

FROM THE

SPRING-SUMMER 2020

BATTLEFIELD

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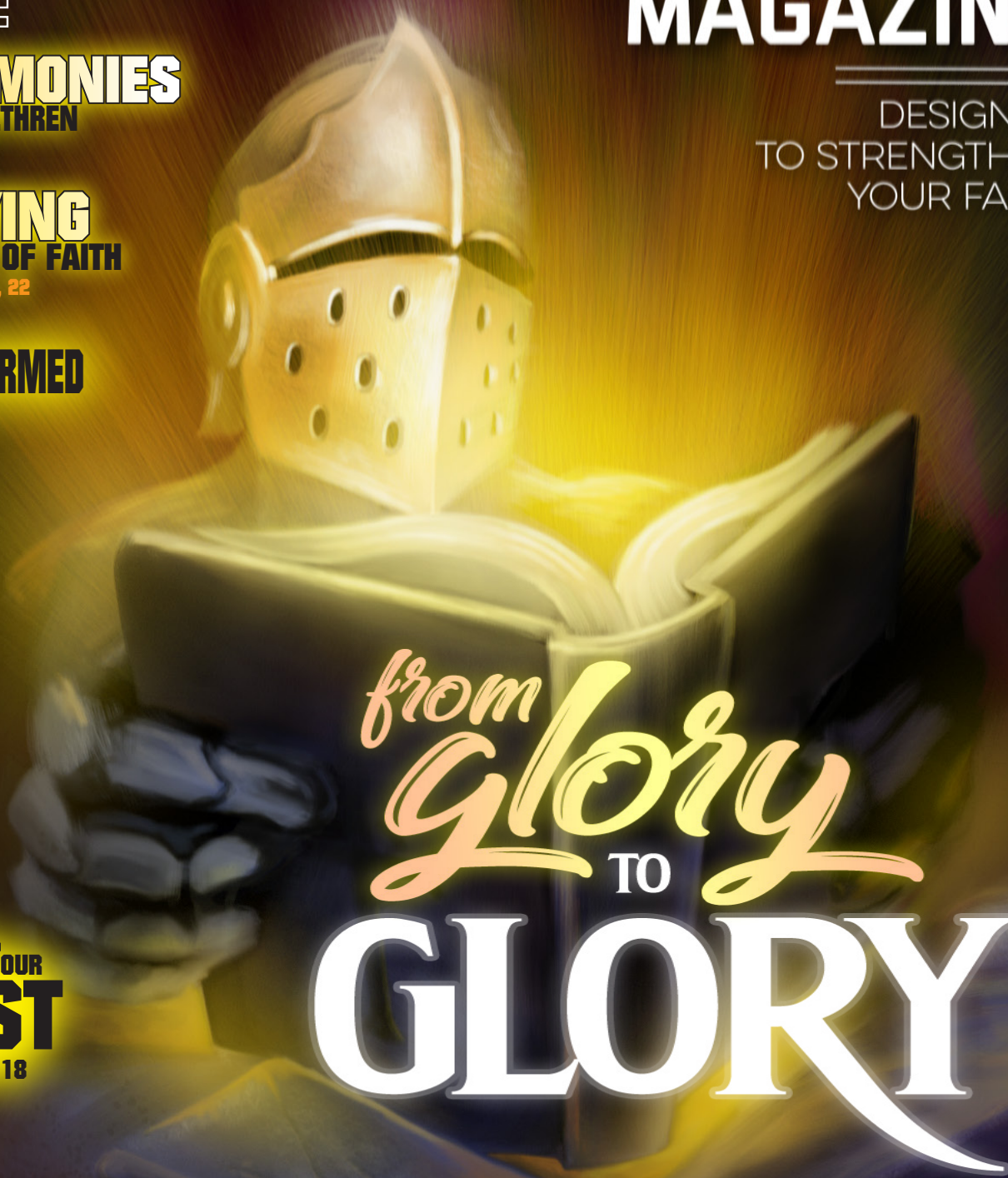
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MAGAZINE

DESIGNED
TO STRENGTHEN
YOUR FAITH



from
glory
TO
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ISSUE #16



U.S. \$0.00

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FROM THE **BATTLEFIELD** MAGAZINE

*A little while, my dear brother, and He is coming soon.
For the earthly flower's fading and eternity's in bloom.
The sands of time are sinking, and the time is drawing near
And in the twinkling of an eye, our Lord shall soon appear.*

*(Take heart my brethren, our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.)
-Justin Cobb*



SPRING - SUMMER 2020

*Satan doesn't quit, soldier! You can't afford to either!
Strengthening reinforcements have arrived just in time!
This magazine is designed to build you up in your most
holy faith, to the end that you might finish your course.*

*May the Lord give you grace to receive the heavenly
rations contained in this publication*

*Fight the good fight of Faith
Lay hold on Eternal Life, Dear Saint.*

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Our Purpose

The purpose of this publication is to strengthen the faith of those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and to provide an outlet of expression to all those who have a love of the truth, and a desire to comfort the brethren.

The reality is, that we are in the middle of a fierce spiritual war, with our eternal souls at stake. Much like Israel had to engage in warfare to move into the land promised them, we also must fight the good fight of faith, and press forward that we may obtain the prize which has been promised only to those who overcome!

Contact Us

PHONE: 417-592-2688
E-MAIL: battle@rwrenewals.com
MAILING ADDRESS: 4732 Jute Road
Seneca, MO 64865
EDITOR: bornagain102013@gmail.com

Anyone wishing to be added to the mailing list for this publication may send their requests to the above physical and email address. These magazines are provided free of charge, however, anyone wishing to make a donation to cover the cost of printing, the cost is approximately two dollars per issue. Anyone wishing to make a donation should make out their checks to "From The Battlefield" and send it to the address above. All gifts are tax deductible, and a tax receipt will be sent to the address supplied.



You can read more insights from brethren that could not fit within the limited pages of this magazine! Just scan this QR code, or visit the URL below!
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fromthefoxhole/>

We gladly welcome new Submissions

We are always open to share the good things that the Lord has given the brethren to see. This opportunity is open to any and all who are interested. Our only guideline for publication is that the material you present be edifying to the reader, and according to the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. Please send your submissions to the address listed above! Examples of desired submissions are:

Testimonies of the Saints. Poetry, Psalms, Prayers, Expressions of Faith and Love, Thanksgivings to God, Encouraging thoughts, Spiritually provocative considerations.. Teachings that promote the truth as it is in Christ Jesus, etc.

Current Editor/Designer



Brother Justin Cobb

Current editor, graphic designer of the Battlefield magazine, he also ministers full time at the Word of Truth Fellowship in Joplin, Missouri, and maintains a weekly Facebook and Twitter ministry.

Our Regular Commentators

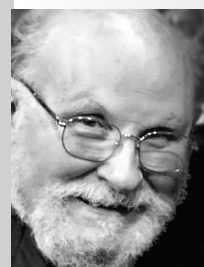


Sister Adah Hutchcraft

An acting Chaplain at Via Christi Hospital in Pittsburg, KS, Adah has experience ministering to people in need in their final days. The Lord has blessed her with a peculiar ability for intercession. She is the author of "Praying with all Prayer". We are thankful for her contribution!

Brother Matthew Cobb

Original editor of the Battlefield magazine, Matthew still makes regular contributions to the ministry, strengthening the Saints of God to continue in the Faith! We are thankful for him and the influential work he began!

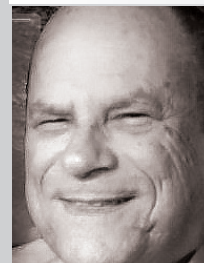


Brother Given Blakely

Has been a minister of the Gospel since 1954, preaching to thousands spanning all denominational backgrounds. He is a prodigious writer, having been the author and editor of the Word of Truth magazine from 1960-1992, several books, and an on-going scripture commentary from which he teaches every week. His thorough commentaries now include over 23 books of the bible. He has an extensive online ministry as well, which includes wotruth.com, daily email devotions, as well as a facebook minsitry. This magazine is a fruit of his ministry. His published books are available in both print, online .pdf and ebook. (see resources section).

Brother Robert Cobb

Bro Robert has an extensive video ministry, through which he records, posts and maintains hundreds of gospel messages online nnnually. Many of these resources links are available on the last page of this magazine. He also actively ministers at the Word of Truth Fellowship in Joplin, Missouri. He has been a faithful steward of the work that the Lord has given him! Brother Robert also handles the printing and distribution of this publication, as well as the bookkeeping for all charitable donations to this cause.



Brother Albert Stoner

Has been a faithful minister of the word of God for over 50 years, teaching admonishing all who have a love of the truth. He has been the editor of the Banner of Truth publication since 1992, and is fluent in many different languages, including German and Russian, teaching them until his retirement in 2015. He has done extensive work for the Lord in translating the writings of the saints. He also has authored several books, the most recent being the "Prophecies of Christ in Isaiah". His contributions are always thought-provoking and deeply motivating to those who are living by Faith in the Son of God!

Shined in Our HEARTS

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."
---2 Corinthians 4:6

I found it interesting that the apostle expresses the shining forth of this light, (which was commanded to be shone forth as in the creation "let there be light!"), as being not shone into the mind, or brought into view of the eyes, but into the heart.

