not only is God not on their side, He is not in that fellowship! You may have been to a church where people came and worshiped with a strong tradition and even mighty services but it was not of God because of the hardness of the hearts of the people.

There is at least one unlovable person in every believer's life. There is at least one that you must pray and ask God to give you love for. Some of you would say that "You just don't know what this person did to me." It does not matter. When we have the commandment to love others, it gives no commentary on the other person returning that love or being lovable or nice to you. We are to attain the love that God has! I shall love others without regard to their actions or their way of relating to me. If I let an unlovable person offend me, then I have allowed that person to put a barrier between me and God. I will allow no person to hinder my coming to the Lord. I especially will allow no person who makes themselves my adversary to separate me and my Lord.

When I do a business deal, more than the law of the land, I shall cheat no other person in any way and will repay all that I owe. One has to watch those who call themselves "Christians" in a business deal because most of them want to get over on the other person and after they contrive to partially steal from another person then brag, "look what a good deal that the Lord blessed me with." Actually they grieved the Holy Spirit by the practise of deception in business.

The word of the believer should be second only to the word of God in truth and honesty in business, in family and even in thought. When a believer says a word, he should have thought about it and know it to be the truth and when it is said, could be written down on the back page of your Bible because it will happen and it is true. Can one know God who is truth and at the same time issue lies in business or in the family. Business deals involve the husband and wife, and therefore when business is done, there should be an open honest presentation of all information involved. There are too many married people who not only lie to attain credit and business but also lie to their spouse about the whole financial situation. The spouse who has respect for God will be honest in both business with a stranger and in the home with the family.

WHAT IS ADULTERY?

Matthew 5:27: Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

28: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

29: And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

30: And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

31: It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:

32: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

Our senses, like our eyes, input data into the mind. It is one thing to know that someone is an attractive person, it is quite another to wish certain thoughts in your mind and heart toward that person. Any person who allows Satan to continue to input thoughts and pictures from your eyes long enough will fall into thoughts that are not becoming a believer. The word says give no place to the devil. One cannot help what comes in his vision the first time but there are things that should not be dwelt upon for any extended time because it leads to lust. Today in this country, there are so many things placed before your eyes, that one is continually tempted. Is there any wonder that the teens of this generation find themselves involved with sex outside of marriage when they see such explicit acts on t.v. on a daily basis. Perhaps even more damaging is the teaching of t.v. that everything that feels good is OK. Teens are wise and parents are foolish old fashioned people who don't understand young people of today. Restrictions are just mean old people trying to keep young people from having fun. America has allowed t.v. to become the god of today's youth because it was a cheap baby-sitter.

God is not mocked, every seed that is sown shall grow up and come to harvest. The thing about farming is this, when you plant a seed, the harvest is always later, it is always greater than the seed you planted, and it is always what you planted. If you plant good seed, you get a good crop. If you plant the wrong seed, you get a wrong crop. Sin is the same way, if you allow Satan a little place in your heart, he will take over, the pleasure will not be as good as he told you it would be, and it will cost you more than you were ever willing to pay for that moment of sin. Satan lies, don't give him a place in your heart because he will bring heartache. Focus your mind on the things of God and learn what true happiness and joy are and when the seed grows up it brings everlasting, unlimited, joy to your soul with no regrets and it cost nothing to be righteous before the Lord! If you have to give up something for the Lord, then it was the thing that was going to hurt you.

Notice that we are talking hell for those who are in adultery. 1Cor:6:9: Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

The rule is, no sex outside of marriage, not even in the mind! If you are married, stay that way for it pleases God. Divorce is a sin. It can be forgiven but it is not the will of the Father. When you make a vow to love a person until you die then there is only one acceptable way to leave your spouse. However, no person should put up with a spouse that may beat them to death, if you are in that situation, get out before you get beat. No scripture in the Bible gives you permission to hit or verbally abuse your spouse. It does say that if your relationship is not right, your prayers will be hindered.

SWEAR NOT, JUST SAY YES OR NO

Matthew 5:33: Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

34: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

35: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

36: Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

37: But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

What is it that you have made or done without the help of God? Nothing! If you have done nothing of yourself then you have nothing to swear by. Everything that you could swear by is from God. This is a simple rule, don't swear by His stuff.

