

Life in the Son

A Journal of Grace and the In-Christ Message

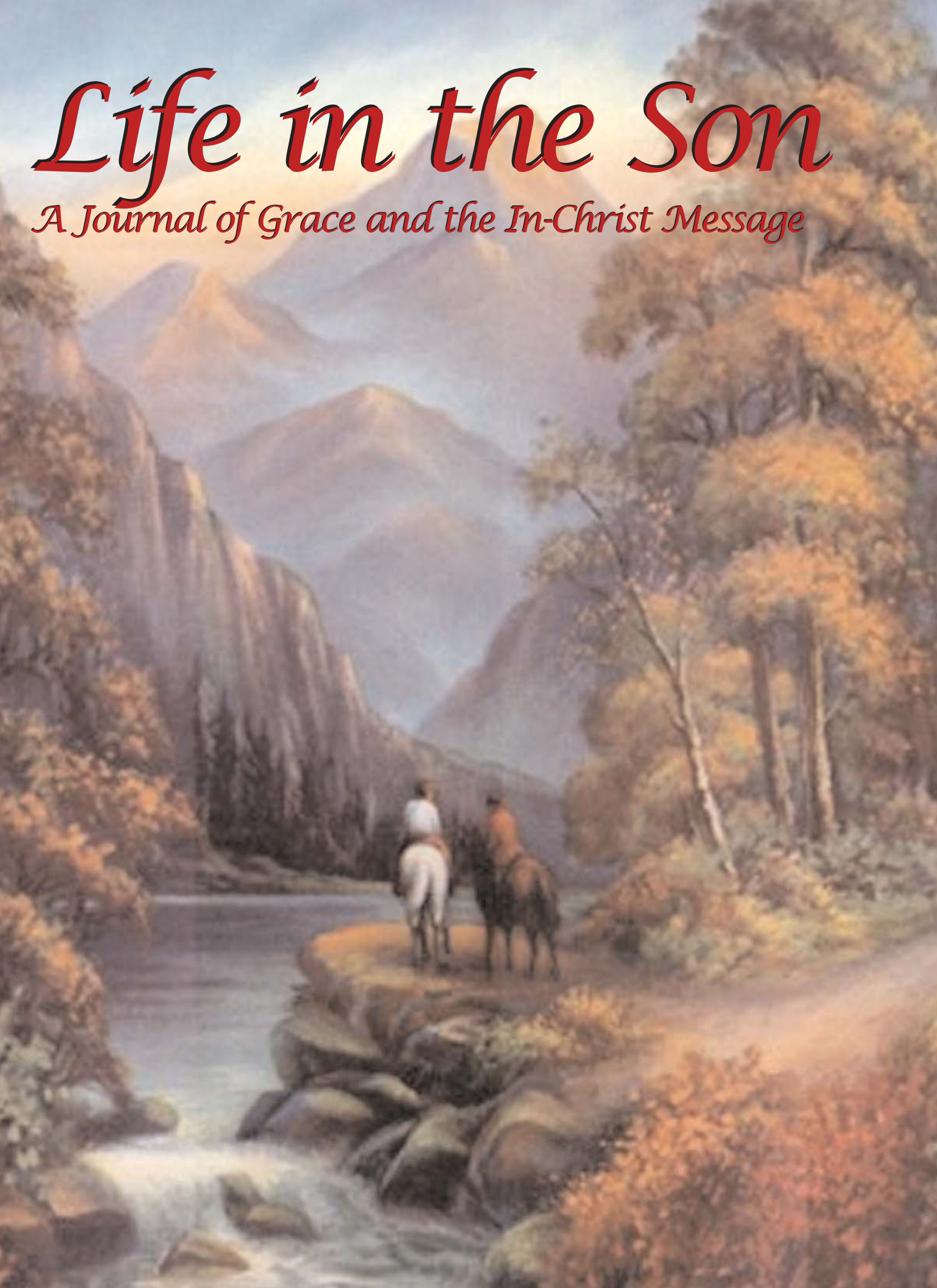


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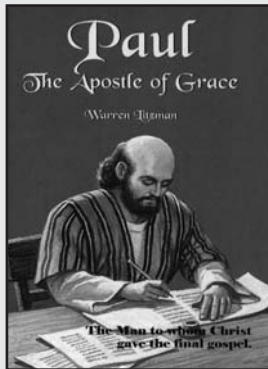
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EDITORIAL

A REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

By Teresa Ferraro

In the end, when everything is said and done, only what is eternal is real. “Everything else is just window dressing,” as Frank Blakeman would say. That means at the end of time, it is only you and God. We will all face God individually (Rom. 14:11–12). What will that relationship look like?