The gift of the "knowledge of the glory of GOD in the face of Jesus Christ" is referenced in this text as being communicated to our understanding through the heart. That is the point where the actual truth becomes known as the truth to us, as we are given a love for it. That being said, however, the commanding of this shining forth happens within the context of a work: which work is made known by the preaching of the gospel. It is in this context: in the hearing of the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, that GOD, through his Spirit convinces not merely the minds, but the hearts and affections of men. It is in this way that initial belief and acceptance of the truth does not require all of the details - because it does not appeal primarily to the intellect, but rather to the heart, it resonates with the most deep desire and want of man, the need to be reconciled to GOD. This light shining forth then, reveals to us that this, our most dire need has been provided for in Christ Jesus.

"O soul are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior
And life more abundant and free"

There is nothing in this world that will be forever consistent. Everything in this world will eventually at some point disappoint you. So, how then in this environment can we be consistent? How can we continually be satisfied? By looking upon the one who has been lifted up that He might draw all men unto Him. **I have never been disappointed by Jesus.** I have never regretted a moment of my time that I have spent sitting at his feet, following after Him, and I have never been let down by putting all my trust in Him, casting all of my care upon Him. So then, I encourage you all to "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look FULL in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace"

-Matthew Cobb

CAN WE BE RIGHTEOUS?

Christ was made to be sin, so that we might be made righteous. It's the Righteousness of God, (His dominating trait), and it's expressly found in the person of Christ Jesus. (2 Cor 5:21). It's not a nominal expression: or a pretend righteousness. It's a real righteousness. It's evidenced and proven to have been imputed... by those who do righteousness. They do it because they have really been changed, and they are really righteous- for whoever does righteousness IS righteous, even as He is righteous (1 Jn 3:7). A person "does what is right" because they are righteous. Also "Does what is right" is God's appraisal of the deed, not man's.

Now some may argue, and state that the scriptures plainly say, "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Rom 3:11). However, this is a commentary on man in his natural sinful state, without the involvement of God. In the very next verse, it says "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." (Rom 3:12). If no one is righteous, even in Christ, would we also assert that no one possesses understanding, and that no one seeks after God? I can testify that I understand God, and I seek after Him. You probably do too if you believe Him— and if you believe God, and are living by Faith— you are also righteous! Righteousness is imputed to you (Rom 4:21-22). You are totally "Just" (Heb 10:38). You have the Righteousness of God, by Faith in Jesus Christ (Php 3:9, Rom 3:22, Rom 9:30), and as a result, everything you do by that Faith is right. On the other hand, everything a person does without Faith, is wrong— for "whatever is not of Faith is sin" (Rom 14:23). Wherever there is a person who is not living by Faith, they are living and doing wrong. Even when the wicked man plows his field, a normal workday, it is sin—it is not done in Faith. (Prov 21:4). It is not done unto the Lord, but unto themselves.

It's good to remind people who think they have done "good things", but don't believe God, that they will give an account for their wrong deeds they have done in the body. On the other hand, it's good to know that everything you do by Faith is righteous, and shall reap a reward— even if it is plowing a field, or eating and drinking, because it is done for and unto the Lord.

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."- (1 Cor 10:31)

-Justin Cobb

Cast your care on Him.

Brother
Matthew J. Cobb

**"CASTING all your care upon him;
for he careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7)**

Lately I have had a lot of these experiences where I have considered a text that I've heard quoted, or referenced or used a lot over the years, or even a text I've preached from, that have jumped off the page and stuck with me. I haven't in the past considered them within the subject of the letter from which they came, or even within the context of the surrounding verses. 1 Peter 5:7 is one of such texts. "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you" Here it is within its surrounding verses in the chapter:

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:5-8)

As Peter in his first epistle delivers an exhortation to the young among their number, he delivers this word concerning humility, submitting ones self to those who know better than you, to those who are deserving of more honor than you, and even to one another in general. In it, he reminds them that it is the humble who are in the most prime position to receive grace from the Lord, as it is those people who are most aware of their need for it. He then within this same frame of thought exhorts them to commit unto the Lord their care.

As I thought about this, the question I found myself asking was, In this verse, what is "care"? And what does it mean to cast it upon the Lord?

As far as I can see, "care" is concern, it is an occupation of thought and energy, but it's not just that - it's an occupation of emotion, of the heart and the spirit. Care can become the cause of great heaviness and grief when it turns to worry. Whatever kind of "care" has an inordinate amount of time and energy is devoted to it, it becomes a distraction, and also fosters a sneaky form of pride: as if you had ultimate control over whatever it is you're dealing with.

Instead, the apostle instructs these believers, in a spirit of humility, to **entrust the care of all things in their lives to the one who does have control over everything.**

I've previously read this verse like this: "casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for YOU", but recently I've read it this way "casting all your care upon Him; for HE careth FOR you"

We don't have to be overwhelmed with concern for the everyday things of this life as if we must deal with them alone. There are things in this world that could potentially cause one to be so caught up with care, and worry, becoming so preoccupied with it that they forget the real reason why we exist, and are alive in the first place - to glorify GOD. I've also seen this last verse in a different way here recently, because of where it sits in this chapter. It is in this setting or admonishing concerning humility, and trusting in the Lord for the care of all things in our lives that he warns these believers of the consequences of not doing so. The devil seeks for opportunity to devour. It is a true statement: "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

I realize Jesus is referencing men in this verse, but the point is that this is the work of the devil in contrast to that of Christ. **He seeks opportunity, not to bless but to curse,** not to give life but take it, not to build up but to destroy. And, a lack of humility provides him an opportunity to work.

This much I was already aware of, but what has become more clear to me is that the means by which he does this is more subtle than I had previously imagined. Even in the most mundane cares of life, the accomplishing of human goals, or the providing of earthly sustenance for ones self, outside of a reliance upon GOD, in Christ by Faith under the influence of the Holy Spirit will produce a sense of autonomy which, if not addressed, will eventually lead to pride, and a fall.

I have come to this realization, unfortunately, by experience that we can become in our minds a little too much like Nebuchadnezzar when we look at our lives and think; look at this wonderful family, or career or ministry or whatever it is that I have worked for and built, thinking more of our own effort and work than the Lord who empowered us to accomplish it for His glory, and because of it, be made by the Lord to go 'eat grass', so to speak, until we come to ourselves and "...praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase." (Daniel 4:7)

-Matthew Cobb

**"...We don't
have to be
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alone..."**

Glory to glory

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” - 2 Corinthians 3:18

Unlike Moses, who veiled his face to conceal the glory of The Lord because the people were afraid, we are looking to Jesus open faced, without fear of condemnation, because He has cleansed us from all our sin.

How marvelous a hope we have that, as we behold Him, we are being changed into the same image as our Beloved Savior. Now our vision is imperfect in that we are looking “as in a glass, darkly”, and our understanding is “in part” but our hope is that soon we shall see Him “face to face” and “we shall know even also as we are known”. (1 Corinthians 13:12)

This is the kind of hope that securely anchors the souls of its possessors to the sure and steadfast rock of our Salvation, which is Jesus!

--Mattie Blakely

Every believer is changed by beholding the Lord Jesus Christ. As it is written, “But we all, with open [unveiled] face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, ARE CHANGED into the same image from glory to glory, even as BY THE SPIRIT of the Lord” (2 Cor 3:18). Every person, no matter how infantile or advanced they may seem to be, will be any more like Jesus than they are able to see of Him. The norm of the kingdom is that we are being changed in this way. This is according to God’s predetermined purpose – namely, that we be “conformed to the image of His Son” (Rom 8:29). There is absolutely no assurance that a person who is not experiencing this change is, in fact, saved at all – for this process IS salvation. It is for this reason that professing believers are urged, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” (2 Cor 13:5).

--Given Blakely

From tabernacle to temple, God always works in stages, *from glory to glory*.

What we need is faith to see where God is leading us.

This body is a shadow of one FAR greater! (I Cor.15) When God's Shekinah glory came down in Lev.9, two priests, Nadab and Abihu died, burnt to crispy critters for drunkenly offering "strange" fire and incense. When Solomon's temple was commissioned (II Chron.7-8), the whole gold-covered confines were filled with that same glory, and none died... humans that is. (22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep... not so lucky!) God was looking to another outpouring of the Spirit, on Pentecost in Jerusalem. (Joel 2 predicts this great event.)

His church begins, with a baptism with the Holy Spirit. Yet again, God will raise the dead on the last day, and we shall appear as He is, bathed in permanent glory, eternally! At each stage, we must live in hope by faith, of something "very much better", as Paul says about his death in Phil.1;14f. Being content now, yet also discontent, is a divine paradox. We wouldn't need the secret, mystery, the indwelling Comforter in these clay jars (II Cor.5:1f) if we already had all the fullness of glory. But what we do have is representative of real things, much better things, to come. We have a true "taste test" of the heavenly gift, the word of God and the powers of the age to come. (Heb.6:5)

Let's hold on to what we have, to whose we now are... God's, not gods, and yet longly and expectantly wait for the curtains to open on the final show, the new bodies in glory! Feeling excited about my future! I am not the same man as I was five minutes ago, being changed from grace to grace, and glory to glory.