If you mean yes, say yes. If you mean no, say no. If someone is your friend, they will believe you when you do. If someone is not your friend, they may not believe you. In either case, adding words that are not pleasing to God will not change their minds at all. If you make a vow then you mortgage your future actions. If your future actions are set and you know what you must do, how shall you follow the leading of the Holy Spirit? If God is going to lead and direct you and give you Divine wisdom, it is absolutely necessary that you have an open mind and heart both to hear and to do His good will in your life. Have you not seen people who have set their direction, path, and even steps for the future without listening to the Holy Spirit. This is a sin against the Holy Ghost. It is any action on your part so that you hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in doing what God desires Him to do in shaping your inner man into Christlikeness. Whole churches have fallen into traditions that did not allow the work of the Holy Spirit to do the will of the Father in their individual lives and in the fellowship of the church. When the mind and heart are not open to the change and progress that the Holy Spirit wants to make, the services become stale, one sees self-righteousness and pride. Many denominations require that people accept certain rules and doctrine to be a member or to be ordained and they must promise to continue in that belief. Beyond faith in Jesus the Son of God who gave himself for us that we might have salvation, attitudes about many other things may change as one has spiritual growth through the teachings of the Holy Spirit. In some cases, that means that one is required to vow a vow that they will continue to be just as dead in the spirit as the other dead members of this declining congregation are.

I fail to see how the believer can agree to hard unchangeable rules after praying and listening to the teachings of the Holy Spirit. The one authority is the Word of God. Second, the teaching of the Holy Spirit as you study the word and pray to the Father.

Religion does not ever want you to drop your membership in its fellowship because they already are losing too many people because the shepherd is lazy and does not minister to the flock as it is needed. Even when the leader is stealing from the church or living in sin and moral failure they want you to continue coming and giving. Do what God has for you to do. If it is to stay in a poor fellowship and encourage them, do it. If it is to go to a better fellowship and learn more then do it. Whatever God has for you, listen to His leadership and do it.

God knows. God knows all. God even knows your thoughts before they become actions.

RESIST NO EVIL

Matthew 5:38: Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:
39: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.
40: And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.
41: And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.
42: Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.
43: Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.
44: But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;
45: That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.
46: For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same?
47: And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?
48: Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

One of the most radical teachings in the Bible is to not resist evil but to love and bless them that curse and do evil to you. Take no time to plot what you will do to those who do wrong to you, who use you for their own good and who persecute you, spend all of your time thinking with the mind of Christ in you. Love the unlovable, bless those who curse you, turn the other cheek when they hit you. Why? So that you can be the child of the Father which is in heaven. If you are a child of God, then you should show some of the characteristics of being in the family. Being in the family, you pick up some of the habits and actions and ways of thinking that the family has. In being around you, lost people should see Jesus in your actions and way of thinking.

Also note that verse forty-eight instructs you to be perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. Would He tell you to do it if it could not be done? You must decide right here if you trust Jesus that if He says you can do it, you can or if He holds out a standard like a bate before you that you can never live up to and it is only a taunt for you and every believer on the way to hell. Do you know that you can do what the word says you can do? If it says that you can be perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect then you can. Most of you have been taught that you have to mess up and sin because you are just human and it is sins of the flesh. That sounds good for the people who are looking to justify their second rate walk with Christ. It sounds as if it excuses the sheep when the lazy shepherd will not minister to his flock! But, it is not what the word of God says! Now, will you accept the traditions of man or the word of God? If you have to thank about it to make that decision, then what you need is salvation and a personal relation with Jesus Christ which make the word the authority in your life and the teachings of the Holy Spirit will show you the way and the truth.

I stand on the word that God is fully able to work a work in me so that I shall be able to develop and grow as a believer in Christlikeness so that I can walk in perfection as Christ walked on the earth without sin, with the mind of Christ in me that I not look at the darkness but that I speak "let there be light" and let the light of Christ shine through me.

Being Christlike begins with Christlike thoughts that manifest themselves in Christlike words and deeds.