A relationship is more than knowing about someone. It isn’t summed up in cataloging the details of a person. The Bible says even demons believe in Christ; they know exactly who He is. That isn’t the same as believing on Him for salvation, receiving Him as your life. In the same way, really knowing someone, having a relationship with them and moving into an intimate relationship is much more than knowing about them.

A relationship needs communication. An intimate relationship needs more communication. How do we communicate in our most intimate relationships? Compare that to how we communicate with God.

Conversing with God

How do you have a conversation with one you are intimately involved with? Do you make a request then

hang up on them? Do you go see them once a week out of obligation? This is the way many Christians talk to God. We must see how our relationship is so inhibited by our limited and one-sided communication.

We must first recognize that when we were saved we were made born-again (re-birthed) children of God, joint heirs with Christ. This moves our relationship with God far beyond seeing Him as our Judge, as our King, as our Master or Lord, as He was known in the Old Testament. Does He cease being all those things? No. But our relationship moves into a more intimate realm.

I remember a story given by a judge from South Africa who said her daughter saw her in a whole different light than did the rest of the community. The daughter watched her mother command respect in her robe behind the bench directing the court, but behind the scenes her daughter could freely come into her chambers, a very restricted place, and without a second thought she would walk around the big desk and climb up into the judge’s lap to talk with her.

This is the picture I have of our relationship with God. We are His children! He loves us and wants us to come to Him freely and often. He draws us to Him, and He will reprimand us when needed. He provides everything we need. He doesn’t want us to go it alone and fend for ourselves.

So, taking in the fact that we are His children is a big stretch all by itself. After that realization, we can go to Him and ask for a more real relationship with Him, ask to hear His voice. Seek Him and keep seeking Him; never give up. It only happens in His time. He does speak to His children. He shares through the Holy Spirit and teaches us more about His Son in us, about His divine plan, and about who He is.

Paul says to pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17). I think of how we talk to those with whom we live. In the house, in the car, we are in and out of conversation constantly throughout the day, every day. Do we talk to God that way, or do we say the same rote prayer once a day? He isn’t out there somewhere, you know. You don’t have to call Him down from Heaven or

CHRIST LIVES INSIDE US.
THE BIBLE DECLARES
THIS OVER AND OVER!
WHEREVER WE GO, HE
IS IN US. WHATEVER WE
CHOOSE TO DO, HE IS IN
US. SPIRITUALLY, HE IS
OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

wait for Him to show up in church. When we are born again, Christ's Spirit moves inside us to live there forever. *"He that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit"* (1 Cor. 6:17). *"Christ liveth in me"* (Gal. 2:20).

I urge everyone to read John chapters 14 through 17 to see the intimate relationship Christ has with the Father. In chapters 14 through 16, Christ is talking to His disciples, instructing them and describing to them His relationship to His Father, His purpose and what to expect. In chapter 17, He is praying a very intimate prayer to His Father. Read carefully John 17:21, *"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us..."* Read also verse 23:

"I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."

First, notice the union of the Father, the Son and US! Second, how are we made perfect? Through that union! Third, the Father loves us just as He loves His only begotten Son! Wow!!

Look also in verse 26:

"And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."

The Son did what He did because He wanted to share

His Father with us. He wanted us to experience the intimate Father/Son relationship He had with His Father. That blows my mind! No jealousy, sibling rivalry or possessiveness. Isn't that perfect love?

Christ lives inside us. The Bible declares this over and over! Wherever we go, He is in us. Whatever we choose to do, He is in us. Spiritually, He is our righteousness. We still have a will, a mind of our own that can mislead us and needs to be renewed. (Read Romans chapter 8 and note how the mind plays a part in how we live.) But when we seek a relationship with our Father, we must keep in the forefront of our minds that we hold His only begotten Son within us.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father; but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him" (John 14:6-7).

Christ is the only way we have to know our Father. He sent the Holy Spirit to teach us of who? Of the Holy Spirit? No. John 15:26 and 16:13-14 say the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, will not speak of himself but *"he shall testify of me,"* and *"whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."* We cannot know the Father without Christ. Those with-

out Christ will not know the things of God.