--Jeff Hostetter

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Cor 4:18)

Brother
Boyce Mouton

The word “iceberg” comes from the Dutch word “ijsberg” which means “ice mountain”. Since pure ice is heavy, the majority of the ice mountain is beneath the surface of the sea. Typically, only one-tenth of the iceberg is above water. Surface winds, therefore, have little or no affect on the iceberg. The iceberg is moved by deep ocean currents. Thus we have coined the expression “tip of the iceberg” to contrast insignificant things that are seen, with significant things that are not. This is why Paul refused to divert his attention from the unseen realities in the spirit world. The “things” we see are temporal. They are only the tip of the iceberg. By contrast, the “things” we cannot see are eternal. They are obviously much more important. It is not always easy, however, to convince skeptical people that the tip of the iceberg is moved by unseen forces deep beneath the surface of the sea.

That’s why we need to be born again in order to “see” eternal truth (John 3:3). “Flesh and blood” are more easily seen than “spirits”, but our most important struggle is not against flesh and blood (Eph. 6:12). We can see airplanes, bombs, and bullets, but the most important weapons we fight with are not the weapons of this world (2 Cor. 10:4). “Flesh and blood” are therefore seen in a much different light when we recognize their temporal nature. The Scriptures are emphatic, *“flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable”* (1 Cor 15:50). The things we see, therefore, are only the tip of the iceberg!

Luke, by inspiration, tells of two men who were walking from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus (Lk. 24:1 - 35). Jesus joined them on their journey, but they did not recognize Him. Their faces were downcast because of what they had seen. They had hoped that Jesus would be the One Who would redeem Israel, but their hopes were dashed by only looking at the tip of the iceberg. They had seen Jesus abused, humiliated, and crucified, but unfortunately, they did not yet see the spiritual realities that overshadowed all of these earthly considerations. What really happened was that through death Jesus had destroyed him who had the power of death, that is the devil (Heb. 2:14). Though you could not see it with human eyes, Jesus on the cross actually destroyed death and brought life and

THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

immortality to light through the gospel (2 Tim 1:10). Not only did the death of Jesus make possible our forgiveness, but He also died to redeem those who sinned under the first covenant (Heb. 9:15). When Jesus ascended into heaven, He did not enter into holy places

made by human hands, but into the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man. His death on the cross was only the tip of the iceberg. In the unseen world He entered into an eternal priesthood and now He ever lives to make intercession for us. The book of Hebrews puts it like this: “Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives for ever, he has a permanent priesthood.

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them” (Heb 7:23-25).

It is impossible to plot the trajectory of an iceberg without understanding the unseen currents that move it. So also it is impossible to understand the true nature of Christianity without recognizing the realities in the spirit world. Since these eternal “things” are invisible to the human eye, they can only be seen by faith (Heb. 11:1). So, as Paul put it, we fix our eyes upon eternal reality that is unseen by human eyes.

No matter what you see with human eyes, there is no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1). You are dead to sin (Rom. 6:2). You are free from sin (Rom. 6:7). You are dead to the law (Rom. 7:4). You are alive unto God through Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:11). You are new creations (2 Cor. 5:17). You have an advocate with the Father (1 Jn. 2:1). Your great high priest ever lives to make intercession for you (Heb. 7:25). You have a crown of righteousness reserved for you in heaven (2 Tim. 4:8), and everything that happens to you works together for good because you love God and are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28). Do you see it? [If you can, **even these things**, Brethren, are the tip of the eternal iceberg. *“For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”* -(1 Cor 13:12)]

-Boyce Mouton

SCRIPTURE TO CONSIDER

The Conquering Lamb of Revelation - Sister Candace W. Warner

The Lamb in God's Awesome Throne Room
(Revelation 4; 5:6)

The Lamb, the Conquering Lion
(Revelation 5:5)

The Lamb Who Is Slain
(Revelation 5:6)

The Lamb Who Opens the Seals
(Revelation 5:1-8; 6:1)

A New Song to the Redeeming Lamb
(Revelation 5:7-10)

Worthy Is the Lamb
(Revelation 5:11-14)

The Wrath of the Lamb
(Revelation 6:15-17; 14:9-11)

The Great Multitude Praising the Lamb
(Revelation 7:9-12)

Washed in the Blood of the Lamb
(Revelation 7:13-14)

The Lamb Who Is Our Shepherd
(Revelation 7:15-17)

Overcoming by the Blood of the
Lamb (Revelation 12:11)

The Lamb's Book of Life
(Revelation 13:7-8)

Sealed with the Name of the Lamb
(Revelation 14:1)

Following the Lamb Wherever He Goes
(Revelation 14:4-5)

The Song of the Lamb
(Revelation 15:2-4)

The Warrior Lamb, Mighty in Battle
(Revelation 17:14)

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb
(Revelation 19:6-9)

The Lamb's Book of Life Is Opened
(Revelation 20:11-15)

Heavenly Zion and the Bride of the Lamb
(Revelation 21:9-10)

The Twelve Apostles of the Lamb
(Revelation 21:14)

The Lamb Who Is the Temple
(Revelation 21:22)

The Lamb Who Is the Lamp
(Revelation 21:23-25)

Healing River from the Throne of the Lamb
(Revelation 22:1-2)

@preach**eternal**

FROM THE TWITTER MINISTRY OF BROTHER JUSTIN COBB

“Mankind was made in such a way that he is **not burdened by time** when he is doing what he loves”

“We do not fight only to obtain victory—we fight from a **position of victory!**”

“The narrow road may be rough, **but at least its clean.**”

“Laughter is **not always the best medicine.**” (James 4:9)

“Confess your sins to the **Man on the throne,** not the man **in the box!**”

“There is really no such thing.”
as a **cross-less Christianity.**”

“Ruth had to glean for her portion and we must **glean for ours as well.**”

“Solomon said, 'Vanity, vanity!' **Christ says, 'Verily, verily!'**”

“Straight paths don't go around trouble, **but through it.**”

“The commission of **new believers** is, **not to win others, it's to grow up into Christ.**”

“God has an **impeccable reputation.**”

facebook brethren



Jeff Hostetter
Kumasi, Ghana

God loved the world. Sent His Son. Who started His Church. Will come back for Her. Focus on that. God's permanent solution. Building a better world is impossible. (Raw material is imperfect). But building a better Church is possible, w/living stones! (1 Pt.2:5)

About "liking" FB posts: For any post that boosts morale, motivates us to think and act more like Jesus, that convicts us to not sin and press on, informs and edifies.... and even makes us laugh!, I see a split second push on the "like" button is like saying amen, or smiling at someone. Takes so little effort to do, and encourages those around us, at no cost! Here's a guide to "liking" posts: *"Whatever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report; if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think (LIKE) on these things."* (Phil.4:8) I guess I am a social critter, and people's feedback and input is sweet and precious to me.



Mike Knapp
Antwerp, OH

The grave could not keep Jesus down, nor can this virus keep us from worshipping a risen savior. Hallelujah to the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

If a microscopic virus can do this much damage, just imagine what a mustard seed sized faith can do.

If sin paralyzed this world as much as this virus has, then it would be a much different world. *"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"* (Matt 4:17)

A lie can never become a truth and the truth can never become a lie.



Jesse Abel
Poughkeepsie, NY

Our salvation is 100% about Christ getting glory from it. So it's actually 0% about us!

The true Gospel is Christ centered not man centered!

If we think the scriptures are about us rather than the glory of Jesus Christ, then we have a very low view of the bible and the God it testifies of.

It's not about what we did, it's about what Christ did!



Taveon Dumas
Cleveland, OH

I was once afraid of death. Then I was born again, baptized in the name of Jesus. Now I have fear of nothing. Glory to GOD I'm free!

Be careful not to allow the things going on in the world to change your heart, and remember brothers and sisters, we walk with Jesus not with the world.!(I love you all so I have to give it to you straight.)

When the blood of Christ has washed you clean, no one can hold your past life against you
GOD has not given us a spirit of fear! I will not live in fear of what is happening in this country and around the world!

When you walk away from GOD'S Love, you walk right into Satan's trap!

We should always pray for eyes to see, ears to listen, and a heart to believe that what GOD says will come to pass.!



Brad Cloutier
Decatur, MI

Everyone's minds are so wrapped up in the current events. They keep our minds on the things of this earth. The troubles, the chaos, the drama and the worry and fear that come from it. This is the enemies intent my friends. To keep us from settling in the peace of God. You cannot receive and manifest the fruit of the Spirit when your life is wrapped up in the things of this world. You'll only manifest the fruit of this world.

The left and the right have one thing in common: Neither are the Holy Spirit -- So don't take your cues from them no matter how morally enticing it seems

Don't let sin against you produce sin in you!



Adam Evans
Osceola, IN

You can't live carnal and expect to have authority over the enemy. That's their world. You can't beat them at their own game, you will lose every time. You have to be surrendered to Christ. That's where all the power and authority is. The enemy has no power over a person that has surrendered themselves to GOD.

Some people only come around to sow discord and strife.

These are the people you should be socially distancing yourself from.

You can't just read the Bible, you have to believe it too!



Jason Trusty
Portage, IN

Obedience isn't legalism, it's a symptom of salvation.

We rise by bowing, we live by dying,
When we give what we could never keep
We gain what we will never lose

It is a glorious thing when God's people will allow their traditions to be overcome by God's Word and God's work. It is a testament to the inner workings of the Holy Spirit that indwells all believers.