HOW TO GIVE

Matthew 6:1: Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

2: Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

3: But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

4: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

Have you ever seen the poor or the needy or maybe it was a widow or lady that had a husband leave her and the kids because of his lusts of the flesh. Sure you have, God has put several such people in your path so that you have the opportunity to share some of the blessings that He has given you. What about when you go to that person that God has placed on your heart and given an amount that you should give, and when you get there that person has more stuff than you have. They have stuff on the floor because they don't have places to put all of it! Except for the video games and the three televisions, all of their stuff wouldn't be worth \$100 at a garage sale. The temptation is to say well, I would help but they wasted the money that they did have. Many people sit in judgment of the people that they help and if they don't think that they are worthy according to their standards, they don't give to that person. Many times, people in need hang on to pride and never tell you the truth about their situation. Poverty, need and honesty with the person that came to help are seldom in the same house. Accept that as a symptom of the condition and pray for them (after you give your dollars). God knows all of those thoughts that pass through your head.

How do I know that I should help someone? If God shows me a need that someone has and I have the resources to meet that need without going broke, then He is telling me to help that person. It is still God that will sit in judgment of that person and all other people and not my place to take that away from Him! When you give someone a dollar, it is theirs and no longer yours. You no longer have reserve the right to direct their life because you gave money. They probably will not spend it as wisely as you would or they would not be in this situation to begin with.

There are those who give to be seen, forget it, the show is too expensive with too little returns. There are those who never give but hoard money for a rainy day or retirement and if they come in contact with one in need, then there is always an excuse why they will not give to someone like that. It is such a joy to give to someone who never will repay you or do anything in return for you. If their life is such that they will never get "over the hump" and have adequate finances. It is not the duty of the believer to give every week or month to enable a person to be a poor steward and live outside the will of God.

A brother told me of walking with a friend to church and a skid row bum came up and asked for money for food and he gave it to him. He asked his friend, "why did you give him money, he will probably go buy another bottle of wine with it?" His friend answered, "I have a brother that was an alcoholic. It may be that one more bottle of wine is what is required to keep him alive until tomorrow when God sends someone in his life so that he finds salvation." The love that flows from your heart in giving is as important as the dollar. Let the love of Jesus flow through you.

WHERE TO PRAY

Matthew 6:5: And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

6: But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

7: But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

8: Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Don't. Don't pray to be seen praying. Don't pray in vain repetitions. Don't think that long is better than from the heart. Don't think that God does not know your situation.

Do's. Do have a special place to pray to God. Do make that place where things will not interrupt you. Do remember that it is your secret place with God. Do remember to get to the point. Do remember that God hears good and you don't have to repeat it several times because He got it the first time. Even if you did sin, fifty hail Mary's won't help. Do remember that there is no "give it all to me", pray for specific things and needs. Do remember that God knows what you need already but He waits until you ask for it so that you will know where it came from!

There should be a place in your house where the knees have worn through the carpet or wood or whatever it is. A place that you can go and be alone with God and tell Him the secrets of your heart, the hurts, the joys, the desires of your heart without holding back, being totally honest and open and treat Him as your best friend, which He really is. You have heard someone pray and said that I want to pray like that. That is not what God wants. He created you to be exactly what you are and how you are and that is the real person that He wants to hear from, not your imitation of someone else. Everyone that has a gift of talking does not have a real, personal, honest relationship with the Father.

Remember when there was a Sears and Roebuck catalogue and kids would turn through and wish for one of everything plus two of everything in the toy section? Remember how kids sat on Santa's lap and told him everything their heart could lust after? Well, that ain't prayer. Prayer is talking with God and listening to God and being a friend with God. God is the very best friend that you will ever have. Do you breathe? Don't forget to thank Him for that. Do you eat food and live in a house or at least under a dry bridge? Don't forget to thank Him for that. Understand that you enjoy or have nothing that did not come from God and belong to God. Acknowledge who He is and praise Him. Ask when you want something, if it is in His will for you at this time, it will be on the way as the words leave your mouth.

Be the real you, God sees and understands the thoughts of your heart. He knows what you ask for in your prayer and the thoughts that caused you to pray that prayer! Ain't God good.