Back to our relationship with God. No! Not "God" anymore. Now we call Him "Father"! "Abba, Father!" A most intimate love between a child and a Father!

Now that we recognize that we truly are our Father's children, how can we talk with Him? The easy part is to talk to Him, to monologue and sign off. We praise Him, thank Him, tell Him our wants and needs and go to Him in crises, but we must listen!

The most awkward part initially, I think, is to hear Him, to truly hear His voice. Of course, we start out in His Word. That doesn't mean just read the Bible everyday, but to go to Him before we read and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal our Father to us, to let us hear His voice. Dig in His Word to learn Him, understand what He is doing and learn His plan from before the foundation of the world (See Eph. 1-3). Why did He do what He did? Learn from Paul, who introduces this dispensation of grace from the ascension of Christ and the Day of Pentecost—where God made Himself available as a Father, no longer dealing with us based on His Old Testament identity. If you stay in the Old Testament, you'll only see God as Creator, Judge and King. (There are great lessons to be learned from the Old Testament, but right now I'm talking about our rela-

(RELATIONSHIP
CONTINUED ON PAGE 26.)

LIFE IN THE SON

YOU ARE DEAD...

ALTHOUGH YOU ARE ALIVE

By Johann Grobler

The question came to my mind out of the blue. Or was it the Holy Spirit's way of teaching me?

The question was, Why am I, or was I, spiritually dead? Is it because I have sinned? There are Scriptures that seem to say so. Is it because as a believer, I died with Jesus Christ? There are Scriptures that seem to say so. Or, is it because my intention is to give up the old me so that Christ can live fully in and through me? There are Scriptures that seem to say so.

In order to understand, we need to realize that there is an invisible world that includes the heavenly realm, which is not discernable through our senses nor any scientific apparatus. It is a world where time does not exist in one line dimension as we understand it. To God, a thousand years is as one day and one day as one thousand years (2 Peter 3:8). In the spirit world, you can be joined to something which happened two thousand years ago, as if that event also happened to you, even though you were not around at the time. It has nothing to do with reincarnation, as some might say. It is simply

the way fourth dimensional things work. We don't understand it, because it falls outside our human experience and we can't see, feel, hear, taste or smell it.

So there may be things that happened to you, that you were not aware of and did not feel. You didn't feel dead when the Bible says you were dead in your sins, and perhaps you didn't feel alive when you learned that you had new life in you. What you feel is not necessarily reality. The spirit world, including the human spirit that is part of our constitution, is a reality, although it is beyond our human experience.

The moment Adam sinned the first sin, he died. His body didn't die on that day, but he was dead spiritually. All of us are born from Adam's seed. We were in Adam from birth, and thus born with a sin-nature.

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12).

In this sense, all of humanity starts off being born spiritually dead. And unless spiritual life is

imparted somehow to that person, he will remain in that state.

But there is another sense in which all believers are dead.

Long before the first man walked on this planet, God knew that the first man would sin and bring that state of death to all his descendants. So God, before the foundation of the world, chose man to be in Christ so that man can be holy before Him (Eph. 1:4). And in order to satisfy His justice and righteousness, that demanded an equitable penalty for all of man's sins, God also determined something else since the foundation of the world: the slaying of His beloved Son (Rev. 13:8). He also determined that whoever believes in His Son will receive everlasting life (John 3:16).

This is how it works for the believer: The moment a person believes in Jesus Christ, the Father plants His Seed in that believer (1 John 3:9). That Seed is none other than the Spirit of His Son, Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:9; 1 Peter 1:23). The believer's spirit is now joined to Christ's Spirit (1 Cor. 6:17).

One may ask, *How can that be? How can the excellent Spirit of Christ join with the dead-in-sin spirit of a human being?*

There is a place where the Spirit of Christ can meet the spirit of man. And it starts with the cup that Jesus drank in the Garden of Gethsemane. Again, let us think fourth dimensional here. It was not a literal cup. (See how the cup figures symbolically in other biblical passages as either a container of human abominations or the fury of God's wrath: Ps. 11:6; 75:8; Isa. 51:17; Jer. 25:15; Ezek. 23:31-33; Rev. 14:10; 17:4; 18:6). When He drank that cup, He imbibed all the sins and suffering of mankind, past, present and future (Matt. 20:22; 26:39). It's hard for us to imagine. Remember, in the spirit world space and time dimensions are different to what we are used to. In God's eyes, Jesus became the embodiment of a man that committed the totality of all human sin (2 Cor. 5:21). He had to suffer and He had to die (Isa. 53:3-10).