Landon Reeves
The Village, OK

The only way to live a Christian life **is to compete for the gold medal!**

Are we "the church" of bunch of failures? I have heard so many public prayers in my life about how we fail all the time and we need to strive to be more like Christ even though we fail at it all the time. Speak for yourself. **Some of us are actually going for the gold medal**, striving for perfection, maturing in Christ and becoming more like him every day! I've only been a Christian for 3 and half years so I still have a long ways to go, but I'm fully committed to winning first prize along with all the other true Saints! The New Testament is all about winning!! And victory!! It leaves no room or comfort for failure other than having the chance to repent! So if you want to live your lukewarm Christian life, thinking that God is just pushing the forgiveness button on his remote over and over again, and thinking that simply asking for forgiveness makes it alright, be my guest!! But as for me and the true Saints of God, we press on for maturity, perfection, and victory, **Which is to be transformed into his image from glory to glory!** And it's all done by his our faith and his grace.



Steven Dutes
New York, NY

Just as God preserved Moses while living in Pharaoh's house God knows how to preserve his chosen people in the mist of their enemies.

Birth pains are increasing and many fail to understand that it moves in a wavelike motion. Repent before the next contraction!

I'm encouraging believers to stop obsessing about Bill Gates, 5G and the Corona virus because it's all a distraction. It's time to get down to live a life worthy of his calling

The world is sadly mistaken by thinking they can enter into heaven without being born again. God is faithful. He will provide for you, all you have to do is pour every ounce of your trust in his hands.

God's grace, love and mercy cannot be weighed nor can his power be measured.



Alissia Matthews
Hobart, IN

The prayer that never fails is praying that the Lord's will be done.

The healthiest vine is not the one with the brightest green leaves for show, but the one that bears fruit. I will never, I repeat, NEVER be happy outside of God. ...so the only way is to fix my eyes on Jesus the Author and Perfecter of my faith

Do you "know" Him? Now I didn't ask if you've heard of Him or if you think that you're working yourself to salvation.... I'm asking you: Do do you know Him? Do you have a RELATIONSHIP with Him?? (Jesus LORD and SAVIOR)

What is on my mind!?? Having eyes and ears open to His guidance in ALL areas of everyday life.

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

~Matthew 26:41

BE YE TRANSFORMED

Brother Given Blakely

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Romans 12:2)

THE CONFORMITY THAT IS CONDEMNED

“...And do not be conformed to this world...”

Here is a Divine requirement of which we hear very little in this day. What does it mean? Other versions read, *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,”* NIV *“be not fashioned according to this world,”* ASV *“let not your behavior be like that of this world,”* BBE *“Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world,”* NLT *“Do not model your behavior on the contemporary world.”* NJB

The requirement stated in this verse is one of the implications of presenting our bodies a living sacrifice to God. By that I mean the presentation of our bodies requires this determination. To put another way, to become like the world voids any commitment to the Lord.

THERE ARE MATTERS TO BE AVOIDED

Just as surely as there are things to be done, there are things that are not to be done. There are benefits to be appropriated, and curses to be shunned. Just as surely as we are to love God, we are not to love the world (1 John 2:15). Not only are we to place our affections on things above, we are not to place them upon the earth (Col 3:1-2). We are to not only love the Lord, but hate iniquity (Psa 97:10). This is an aspect of spiritual life that is not popular, but it is absolutely essential if we are to please God.

“CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD”

“This world” is a “present evil world” from which Jesus has delivered us (Gal 1:4). Because *“the world is passing away, and the lust of it”* (1 John 2:17), its present “fashion,” with all of its associations, is also *“passing away”* (1 Cor 7:31). *“This world”* is the realm of temporality, and it has been infected by sin and cursed by God. The cares and concerns of *“this world”* actually choke out the Word of God (Matt 13:22; Mk 4:19). Satan is the *“prince of this world”* (John 12:31; 14:30), and thus presides over its manners. Christ said His kingdom is *“not of this world”* (John 18:36). The *“wisdom of this world”* has been totally repudiated by God (1 Cor 1:20) because it is *“foolishness”* to Him (1 Cor 3:19).

When men do not believe the Gospel, it is because *“the god of this world”* has blinded their minds (2 Cor 4:4). Walking, or living, according to *“the course of this world”* is what necessitated salvation. It constitutes alienation from God and dominance by the devil (Eph 2:1-2). Satan's hierarchy includes personalities described as *“the rulers of the darkness of this world”* (Eph 6:12).

To be *“conformed to this world”* is to absorb its manners. It is to adopt its way of thinking, and to see life from its perspective. It is to be dominated by the seen, and be oblivious of the unseen. Being *“conformed to this world”* means we live for the here and now, without regard to the coming of the Lord, the day of judgment, and our eternal destiny. A person who is *“conformed to this world”* has its set of values, and lives according to its priorities. The *“wisdom of this world”* ranks high with such people. To be *“conformed to this world”* is to be assimilated by its culture - to become one with it, so that one is no longer in fundamental variance with it. *“Friendship”* with the world constitutes enmity against God. Whoever, therefore, *“wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God”* NKJV (James 4:4). Such are people who *“mind earthly things,”* and for that very reason are *“the enemies of the cross of Christ”* (Phil 3:19). If the grace of God teaches us to *“deny ungodliness and worldly lusts”* (Tit 2:12), those who are *“not conformed”* to the world have been effectively taught by the grace of God. Those who are conformed to the world have spurned that grace, seeking to turn it *“into lasciviousness”* (Jude 4).

It is written that *“the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one”* (1 John 5:19). What folly, therefore, to be conformed to it, thinking like it, and adopting its values! An order from which men must be delivered is certainly unsuitable as a pattern for thinking and doing. A realm that is expressly said to be *“evil,”* has nothing of value to give to us, either for the mind or for the body. Its assessments are unworthy of our embrace. Its praise is not to be sought, and its approval is to be seen as utterly worthless.

If the world loves someone, it is because that individual is conformed to the world. We know this is the case because of the words of our blessed Lord. *“If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you”* (John 15:19).

A SERIOUS ADMONITION

I cannot overstate the seriousness of this exhortation. The Western world is plagued with a church that is conformed to this

world. It obtains its credentials from the world, and courts the world with its approach to the things of God. The exaltation, for example, of academics over faith is nothing less than conformity to this world. An emphasis upon worldly credentials is evidence of conformity to this world. Much of what is called "contemporary Christian music" conforms to the world. The counseling thrust of the Christian community is the result of conformity to this world. Conformity to this world puts one at variance with the world to come, and at war with God. The only way survive the destruction of the world, which is an irreversible appointment (2 Pet 3:7), and dwell at last with the Lord, is to energetically avoid conformity to it. The world does have a pattern of thought, and a way of doing things. As a person in Christ Jesus, it is your business to NOT be conformed to the world.

THE REQUIRED TRANSFORMATION

"...but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

More is involved in spiritual life than not doing certain things. There is a fulness in spiritual life that causes one to leave one realm for another.

LEAVING AND OBTAINING

When we are admonished to shun some things, it is in order that we may take hold on other things. Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees in order to go to a land God would show him (Gen 12:1-3). Israel left Egypt in order to go to Canaan (Josh 5:9-10). Elisha left plowing with twelve of oxen in order to follow Elijah (1 Kgs 19:19-20). Peter, Andrew, James, and John left their fishing trade in order to follow Jesus (Matt 4:18-22).

This is the manner of the kingdom. There are things that cannot be appropriated until other things are forfeited. There are lofty climes that cannot be entered until other ones are abandoned. Many a timorous soul has never gained higher ground because of an unwillingness to abandon lower ground. The stunted growth of many professed believers is directly traceable to their unwillingness to leave the realm of flesh for the realm of the Spirit.

Thus we leave the realm of the dead to live in the domain of the living. We "sin not" in order that we might do righteousness, cease to serve Satan that we may serve God, and leave the domain of darkness that we might walk in the light as He is in the light. We refuse to be conformed to this world, in order that we might be transformed. There will be no genuine transformation until there is a determined and consistent refusal to be conformed to this world. And, let it be clear, a change of the magnitude described in the word "transformation" must occur if we are to ever be with the Lord!

TRANSFORMATION, THE MODE OF THE KINGDOM

God is not calling men to reformation: i.e., to simply change their habits. The summons is not simply to a different way of doing things - a discipline of life, so to speak. In transformation the individual becomes different. It is more than living by a routine, it is living with a different set of preferences, loves, and hates.

The word "transform" comes from a word that means to transfigure, or change. The Greek word is *metamorphou/sqai* (metamorphose), from which we get the word "metamorphosis." The change described by this word is like that of a lowly caterpillar into a lovely winged butterfly. It is a change like that of a legless tadpole into a leaping frog, or a loathsome larvae into a flying noisy locust.

Here is a total change that God has imprinted in the natural creation. The similarities between a caterpillar and a monarch butterfly can hardly be found. Neither, indeed, can we study a tadpole, deducing from its appearance that it will someday leap from water lily to water lily, leaving the water and croaking loudly. There is nothing in the larvae that suggests it will be a locust. These crawling creatures go into a cocoon and rot, only to emerge in another form. Interestingly, the larvae cannot reproduce. That can only take place after the transformation to the winged creature has taken place.

Here, however, is a most interesting observation. Those in Christ Jesus, already made "new creatures," are admonished to "be ye transformed!" Our change, then, is not yet complete. While we are presently being "transformed (same word) into the same image from one degree of glory to another" by the Holy Spirit NRSV (2 Cor 3:18), we do have some responsibility in the matter.

“BE TRANSFORMED!... We must seek to free ourselves from simplistic views of the Kingdom that leave us sitting in the easy chair of the flesh, expecting everything will turn out well for us with very little effort on our part.”