HOW TO PRAY

Matthew 6:9: After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10: Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11: Give us this day our daily bread.

12: And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

14: For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

16: Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

17: But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

18: That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

For a more complete look at how to pray as learned from the sample prayer above, see the book [Prayer That Moves Mountains](#).

Notice the first law of human conduct here, when one plants a seed, it will bring a harvest of the same kind. If you wish to be forgiven, you must forgive others. If one sits in judgment and lives in unforgiveness toward others, then it will come back to him following the law of planting and harvest. That law is that one will harvest what one plants, it must be later because the seed must sprout and grow and come to ripeness of fruit, and the yield of fruit is many times the amount of seed. If I do not forgive you, it does nothing to you, it destroys me because God does not forgive me! You cannot break the law of God, you are broken by it. Repent, forgive and you shall be forgiven. You get more out of forgiving someone than anyone else does. In holding on to unforgiveness, you lose more than any one else does. Be kind to yourself.

Note the second law of human conduct here. If you do it for show, God will know. If you pray or fast, it is as an offering up unto God. If in prayer and fasting, you do it to be seen of others and seek the praise of others, the praise of others is all you get. Your prayer is not answered, you have made no relationship with God which is the one relationship that you must have to enter into His kingdom. What is your motivation in seeking God? Is it praise of others, greed, fear, or is it that you love God and you have been in study of His word and the Holy Spirit has taught you many things and coming from this, you want to be in His presence, talk to Him and listen to Him and experience the glory of God for yourself.

God knows what, how and why you think the things that you think. No one fools God. So the only way to be pure before Him is to be pure in thought so that the actions and words that come from you reflect those good and pure thoughts of your heart.

THE HEART'S DESIRE IS IN YOUR TREASURE

Matthew 6:19: Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

22: The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

23: But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

24: No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

33: But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

I need to focus my heart, my inner being, my mind on the things of God and seek Him for in doing so all other things will take care of themselves. When one sets his mind on being rich, then the things of God must come later or occupy second place. God is never second! If God is not first in your life, then God is not in your life. You die to self when you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and it is no longer you but Christ in you that lives. How can He be in second place when it is Him who is living through your life? If Christ is second in your life, then you have not died to self. If you have not died to self, then is Christ really in you? If Christ is not in you, you are lost. If Christ is not Lord and Master, you are lost. The reason that preachers don't preach things like this is that 75% of the congregation in some churches are in a somewhat backslidden position and do not want to be disturbed by preaching that requires that they do more than go to church a couple of Sunday mornings per month. If you have no relationship with God then you are wasting your time sitting through some dead boring service from time to time. If you were alive in the Spirit and had Jesus as the Lord and Saviour of your life, you would not allow the church in which you are a member to sit lifeless and mock God with a service that brings no glory to His name and brings no repentance to the hearts of men and no change or challenge to the believer! You either serve God or not. There are too many NOTs sitting on padded pews complaining about what someone else did not do. If you are going to church, find one with an anointed pastor preaching the Word of God to the people and building them up in the faith so that they minister to others in the name of Jesus. If there is one of the items missing from church, anointed leadership, preaching of the word, and ministry of the people, you may be in the wrong pew. When you find that church, you will be able to stay awake and you will sense the love and joy of the people.

Focus your mind on your treasure and make that treasure the things of God. If you are going to store up anything, store up everlasting treasure in heaven and set your mind on the glory of God!

GOD CARES FOR YOU

Matthew 6:25: Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

26: Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27: Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28: And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30: Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31: Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? Or, What shall we drink? Or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32: (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33: But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34: Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Can you think about it and grow another 18 inches taller? Well so much for the power of positive thinking. Did you ever realize just how little that you can really do in all of the universe? Praise God, I know the one who made everything. I even know His Daddy who designed it! Praise God.

Look at the birds. Look at the grass. If you had trust in God as they do, then you would not worry about anything as they do not. When you have complete trust in God, then you know that He will never let you down nor leave you nor forsake you.

You live today and thank God that you do. You cannot live the past nor the future even if you wanted to so it is a complete waste to worry about either. Most of the possible things that you worry about never happen anyway. If they did, worry would not help in the least amount. Worry and fear do not come from God but peace and faith are His good gifts to those who believe in Him. In the coming days when the judgment of the Lord falls on this nation, we who believe must live by these words. Take them into your heart and let them grow within you.