It was on this level, after he had taken that cup, that Jesus and man were on common ground. It was on a level where Jesus had emptied Himself of all the rights associated with His divinity (Phil. 2:7-8). It was here that He began to experience the most intense suffering. So much so that He sweated blood (Luke 22:44). Having accepted the cup, Jesus was where all mankind was: alienated from God.

From that point onwards He was mocked, spat upon, beaten and scourged, to such an extent that He was disfigured like no other man (Isa. 52:14). This culminated in what was probably the most heart wrenching experience ever endured by anyone on this planet, when He sensed that His Father had turned His back on Him. Then He died on the cross.

Since the Cross, anyone can believe in Jesus Christ as Savior. Like the thief on the cross, anyone can appeal to Him for salvation. The moment that happens the believer is in union with Christ. Whatever was to happen to Christ would happen to the believer. Again we jump back in time to the events in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Apostle Paul explains that the new identity of the believer is in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17); part and parcel of that is that we have fellowship with His sufferings (Phil. 3:10). We were crucified with Him; we died with Him; we were buried with Him, and we will be resurrected like Him (Rom. 6:4-7).

In Rom. 6:10-11 we read: *"For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

The believer was (past tense) once dead in sin, but the moment He became joined to Christ, he acquired a godly nature, and henceforth he is (present tense)

dead unto sin. He has also acquired eternal life in Christ and is (present tense) *"alive unto God."*

Let us consider now the third way in which a believer may be dead.

In spirit, the believer is perfect in Christ. But his soul (mind) has leftover knowledge and reasoning from his old sin-nature and his body (flesh) is morally weak and contaminated by sin. Paul calls upon the believer to put to death ("mortify") the deeds of the body (Rom. 8:13); to cast off the way of life of "the old man" (Eph. 4:22); to have the mind renewed (Rom. 12:2). This is not necessarily a present tense reality for every believer. A believer can still resist and grieve the Holy Spirit.

It is the example of Paul and Timothy that all believers can aspire to. This makes up the third meaning of *death* in this article, as explained in 2 Corinthians 4:10-11:

"Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh."

Conclusion

So the answer to the question posed above will depend on where you are, spiritually speaking. If you don't believe in Christ as

your Savior, you are spiritually dead because you are still in sin through your descent from Adam. But, because you are reading this, I presume your body is still alive.

If you are a believer, you have been spiritually dead because you were born in sin. That was, in a sense, your first spiritual death. But since you believed on Jesus Christ, you were joined to Him in spirit. You were immersed into His death, even though it took place long before you were born. In that (second) sense, you also died.

Then there is a third sense that you as a believer are enjoined to die, and that is to lay down your old self, to present your body as a living sacrifice, to allow Christ who dwells in your spirit, to rule over your mind and be manifested in your body.

But since you have Christ in you, you have His life in you as a present and everlasting reality. You and I can now look forward to the resurrection when we will receive new, pure, glorified bodies.

Another Thought

It seems that after Jesus drank the cup at the Garden of Gethsemane, God was beginning to distance Himself from His Son. There were no words of encouragement from the Father. No Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. But an angel came to strengthen Him. This alienation reached its

climax at Jesus' last moments on the cross, when He sensed that God had forsaken Him. Now this happened because He became sin for us. He carried all humanity's sins. God's righteousness and holiness made Him turn away from His Son.

This was of course a temporary thing. Yet I can't help but wonder if the three days in the grave did not

feel like three thousand years to God the Father.

The story has a happy ending. Because of Jesus' obedience unto death, God has exalted Him highly, giving Him a name above every other name, one at which every knee will bow (Phil. 2:8-10). †

(Johann is an attorney living in South Africa and attending a thriving Christ-life Fellowship.)

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FAR ABOVE ALL HEAVENS

By Don Byrd

"...far above all heavens, that he might fill all things" (Eph. 4:10).

If you are a Christian, the understanding of who you really are is contingent upon your understanding of the Scriptures. If your understanding of the Scriptures is based on something other than the epistles of Paul, then you will miss the secret as to who you really are which is found in the Scriptures.