We must seek to free ourselves from simplistic views of the Kingdom that leave us sitting in the easy chair of the flesh, expecting everything will turn out well for us with very little effort on our part. Our text

will allow no such conclusion. Solemnly we are admonished, "be transformed!"

An alternate word for "transformed" is "transfigured," which comes from the same word (metemorphosis). When Jesus was transfigured, a significant change took place. His face "did shine as the sun" (Matt 17:2a). His clothes "became white as light" (Matt 17:2b). As He prayed, "the fashion of His countenance was altered" (Lk 9:28). In effect, His inner glory burst through His flesh and clothing, showing Him as He had never been seen by men before. In that state, He blended so well with the eternal order that Moses and Elijah appeared with Him in glory, speaking with Him "of His decease which He should accomplish at Jerusalem" (Lk 9:31). There you have a vivid picture of transformation!

"RENEWING OF YOUR MIND"

And how is it that we are to be transformed? Rest assured, you cannot go through a moral and spiritual metamorphosis by simply changing your habits. This cannot be accomplished by rote - a heartless execution of some mere routine. Nor, indeed, can it take place as long as one is conformed to this world.

Sin has taken such a toll on the mind, that even after we have been born again, it must be "renewed." The mind is much like a sieve when it comes to the things of God. Without due attention, they are soon forgotten, and life is viewed without a due regard for the truth. The renewing of the mind is a renovation project. It is like a dilapidated structure that needs to be refurbished throughout.

The word "renew" means a complete change for the better. It speaks of a lifting of the mind into the domain of the heavenlies. If this does not take place - if we are not transformed by the renewing of our minds - we will "faint" in our minds (Heb 12:3). Through subtlety, Satan will corrupt the mind that is not renewed (2 Cor 11:3).

For those in Christ there is "the law of my mind" that must be strengthened and refurbished with the truth of God (Rom 7:23). It is, after all, with the mind that we ourselves "serve the law of God" (Rom 7:25). No wonder we are admonished, "be renewed in the spirit of your mind" (Eph 4:23). Such a renewal results from girding up "the loins" of your mind, and hoping "to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 1:13).

Thinking must not be the weak point of the believer.

In fact, believing and thoughtlessness cannot mix together. Those who "live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires" NIV (Rom 8:5). They have a "sound mind" (2 Tim 1:7), and "think" upon pure and holy things (Phil 4:8). As their minds are wrapped around the Word of God, pondering it and delighting in it, they begin to "live by every word of God" (Luke 4:4). They are transformed by the renewing of their mind.

There is, in my judgment, far too little of this in the average church. There is little transformation because of fundamental deficiencies in the mind. And, there are deficiencies in the mind because of conformity to the world. It is time for this admonition to be sounded and heeded, spoken and received.

PROVING THE WILL OF GOD

"...that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God..." Just as we refuse to be conformed to the world in order that we might be transformed by the renewing of our mind, we also are transformed in order that we might comprehend the will of God. An unrenewed mind cannot discern the will of the Lord, regardless of its seeming keenness. A wrong mind cannot take hold of right things. An unholy mind cannot benefit from holy

things. An ungodly mind cannot perceive what God desires or is doing. A person has to cut loose from the world to know what God wills. There must be a renewing of the mind before His purpose can be perceived.

PROVING, A HOLY ACTIVITY

"...that you may prove..." Other versions read, "Then you will be able to test and approve," NIV "so that you may discern," NRSV "so that by experience you may have knowledge," BBE and "so that you may discern for yourselves." NJB

"Proving" is an aspect of judgment, of arriving at a proper conclusion, and being able to discern, or distinguish, something. It is to be compared with rule keeping, where discerning is not the point, but merely adhering to a set of regulations that are not understood - like a child obeying its parents. God is not honored by an inability to test and validate what is right and wrong, good and evil, or acceptable and unacceptable.

A person who does not present their bodies a living sacrifice to God will not be able to renew their mind.

The one who does not renew his mind, will not be able to properly test, or examine what is set before him. Such a person will not be able to arrive at a proper conclusion concerning critical things - things pertaining to life and godliness. It does not appear as though this is generally known. Nevertheless, it is true, and there can be no effective contradiction of it. **A person cannot be spiritually discerning while their mind remains unrenewed, riveted to the earth.** Those who insist on leaving their minds in a state of spiritual stagnation are thereby confined to ignorance concerning the will of God. There is no way to avoid this. It is foolish to attempt to do so.

WILL OF GOD

"...the will of God..." It is the will of God that is to be tested and proved. Thus I will address this first, while touching upon the various attributes of that marvelous will, or purpose, later.

The point of this text is the establishment of "what the will of God IS." NASB It is not to determine if the will of God is really good, or necessary, but what it really is. What does God want? What is God doing?

Immediately you see that what man wants is to be given the lower place. It is God's will that is to occupy our attention. Further, knowing His will is not simply a matter of academic definition. The very fact that it is to be discerned or comprehended confirms that it immediately related to us. The will is not impersonal, even though it does not revolve around our persons. We profit from the will of God, but we ourselves are not the center of it. Therefore, as soon as our own wills sit upon the throne of our mind, the will of God becomes obscure. The renewing of the mind, in this case, involves the purging of purely selfish interests.

The truth of this text is stated by Jesus in yet another way. His words are most arresting, unveiling the reason for the discernment

of some and the ignorance of others. "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority" NKJV (John 7:17). That is yet another way of saying men "prove what is . . . the will of God." Being willing to do God's will comes from the renewing of the mind.

It is fashionable to hear this expression in certain circles: "the will of God for my life." I do not question that the will of the Lord is intensely personal. However, that perspective can be carried too far, giving the individual greater worth than the eternal purpose of God. God's will for your marriage, home, vocation, and the likes, is never the focus of Scripture. Moses and the Prophets did not speak in this manner. John the Baptist avoided the snare of such approaches to the will of God. Jesus certainly did not deliver the truth of God from that perspective, nor did the Apostles. This is because the "Truth" has to do with things that are Eternal, not things that are going to pass away!

This does not mean there is no Divine direction on a personal level. It does mean that is not the focus of God's will. If God orchestrates the selection of a wife for Isaac, it is not merely for Isaac's sake, but for the larger matter of His great salvation. Whether it is Joseph, David, or Daniel, the involvement of the Lord with them personally was never just for their sakes. There was a larger context to His workings with them, as ought to be evident. Godly men always spoke of their participation in the will of God that extended far beyond their persons.

In the case of Abraham, it was to bless "all families of the earth" (Gen 12:3). With Joseph, it was to "save much people alive" (Gen 50:20). With John the Baptist it was to "make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Lk 1:17). In the case of Paul, it was to "open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me" (Acts 26:18).

The people of God must learn to think beyond the narrow perimeter of their own personal lives. The "will of God" has infinitely larger boundaries than our lives. It is knowing that will that is the point of this text. Although this will be greatly misunderstood, our assemblies must be noted for a proper emphasis. They should not make us more familiar with one another than with God.

The fact that our minds must be renewed in order to recognize God's will proves how hostile they are by nature. They must be refurbished by grace and truth in order to their proper and profitable use.

- Given O. Blakely

GRACE TO Hate Your Life.

BRO. AL STONER

Jesus said, *"He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal"* (Jn. 12:25).

Our earthly life, which naturally and readily interfaces with this present world, is to believing men a source of great liability. Place must diligently be given to new creatureship in Christ that it may always have the ascendancy in "the life that" we "now live in the flesh," as Paul would say (Gal. 2:20).

He said in another place, *"If ye live after the flesh, ye shall die."* That is to say, if men give unharnessed expression to the part of them that is from the earth, they will eventually be cut off from the Presence of the God who sent His Son into the world to redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. If men are to walk with God in the present age they must walk, acquiescing to what He is doing in salvation. He is redeeming us from all iniquity, having created us in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has ordained that we should walk in them. By the grace given unto us in Christ, we are to continually walk in harmony with what God is doing in salvation. This is the essence of the fellowship that we have with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. It is fellowship in the blessed accomplishments of Jesus Christ in putting away sin, and reconciling men back to God.

"But if ye, through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body", as Paul continues to affirm, *"ye shall live."* Through the Holy Spirit's abiding influence men are to refuse to give expression to thoughts and deeds that are contrary to the will of God. In the diction of Paul men are to keep under their body. They keep it under by putting on the new man, (which is created in righteousness and true holiness), and consequently by putting off the old man. They keep under their bodies by refusing to give expression to the old man and his deeds.

And as Paul said in another place, *"Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh"* (Gal. 5:16). The Spirit's indwelling in believing men must continually be nourished by feeding on the Word of God. Men must acquiesce to this indwelling of the Spirit of God every step of the way to glory. The glorified Christ does not continue to dwell in men by the Spirit where He is not earnestly desired and heartily welcomed. Men are given grace to hate their life in this world by the partakement by faith of life and immortality, which has now been brought to light through the gospel.