Let your heart dwell on the one who made all things not on possession of the things themselves. God is your source, remember Him.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO JUDGE?

Matthew 7:1: Judge not, that ye be not judged.

2: For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

3: And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

4: Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

5: Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Do not judge other people for it is the task that belongs to God alone. That should be very clear, after all how hard is it to understand “Do not judge”? If you sin against God and you do judge then you enter into a new reality. Instead of being judged by the love, mercy, and grace of God, He then deals with you as you deal with other people. With the same kind of judgment that you judge other people, God will judge you. Could it be that you do not have all the facts when you judge others. If you do not give them the benefit of the doubt and understand that they are reacting to the various hurts and problems in their life that caused them to make errors along the way but their heart was intently set upon following God as much as possible with the truth that the Holy Spirit had revealed until this time, you have judged them unfairly. Not only that, the unfairness that you had in looking at their life will be given to you and even more because the word of God says that it will and the word of God does not lie.

God has never made a busybody to meddle in the affairs of others and bring the fresh gossip to everyone around. Satan has told some people that, that is their gift, to spread the error and mistakes of wounded believers to the world. If the stories are not exciting enough, they make up their own and add to and take away from the truth. Satan even causes them to believe the lies that they tell, after telling something several times, they believe their own lies and no longer are able to know the truth. Such is the one who is led by the evil one so that they become his follower and his hands in spreading hurt to others.

The child of God, on the other hand, looks into himself and with the leadership of the Holy Spirit sees things in his own life that need attention and prayer and works through them to please God the Father by his actions. We must judge ourselves and when we find evil, we must remove the root from our lives by the power of the blood of Jesus and replace it with the goodness and gifts of the Holy Spirit and His fullness so that we can grow in Christlikeness in all that we think, do and say. Let the thoughts that you keep in your mind be acceptable in the sight of the Lord!

It is with fear and trembling and the leadership of the Holy Spirit that we should approach a brother who is in sin and reclaim him for the Lord by pointing out wrong and leading him to see his error in the word of God. Great is the person who does so. Cursed is the one who goes not to the person but to others to spread stories to hurt one who needs the kind and loving hand of a fellow believer. Which one are you?

HOLY THINGS

Matthew 7:6: Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Dogs in the Bible represent those not of the believers or not of the Jews in the Old Testament. Swine were the most unclean animals and would represent the one living in sin and lashing out against those who believe.

Outside of your faith group, people do not accept many of the things that you believe. Sinners and believers from other churches alike are quick to cut down the believer. If one has no faith, it is understandable that he would speak against God because he is in rebellion against God. But for the one that claims to be a believer and puts down another who claims to be a believer in the same Jesus, there is something wrong. The pharisees had nothing on the rule making so called believers of today that look at so many small and not too important outward details and cut down all other churches, groups, and individuals that don't have the same misunderstanding of the scripture that "Our People" have. When one cuts down the work of another believing church, you can know that that person is not continually in the word and living in prayer and has no intimate relationship with God through Christ the son. If one walks with God, then he must walk with love toward all of his brothers in Christ, even those to whom the Holy Spirit lead to be a little different from you so that they might reach a group of people in need of salvation that is a little different from you. If one is walking with God, he will understand your theology as revealed from the word by the Holy Spirit. If one is not walking with God, then the dog will attack you no matter whether you explain things to him or not.

The swine has no appreciation of the great pearls of wisdom that are so precious to the believer. It is recorded in The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire that a Roman warrior found a leather bag of pearls and precious stones and seeing things only have value for their usefulness, he poured the stones out on the ground and took the bag! Remember that without the work of the Holy Spirit in drawing us to Christ we would not have appreciated the truth that we saw and cannot expect the lost to appreciate anything spiritual without God drawing them to the truth through the work of the Holy Spirit. Without God's work, you can expect the lost to react in an unfavorable way every time that you lift up Jesus. But some people in the church do the same thing. Exactly, that is why it is said, "not everyone who says to me lord, lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven." If it were not for the lost swine sitting on the church pews, there wouldn't be enough people there to shake a stick at. If one took all the lost of all the church roles, there would only be enough for one big church and they could get along even coming from different backgrounds! Remember, people did not get denominations from the Bible, they got them from their opinion about the Bible whether they had read it or not.