-Al Stoner



PRAYING WITH ALL PRAYER

with Sister Adah Hutchcraft

Our Gracious God, We confess our weaknesses and shortcomings today. Forgive us in Your compassionate mercy. Cleanse heart, soul and mind from the strain and weariness of the day. We are refreshed by joy as we turn to You in gratitude. We bless You for the strength and faith You have sustained in us today. We trust You will rescue us from every evil work and will bring us safely into Your heavenly kingdom. To You be the glory forever and ever! Amen. (2 Timothy 4:18)

Father in Heaven, Give us strong and grounded faith that tenaciously recollects Your promises, provisions, healings and deliverances. We desire childlike trust which holds to You for strength, comfort, and direction when tempted by distress. We will flee to Christ for refuge and walk in obedience of faith where Your favor is poured out. Your Hope delivers us from choosing to anesthetize or distract ourselves with fleeting pleasures which harm body and soul. We have a far greater Comforter, the fellowship of Your Holy Spirit abiding within. When He gives us peace which cannot be explained, we will reason that You are at work for our good. We will choose to trust Your peace. You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. In the Name of Christ, amen. (Romans 8, Psalm 46:1)

Father in Heaven, Use our voices to bring blessing and further Your Kingdom. Give us power in word and deed to nourish Your sheep and affect holy change. May our lives be permeated with godly sincerity, faith's assurance, and wisdom not of this world. We are Your vessels made clean by Christ: pour into us Your riches that we may return them unto You. In the Name of Christ, amen.

Holy Father, Today I will entrust myself to you with every step. When the path seems dark ahead, still I know you are a lamp unto my feet, and I will not walk in darkness so long as You are with me. In the Name of Christ, amen. Everlasting Father, Thank You for giving us life. May we give it back to You with trust, faithfulness, and thankful praise. Amen.

Father in Heaven, Thank You for the precious blood of Christ, which is strong enough to cleanse, blot out and thoroughly remove every sin stain. This is our confidence before You: not our own works lest we should boast, but the effectual high priesthood of Christ and His atoning sacrifice. May we stand in this confidence now so it will be our confidence when we see You face to face. In the Name of Christ, amen.

Gracious God, Awaken deeper faith in us. Give us fresh perspective to see You for Who You are, to see ourselves in the light of Your truth, and to see others through the eyes of those forgiven much. May we delight in Your beauty, worthiness, and goodness, which compel us to give ourselves to You unreservedly, honoring You above any other. Teach us to clothe ourselves in truth and grace, regardless of surrounding influences. Banish shame and fear, these weeds which creep into our being when the sight of You grows dim. We believe, help our unbelief. Awaken faith in us and we will flourish. In the Name of Christ, Amen.

Our Gracious God, May we remember to fan the flame of Your Holy Spirit's gifts. Thank You for those who confirm and encourage Your Spirit's work and calling within us. You have not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. So may we hold back nothing in doubt, but boldly believe and obey. In Jesus' Name, Amen. (2 Timothy 1:6-7)

Faithful Father, We bless You for Christ the faithful and gentle Shepherd. He watches over us with great care and compassion and never leads us astray. He carries us when we are weak and weary. Jesus nourishes our souls and satisfies our deepest longings. We need Him always. We bless Him for protecting us against the enemy of our souls, and we trust Him to safely lead us to our heavenly home. Though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, even there we will fear no evil. For the Good Shepherd, our Light, is with us always. In the Name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Father in Heaven, We love you and we want to love you more. Nothing is more pure or purifying than the love of Christ burning within the heart, Your Holy Spirit deepening faith and transforming us into Your image. Thank You for this new life in Christ our Savior! In Jesus' Name we pray, amen.

Our Gracious God, be to me a rock of habitation to which I may continually come; You have given commandment to save me, For You are my rock and my fortress. I will hope in Jesus Christ and nothing less, for He is the same yesterday and today and forever. In Jesus' Name, amen.

Father in Heaven, Daily remind us that on our own we are not as strong as we think we are, and this is good and wise to accept. In You alone our hearts find courage and mercy, for Your grace is sufficient for us, and Your power is made perfect in weakness. We can gladly boast in our weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in us. You make us strong. In the Name of Christ, amen. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Our Gracious God, Wherever we have a voice, may we use it wisely by spreading truth and encouraging godliness. Help us guard against isolating ourselves within our own desires, lest we break out against all sound judgement. In this day when it is easy to broadcast thoughts and ideas, help us carefully weigh what we share and discern the outcomes of doing so. You tell us that those who restrain their words have knowledge, and a cool spirit shows understanding. When we feel strongly about a matter, guide us to pursue understanding and delight in truth rather than taking pleasure in expressing our own opinions. Although we have the freedom to speak, let us consider our eternal freedoms in Christ to be of surpassing value. We are free to strengthen one another's faith, hope and love, and we are liberated to defend the vulnerable. Just as Christ always answered His provokers wisely, let us follow Him by refusing pursuits and entanglements of fruitless debates and wounding arguments. May our voices not become our ruin or a snare to our own souls. In the patience and love of Christ, help us listen carefully before answering others and responding to reports. You bring all truth to light. Give us sobriety and patience. We are called to share, but that call regards the light of Your Gospel. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. May we turn away from all corrupting talk, but share what is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who read, hear and share. In the Name of Christ, amen.
(Prov 18:1, 2, 6-7, 13, Rom 14:19, Eph 4:29)

Giving God, May we take heed as Christ said, and beware of covetousness: for one's life does not consist of the abundance of possessions. Help us mindfully store up eternal treasures which make us rich towards You. This no one can steal or destroy. In the Name of Christ, amen.
(Luke 12:13-21)

Our Gracious Father, We are at times met with unanticipated difficulties. Help us not to lose heart, for Christ told us that troubles would come. Today we thank You for all the unexpected blessings You have and will share with us, for You also promise strength and peace to Your children, confirming to our hearts that Christ has overcome the world. For all that we do not know, we can know You are good, and You are faithful to Your word. In the Name of Christ our Peace, amen.
(John 16:33; Psalm 29:11)

Holy Father, you are the most precious Person in our lives, the One to whom we run and find refuge. Our heart's desire is to treasure and honor You above all else. By doing this our hearts are kept pure. You guide us into kindness, wisdom, discernment, and the deepest of all love. There is no pretense in this joy You give. We are humbled beyond measure to be Your vessels. We ask that You bless others richly though us, that we cause no one to stumble, and that we bring no reproach upon Your Name. You are holy and good. Let Jesus' life be evidenced in us. You pour out Your storehouse of blessing through Him, so in Him we will put our trust. Amen.

Father in Heaven, Thank You for the joys of blessing You by blessing others. It is a delight and mercy to experience the power and comfort of Your Holy Spirit. In the Name of Christ, amen.



Our FIRST LOVE

“I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.”- 1 Cor 10:13.

This is a family talk, and all this assumes I'm speaking to my regenerated brothers and sisters who are living by Faith. The Lord Jesus Christ is our first love, He is at the very heart and center of what we do and why we do it. It is essential for us to keep this first love for Him that we have had at the beginning of our Faith.

Most things in this world, as we continue in them, have a tendency to become boring or monotonous. Things "get old quick" so they say. For instance, if you ate your favorite meal every single day, it wouldn't take long before you began thinking of a new favorite. In this world it is said you can have "too much of a good thing." Over-indulgence in the things of the world always causes an ill-effect to the body, mind or soul. But Jesus is not this way. You can NOT over-indulge in the things of God! There is never an ill effect from too much Jesus! If you continue with Jesus you will love Him more, not less. If you have more of Jesus, you have **simply have more than everyone else.**

We know that there are people who began the Christian walk "on fire" for God who are now disinterested in Jesus. In fact most of us here personally know someone this describes. However, it wasn't because they became bored with following Him, it's **because at some point they stopped following Him!** Something **else** caught their attention, and drew them away. Even if it was something not necessarily what we would consider to be sinful in and of itself. You see, all disinterest in Jesus, is the result of NOT being with Jesus— it's the result of diversion. Not properly seeing Him, not abiding in Him, not considering Him. Which is

strange because that's not where we all started (with Him in view). Think for a minute with back when you first came to believe. Do you remember the first time you were hard pressed by the weight of sin and condemnation? Remember it? When it dawned upon your soul that God was Holy, and you were not? When you were cut to the heart at what you saw yourself to be? A sinner! A wretch!? When your conscience was defiled, and stood condemning you, and the terror that came over you when you realized you were going to have to stand before a righteous and Holy God and be judged!?. Do you remember the fear of God, and the urgency present to find a remedy for your condition? Do you remember that word of truth that was faithfully delivered to you in that moment, and the compulsion you had to obey from the heart?

Do you remember when you first believed?

And when you first made it to the foot of the cross, do you remember when your burden rolled away!?. and when you looked through the eyes of Faith for the first time onto the blessed face of the Son of God? And when you came up out of the water, and were transformed, and "Moses and Elijah went away", and Jesus was all that you could see? Do you remember the joy, peace, zeal, fire and compelling love you had for Jesus, your first love? **Brothers and Sisters, I pray that you are more in Love with Jesus today than you were on that day!**

When we were born into the world, we latched onto the one who begat us— our mother. Every person does this, without exception! No one who curses thier father or mother does so straight out of the womb! In the same way, we who are born again into the Kingdom, latch onto the one who has begotten us unto a lively hope—the Everlasting Father of the Faithful, Jesus Christ— and all His progeny cling to Him. This is the love all believers have at the

start. A true burning love, our first love with Christ. It is hungry, desirous, eager to receive and most willing to express itself. This is how you entered into the Kingdom, and if you did not, I would seriously examine what exactly it is that you believe— or rather who you have been duped into following after, because everyone truly in the Christ presented in the Scriptures shares the testimony of entering the Faith with zeal and affection for the Son of God.

Everyone finds a way, and makes the time to express what they love. Everyone is compelled by what they love. An automotive enthusiast makes it known to everyone around him, because all he seems to talk about are cars. He consistently sacrifices his time in order to do what he loves. People give themselves to what they love! They live for, center and structure their lives around what they love. If they love football, they will buy their team's merchandise, and do not fail to let others know about who they represent. They will make themselves available to watch the games. Some pay hundreds, even thousands of dollars to sit in a freezing cold stadium, hours on end, and still cheer wildly when the game goes into overtime.

If you really love Jesus with a pure-hearted love, you will also represent him by how you live, and others will notice it too. You will gladly sit at the feet of Jesus, even at great cost and inconvenience. You'll make time for Him, because you'll want to make time for Him! You see, Mankind was made in a way, that the primary reason he does things is because of what is in his heart. He does what he loves to do— and is never burdened by time when he is doing what he loves. If living for Jesus is a burden to you, it's because you don't love Him, for *"In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome."* (1 Jn 5:3 NIV)

Every believer is born with an incredible burst of forward momentum in the Spirit - into a big, bright new unseen world, and finds the commandments of God are not only received with joy, but are no longer a burden! There is a healthy appetite for the things of God, and as a result, there is an equally healthy hatred for sin— even the “garment defiled by the flesh” is detestable! When you were born again, God took the Stony heart out of your flesh, and gave you a heart of flesh— a tender, responsive heart.

A heart that craves the truth of God and wants to know and be near to Him. A heart that desires to be taught by the Lord, and sit at the feet of Jesus! You received a love of the truth—a spiritual love, not a fleshly love. Not an intellectual or even an emotional love— although it certainly can touch our emotions. This love is not carnal! It's not a love as the world knows it but as the Spirit knows it. This love of Jesus you had at the first is the compelling force that is initially responsible for men to forsake all competing influences and cling to the Lord with *"purpose of heart."* It's a love that is

“ Jesus is the bridegroom, and we are His bride.

attended by a joy that is unspeakable and full of Glory, and a peace that passes understanding (Php 4:7) Jesus is the bridegroom, and we are His bride. **This first love is teeming with anticipation of the day when we shall be wed to Him, and looks forward to the time when we shall be like him, and shall see Him face to face (1 Jn 3:2).** Some would have us believe that it is normal

for a person to come into the Kingdom zealous, but over time, “mellow out”— but there is absolutely nothing in God's salvation that allows for or causes this. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. And if a person does not have a love of the truth, they cannot be saved (2 Thess 2:10). We are exhorted to, *“Keep ourselves in the love of God”* (Jude 1:21) Jesus said, *“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.”* (Jn 15:9) This continuance is not merely in the doctrine, in work, in patience, in suffering and in trials, (although we gladly continue in these things.) — it's a continuance in love for the Lord.

Today, we live in a time where many people in the church have sadly left their first love. That is, (in the best and most charitable terms) they have some love for Jesus— but they don't love Him like they once did. This is not an acceptable condition before God, and must be remedied! God loves the Son, and He will not accept anyone who does not zealously love and prefer Him. Keep in mind that Jesus told a Christian church that he was *“against them”* because they had left their first love (Rev 2:4), even though they had a punctillious doctrine! This is a serious condition indeed! Satan has devised schemes in order to draw men away from the Son of God of their own will, and it isn't limited to smoking, drinking and gambling. He lures the noble with things that appear noble. We are exhorted to *“take heed, lest there be found in any one of you, an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.”* (Heb 3:12)

There is not just one simple cause for this, but many. For some, they didn't put away that one sin that drew them away, and were easily beset. And some made associations with wicked men, and by evil communications, have corrupted manners. Others have become distracted by the things of earth, and have not *“set”* their *“affection on things above”* (Col 3:1). When you first come into Christ, all things have become new, but you must press-in or that allurement will fade. There is always a pull in the opposite direction. The flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit lusts against the flesh. If you launched a rocket into the air, and then turned the engines off mid-way, your acceleration would slow, and you would begin to fall back to earth, because there is another force acting upon that rocket— the force of gravity. When you were born again, you were oriented towards Jesus, and that first love propelled you towards him. However, if you quit focusing on Jesus, the pull of this present evil world will cause you to lose your momentum. Spiritual life is intended to increase. It is intended to

go from strength to strength (Psa 84:7), and from “glory to glory” (2 Cor 3:18). But if iniquity is allowed to abound, the love of many will wax cold. And Satan, our enemy is subtle! His goal may not to tempt you to forsake Jesus entirely, but to get Him to not be dominate and preeminent in your affection! Just look at what the Church at Ephesus was commended for: their works— they were not idle, but busy working. Their labor— they worked hard for the Lord. Their patience— they didn’t stop working hard! They didn’t give up when things got tough! They could not bear those who were evil. It doesn’t say they couldn’t bear what evil people did, it says they could not bear those who were evil— their persons! They would have rebuked the expression, “*love the sinner but hate the sin.*” They tried those who spoke in the name of the Lord, and were able to reveal them as liars! They were meticulous about what God said. However, **what they lacked outweighed all of that**, because they were doing it apart from a pure and devoted love towards Christ! Their heart was in the wrong place! And you’ll find that’s very much the truth today. **Those who have turned their attention from their first love, who are meticulous about their doctrine are almost always known for a lack of compassion and love for the Lord Jesus Christ and the people of God.**

Solomon saw it even with the limited revelation he had. He said, “*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*”(Prov 4:23) Jesus told us we speak according to what is in our heart. (Luke 6:45). The thoughts and intents of the heart direct not just what you do, but why you do it. In the judgement what you intended to do will be accounted to you, not just what you did. What and who you loved and hated, will all come to the surface. There will be people there who really cast out demons and did many wonderful works in Jesus's name, but because their motives were impure, Jesus called it iniquity (Matt 7:23). Who you know and live for carries far more weight than simply what you do, (especially our service is done perfunctorily.) If after you've examined yourself you find that you are guilty of leaving your first love, what's the remedy? Repent! Do the first works! **If today you love Jesus less than you did when you began, you need to repent and do the first works!** Let your works be done in view of what Jesus has done for you! Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace!

Our love for Jesus is refreshed and renewed by gazing at a captivating Jesus. He is all-together lovely (Jos 4:7) There is absolutely nothing about Christ that is ugly— no aspect of His person that is crude or beastly. He is absolutely flawless— altogether lovely, pure and perfect! When you gaze upon Him by Faith, you are compelled and constrained by love. **We love Him, because He first loved us!** Jesus laid down his life for us! He really suffered for you— without the gate! He really was raised and is sitting at the right hand of God ministering and interceding on your behalf! The prodigal son returned to His Father expecting chastisement and servitude.

But His Father was waiting for His Son, and saw Him afar off, and ran when He saw him coming, and embraced him, and he said, “*Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.*” (Lk 15:22-24). These things are heart language. We need sound doctrine preached, to test all things, and to labor for the Lord, but we also need to speak the things that minister to the heart. It’s a love that while you muse upon the word of God, The Fire burns within. A burning love, burning bright in the inner man.

Our First Love

Do you remember the day that you were drawn?
When the darkness fled and the light had dawned?
Do you remember seeing your own filthy sin?
And were not just impressed but enamored with Him?

Do you remember the day we were born?
Born in the light, so bright and so warm
Do you remember our sweetest lord Jesus?
He was all we saw, there was nothing between us?

Softly and tenderly, so sweet and so kind
He was all we ever spoke about or thought of in our mind
The joy was so unspeakable, and His love was so compelling
This we could not contain, every man we were telling

Of his deep loving kindness we never once deserved
How he took our sin and our consciences he purged
And although we returned, as a servant and so wary
He’s made us his sons and so we began to be merry

Oh the deep love of Christ we all had at the first
Do you have it today, that deep love at your birth?
Since it’s dawning has grown, is it wider and deeper?
Are you longing for the day to see the face of your redeemer?

On that day it will be revealed what God looks upon
The deeds we did were nothing if not done for His Son
It’s not really what we did that carried all the weight
But why and who we did it for determines all our fate

We’re working for the Lord, not just something that we DO
Not just working for a WHAT, we are working for a WHO!
We love Him, because he first loved us, that is very true
If you are not in love with Him, then Him you never knew

If today you find, your love for Him is not as at the first
If you’ll then, return to Him, He’ll fill the soul that thirsts
He’s tender and he’s ready to forgive the soul who errors
Go to Him, the loving one and cast on Him your cares.

Justin Cobb



What are you wrestling against?

"... *we* wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual ---wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12).

- **AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES**
- **AGAINST POWERS**
- **AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD**
- **AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES**

All those who are in Christ Jesus have been summoned into this warfare. The conflict is not theoretical, but substantive. The conflict is real, because the opposition is real. In Christ men are able to resist the Devil, so that he has to flee. In Christ men are able to cast down imaginations, and every high thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

The believer in Christ often experiences periods of casting down and struggle followed by the impartation of grace and subsequent triumph in the conflict. This may very well be the wrestling against principalities and powers, of which Paul wrote. The Apostle was not apprising us, by these words of something theoretical, but rather of a conflict that is very real.

In Christ God always causes us to triumph, and makes manifest the savor of His knowledge in every place. To some this savor is life-begetting, drawing them closer to Jesus. But to others the savor is a savor of death unto death. Men are either drawn to closer by this sweet savor of Christ, or they are offended, and are driven away. And as Paul aptly queried, "Who is sufficient for these things?"