One can think like a dog, a hog, or a born again believer, the choice is yours.

PRAY AGAIN

Matthew 7:7: Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

9: Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10: Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11: If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

At a revival on one occasion I heard a speaker state that if one ever prayed for the same thing on more than one occasion, it showed a lack of faith and God would not answer that prayer. Considering that this passage is in red in my Bible, it must mean that that speaker did not have the mind of Christ in him because this is the mind of Christ because it is Christ teaching us how to set our mind toward God and toward the answering of our prayer to Him! He instructs me to ask, seek, and knock. If the Spirit has put it in your heart and you want it, ask for it. Seek to have your prayer answered, and keep on knocking on the door until someone opens the door.

God reveals Himself as the good Father. A good father wants to do everything he can to give his child every advantage that he possible can. A good father will sometimes withhold a good thing because at this point in the child's life, the good thing would be a bad thing and he never wants to see his child hurt. If your child wants something and it will be a blessing to them, you would do anything in your power to see that child gets the desires of its heart. If you think that you know how to be a good father, you haven't seen God in action. Can God forevermore do good things to those who believe in Him and are called by His name. My resources are limited, His is not and are without end. That means that there is no limit to the good things that God can and will do for His children.

Just how can I claim those things? By seeking God first in all things and knowing that He is my source in all things, I ask Him, I seek Him, and I knock on Heaven's door both to glorify Him and praise Him and share all things with Him and if I need something, I tell Him. He is going to give me the very best gifts and meet all my needs and I need not worry about tomorrow for He will be sufficient for that day also. As I ask Him things and for things and seek His presence and knock on His door that He will open up and fellowship with me and me with Him, I know that what has happened is that I have built a special relationship as a son with the Father. It was done by right thinking. Keep your mind on the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit will draw you closer with a special relationship between man and Almighty God.

Do not set your goals on things of this world or things at all. Set your mind on the one who made all things and to whom all things belong.

THE LAW: YOU REAP WHAT YOU SEW

Matthew 7:12: Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Another law? Yes indeed! You reap what you sew. If you want something, give it away. When you sew, you can expect to reap the same kind of thing that you sow. You do not sew corn and harvest cotton. For example, if I need money, and I give my tithe and give to the needs of another person, God will meet my need. If I need kindness, I should myself be kind to others and I will see Kindness coming back to me. If I love others, then I shall see others that love me.

Someone will say, I needed money and I did the right thing but it did not come in on time. Another will say that I gave kindness and no kindness came back to me. Another will say that I showed love to the unlovable and they resented me and stole from me. True that things do not always happen on our time schedule but when you need it most, God will supply your needs as you have been obedient to do His will and as you have reached out to others, He will reach out to you in the same area in a greater way.

There are days that it seems that a special verse of the Bible is not true. There have been days in most peoples life that it seemed that this verse was in error. It is not so. God is faithful to fulfill His promises and in the perfect timing, it will be so for the word of God has said it and the word of God is the final law of all of the universe and creation.

It is not for the believer to react to the world and the evil deeds of the ungodly but it is for the believer to walk as Jesus walked, talk as Jesus talked, and think as Jesus thought, holy unto God and in His will because in doing so you are salt to an unpreserved world and you are light in a dark, lost, and ungodly world on the path to hell. God placed you the believer in the place that you are to be a light that the lost might see Jesus in you and want what you have and desire the peace that is within you when all of the world is in chaos. It is doing to others the things that are desirable and right and good that the lost can see a difference between you and the ungodly world. It is your witness to humanity without saying a word in many cases because your actions speak loudly for you. As you go about doing the good that you can to others, even the evil and lost respond to that and have a respect for that kind of person. It is a shame on the body of Christ that many of those lost people out there will not go to church because of the hurt that one or more local churches have inflicted on them in the past. Church should be the place that heals the hurt of the downtrodden but it has become the place that causes the weak of faith to be downtrodden by the sin in the camp of the should be righteous. No longer does the hurting person seek out the church for healing, because the church only has condemnation and if it is true for your fellowship, it shall receive condemnation! The true church can take new people and accept them in instantly without condemnation and rejection and love them into a closer walk with the Saviour and bind up their wounds and set their feet upon the right paths with love and glorify God for the opportunity to do so. As the Holy Spirit gave me that last sentence, I realize that, God I have never been in a true church! This is the time of the great falling away of the church in the last days but it need not be so in your personal life.

JESUS IS THE ONE AND ONLY WAY

Matthew 7:13: Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

15: Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16: Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17: Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18: A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19: Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20: Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21: Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22: Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?

23: And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Having said that people should not judge, we have a look into how it will really be in that day when God does the job right. It doesn't matter that one comes as a prophet speaking as if he were an angel, healing people, and showing signs and wonders, if in his mind and heart there is not a true and living relationship with the Father through Jesus the Son, the dude is lost and on the way to hell. In some churches today, it is thought that speaking in tongues is a sign of being saved and being fully filled with the Holy Spirit. Satan can give you funny words to mumble. There is no sign under heaven that you judge the salvation and relationship with God by. I know a pastor who spoke in tongues in the worship service and skimmed money to put in his own pocket and another that lived in adultery and sounded like a saint on Sunday. Tongues can be a sign that a person has a wonderful relationship with God through the work of the Holy Spirit but Satan can imitate that so that you do not know the difference. The most Spirit filled person that I have had the pleasure to meet did not speak in tongues but he studied the word and fellowshiped with God in prayer and on several occasions when wisdom was needed in the church, he spoke with the authority of God and when he did, every person present knew that they had heard from God on the subject.

Some do "holy" things for the praise of men. Some do "holy" things to feed their own selfish lusts. Some do "holy" things because they set their mind on God and that is just what flows out of their inner being and manifests itself in the exterior world. More important than the thing that you do is the inner thoughts of the mind and spirit from which these actions flow. More important than that is the fact that God knows every one of your thoughts and your motivation for doing things. Good people do things out of a motivation of love of God and love of all others that you meet in this life. My prayer for you is that you will not be selfish with your life and lose it when you hear I never knew you, but will give it away that you may find it and reap the rewards of the Godly Saint and hear the phrase Well done thou good and faithful servant.

BUILD ON THE SOLID ROCK

24: Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26: And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

28: And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

29: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

If you have a solid rock foundation and you build a strong house, it will stand a very strong storm and the rain does not wash it away. If you build a house on sand, winds blow away the sand and rain washes it away until you have no foundation and the house falls in on you.

There is only one solid rock foundation, it is Jesus the Christ. When you depend on Him, you are on a foundation that will never fail and nothing can erode or take away. When you depend on anything else, you lose. Money comes and goes. Things rust and lose their value. It is not wise to depend on something created, bought, or made. The only thing to put your trust in is the one who created all things and holds all things together.

Time in the word of God builds a house on solid rock. No time for the word of God washes away the sand of your foundation. Time in prayer and fellowship with the Father gives a foundation of solid rock. No time for prayer and fellowship with the Father washes more sand away from your foundation. Those who have not experienced God crash in times of trouble because the foundation was weak. Those who fellowship with the Lord continually, can stand in the face of anything. The house here is the temple for the indwelling God. Your foundation must be from Him to stand. All other foundations will be washed away or burned away. The Spirit in you should bear witness that Jesus Christ is Lord of your temple, body, soul, spirit, and mind. When you yield to Him so that you die to self and it is no longer you that live in your temple but Christ in you living, your hope of glory, you will be able to stand any trial, temptation, any storm. Die daily to yourself that you may live forever, that is Christ living within you. To the extent that you allow Christ to come into your mind, and spirit, you will experience the authority that He has which is being lived out in you and you can take authority over all that surrounds you and you are not a slave to evil habits brought to your mind by Satan but you have both the power and authority to be an overcomer in the name of Jesus.

MINISTRY OF THE SAVIOUR
WAYNE DEER
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LUKE 4:18: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19: To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