-Al Stoner

The danger of scriptural ignorance

The Sadducees, who thought they knew the Scriptures, yet believed "there is no resurrection" (Matt 22:23), took it upon themselves to have a discussion with Jesus concerning the resurrection of the dead. He chided them saying, "Ye do err, *NOT KNOWING the scriptures, NOR the power of God*" (Matt 22:29). There are professing Christians in our time who also hold to false postulates: i.e- That the resurrection of the dead has already occurred (Preterists); that Jesus will return in glory and reign upon the earth, being accessible to men in the flesh (Premillennialists); that it is not possible to "fall away" (eternal securitists); that the salvation of God guarantees worldly prosperity and perfect health (Health and Wealth advocates). These positions, and others similar to them, have been formed and adopted because of a fundamental ignorance of the Scriptures, even though they are, like the Sadducees, academically familiar with them. The ignorance of God's Word puts men at a decided disadvantage. It also excludes them from "the power of God," which is coupled by God Himself, with the proper knowledge of the Scriptures. — Given O. Blakely

WHEN I SHALL SEE HIS FACE

Brother Lawrence Baldrige

*I CAME NOT KNOWING I WAS HERE,
BUT WHEN I GO AWAY,
MY BRETHREN, BE YOU OF GOOD CHEER,
I'LL SEE MY LORD THAT DAY.*

*THE VEIL OF FLESH WILL TRY TO HOLD
MY SPIRIT STILL WITHIN-
WHEN I THE FACE OF CHRIST BEHOLD
I'M FREED FROM FLESH AND SIN.*

*I WILL NOT DARE LOOK BACK AT ALL
BUT CLAIM HIS BLEST EMBRACE,
TRANSFORMED COMPLETELY FROM THE FALL
WHEN I SHALL SEE HIS FACE!*

LET US.

Brother Robert Cobb

The scriptures are full of the expression, "Let Us". It is the conclusion of a desire or determination. Motive - Moved to action by a "purpose" or "the reason for anyone's actions". God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and man are all moved by motives, desires, and purposes. **But, they are not the only personalities that have motives** - , fallen angels, demons and the "seed of the devil" are also seeking to work their will for a specific reason! These groups are operating with a clear and cognitive agenda that can be identified "by what they are doing."

LET US "THEREFORE"- There is ample reason for us to "cast off" the works of darkness when we realize that "the night is far spent" and the day of the Lord is "at hand." Only a fool would "continue in sin" once they had been delivered from it!- Yet, while we remain in these earthly bodies we must be reminded to cast off temporal things so we can put on eternal things! "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: **let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.** (Rom 13:12)

LET US PUT ON the Armor of Light

LThere is a contingency plan in place for all those who are walking by faith in the kingdom of God- Even though they are not aware of the exact moment that the enemy will attack, they know that at some point they will! The good news is that God has provided the means wherein they can remain "steadfast". After the "armor of light" has been put on the real work begins! The Armor of God is the only protection from the effects of the darkness all around them. There was a time in Egypt when God sent forth plagues. While Israel was exempt from their harmful effects, they still encountered them! One of the plagues was a darkness which could "be felt". There was darkness in Egypt but light in all of Israel's houses. (Ex 10:21-23). How foolish would it have been for the children of Israel to venture off into the land of Egypt, to leave the light to dwell in a darkness that could be "felt"? We are living in a time when the darkness all around us can be "felt"- that is, it affects the person in its presence. The only remedy is for those "of the day" to "put on the whole armor of light" that we might stand in the evil day! God has been kind to us in providing this protection in Christ Jesus!

This armor is perfectly suited for our present circumstance and allows the wearer to reason properly! When you can "see" or understand correctly, you will not stumble in the darkness and be able to perceive the sense of Jesus's words to "take up our cross"

and follow Him! Jesus is not dwelling in the darkness, so "Let Us" who have a desire to see and know God better "put on the whole armor of God" that we may overcome and stand with Jesus on that last day!

LET US "HOLD FAST" Our Profession!

LHold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised" (Heb 10:23) The fact that faith did not originate in us, but was authored in us by God (Heb12:2) should bring us great satisfaction in knowing that the same God who authored it will be involved in the keeping of it. However, we are exhorted to "hold fast" the profession of our faith, because faith is of another nature, it is in fact "otherworldly". Other places we are exhorted to "stand fast in the faith" (1 Cor 16:13) and "continue in the faith" (Col 1:23) We are "holding the mystery of the Faith in a pure conscience" (1 Tim 3:9) All of these exhortations are given so that those who are presently "holding fast the profession" of their faith would remember that this "holding" is not automatic. The scriptures speak of some that allowed these things to "slip away". Some shall "depart from the faith" (1 Tim 4:1) Some will "deny the faith" (1 Tim 5:8) others still have "erred from the faith" (1 Tim 6:10, 21 - 2 Tim 2:18) while others were "reprobate concerning the faith" (2 Tim3:8). While these conditions exist in the modern church, all of them could have been avoided had their "professors" held fast to their profession! The Apostle gives the professor of faith the advantage when he writes "for he is faithful that promised". Faith has had a beginning and it was not by the works of men, but of God. Jesus is the one who "authored" your faith and He alone can "finish it" (Heb 12:2-3). He is not looking for a reason to rob men of their faith, but requires that they keep what they have received from Him. We do not manufacture faith, but are to "hold fast" our profession of it! Our testimony concerning what God has done, and is doing in our lives is essential to our spiritual survival.

"For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself" - Jesus is our chief example in this truth, everywhere He went He testified of the works of His Father. Jesus often brought attention to the fact that it was "God doing the works through Him" in His earthly ministry. (Jn 5:19-10:32) When the Apostle Peter was commanded to not teach in the name of Jesus his reply was precise "...we ought to obey God rather than men."(Acts 5:29). What were they doing? They were "holding fast" the profession of their faith, firm unto the end! "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;" There is grace available to do this! The same one who authored your faith is faithful, and will finish it! It is in this confidence, that those who have made a good profession of faith will continue to "hold it fast" until the end.

LET US DRAW NEAR and Live!

LWherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with

reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire. (Heb 12:28–29) The warfare that is initiated in a person by the entrance of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ cannot be ignored. This is a fight that will ultimately lead to the death of the loser, but is not an instantaneous one. Just as death on a cross was a slow process, so is this “death to sin” that those in Christ are presently experiencing.

We have “Received a kingdom”

Those in Christ are now a part of another domain, one that is heavenly and eternal by nature, yet it has a direct bearing on the temporal world in which we live. This kingdom is associated with “*righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost*” and it will, if entered into, cause those who possess it to live acceptable lives unto God. This present generation in which we live has mostly forgotten that “*our God is a consuming fire*”. The introduction of “*another gospel*”(one that is no gospel at all) presents the death of Christ, for the sin of the world, as in some way changing God's view of sin. This new gospel has catchphrases like “*God loves you just the way you are*” – a saying that ignores the very nature of God! If men, in their natural capacity, could be brought into the presence of a thrice holy God, they would find out just how antithetical their natures are! The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is a “*consuming fire*”! Anything that is not like Him is consumed in His presence! There are no negotiations or appeals that men can make that can change the nature of God! – Yet, the good news is that this “*God of Glory*” has made a way that the nature of man can be changed! – This of course is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

LET US DRAW NEAR with a true heart

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter...Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. (Heb 10:19-22)


There is no advantage in remaining at a distance from God, eventually, everyone will be brought near, at the time of the judgment, when everyone will have to “*give an account*” unto God. Let us make full use of this “*new provision*” we find in Christ Jesus. We can “*draw near*” in full assurance of faith! With our hearts, consciences, and bodies washed! We have not been called to “*beds of ease*” but to a battleground where only those who fight will win, and praise God, they will! Since Christ has taken up residence in your hearts by faith, things have drastically changed! You are no longer “*your own*” but you have become a “*new creature*”. Absolutely everything you once loved about the world has been “*put to death*”, as you walk and live in the Holy Spirit. “*Let Us All*” take advantage of the time we have been given by God to “*let our light so shine*” to those around us who abide in darkness. Let us seek to do good to every man, especially those who are close to the Lord. (Gal 6:10).

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion...." (Gen 1:26) God has not changed His mind! His purpose from the very beginning was to “*bring many sons unto glory*”. He is doing this as Christ works at His right hand, authoring faith in those who were once sinners, giving promises to those who were once without a promise of eternal life.


LET US CLEANSE Ourselves

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (2Co 7:1) We have been called to “*Holiness*” because we are the Sons of God. Those who truly desire to live a life pleasing unto God have every reason to expect being given the power to “*reign in life*” through the power that is at work in us. “*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*” (1 Jn 3:2-3)

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YOU HAVE AN UNSEEN ENEMY
LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO

DEVOUR
YOU

YOUR ETERNAL
SOUL IS AT
STAKE

But God who is rich in mercy, has provided a way for you to wage an effective warfare against the enemy of your soul. The things contained in this magazine are provided for believers in Jesus Christ. To the end that they may be encouraged, hopeful, and continue steadfast in the Faith. In this publication we exhort, and strengthen those who are living by Faith in the Son of God, to keep them sober, vigilant, and able to Fight the Good fight of Faith, and lay hold on Eternal Life.

FROM THE
BATTLEFIELD
SPRING-SUMMER 2020 MAGAZINE