Every writer in the Bible, except the apostles Paul and John, leaves out the fact that God is our very own personal Father. When believers fail to come to the understanding of God that Paul had, they will have an Old Testament concept of God. Believers who know God as the God of the Old Testament impose the law upon themselves. For them, God remains the omnipotent God who rules and reigns in power and righteousness; righteousness and holiness remains external from the believer and belongs only to God. As long as a believer knows God as the Old Testament God the believer sees himself as one under Old Testament times, rules and regulations. He will think of himself as a

covenant person, a person who needs promises, one who needs miracles to survive in this life. God will remain on His throne *"dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto"* (1 Tim. 6:16).

Will God humiliate Himself to the point that He will run to me and fall on my neck, hug me, kiss me, and put His best robe on me, a ring for my finger, and shoes for my feet? We never think of God in this fashion do we? We have a picture of Him in our minds where He sits on His throne dwelling in the light of His immortality while we are somewhere afar off. He is sitting on His throne crowned with clouds of glory and righteousness from which proceed lightning and thunder. The angels fall prostrate before Him and continuously cry Holy, Holy, Holy! If He left His throne of power and glory and ran to me and fell on my neck and hugged me and kissed me, would not this be degrading Himself? To the contrary. Our Father has waited an eternity for this moment!

This will be a moment which will far exceed any throne upon which He might sit. A throne of power and glory brings Him many things, but it can never bring Him the glory that just one son brings to Him. Listen to what the Scriptures declare:

"He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things" (Eph. 4:10).

This verse declares that Christ ascended up *"far above all heavens!"* He ascended far above the heavens, wherein dwell angels, which have streets of gold and gates of pearl and a river and the tree of life. If He ascended above all heavens, where did he ascend to? He ascended to His Father! God's Fatherhood is far above all else that He is in His omnipotence. He, by His omnipotence, can create multitude of heavens and fill each with glorious angelic beings. But He by His omnipotence cannot create one son! Sons must be birthed, not created. Greater than all is our

Father who has run to us, fallen on our necks and hugged us, kissed us and loved us with His ever expanding love. What a glorious moment this is for which He has awaited through eternity past. This far exceeds any majestic throne upon which He sits and rules and reigns with eternal authority and supremacy. You are the greatness of His glory. As grand and glorious as heaven, the ever expanding universe, worlds without end, and angels might be, in all their glory, all of them together can never compare to just one of those whom He has birthed. They are spirit of His Spirit and life of His life!

No, it will not be degrading for our Father to leave His throne and run to those whom He loves with an eternal, unconditional love. It is a moment in which all creation will stand in awe at this omnipotent God who is Father and those who are His offspring through Christ in them. It will be the crowning glory of Him who is Father. The glory of His offspring is that He is our Father. The believer will never understand who he really is until he sees himself as does our Father. This understanding comes only through the writings found in the epistles written by Paul. God first revealed to Paul the fullness of who He is. Christ Jesus lives in the born-again believer and is his only source of life. Who is

this Christ in you? He is "...the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person..." (Heb. 1:3).

Who lives in the believer? "*The brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person...*" lives in every born-again believer, and this makes all believers very special to our Father! You, my friend, are more glorious than all of creation because you are one of His birthed ones! You, with Christ in you, are the glory of our Father! His Son gave this to you. "*And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be*

one, even as we are one" (John 17:22). You live, move and have your being far above all heavens, which is our Father's house! "*For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring*" (Acts 17:28). You are in Christ and: "*He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things*" (Eph. 4:10). Where is the place that our Father chose from before the foundation of the world as the place where you will spend eternity? In Christ! ☩

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IS THE CHRIST-LIFE THE ONLY CHRISTIAN LIFE?

PART 1

By Warren Litzman

I would like you to take your Bibles and do some Scripture searching with me. First, from Galatians 4:4-5:

“But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”

In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son. I would like to ask you the question in the title: Is the Christ-life the only Christian life? If you have had a revelation of Jesus Christ, you do not doubt this. If you have ever tasted of heavenly things, you do not doubt it. But it is a fact that the majority of Christians do not know about the Christ-life. They know that Christ had a life, that He lived and that He died, but they do not know that His is the life they are supposed to live if they are a Christian. Sad to say, the mystery which was hidden from men of old, through many centuries, is yet hidden from many Christians. It does not make us, to whom Christ has been revealed, special or more important than anybody else, but it does put us in a place where we must advocate a message

that is generally unknown, and anything unknown in Christianity is immediately labeled as heresy, fanaticism or perversion.

So I ask you, is there another life that can be lived in Christianity other than the Christ-life? Is it possible that Christianity is a combination of the Adamic nature and the Christ nature? Is that what Christianity is? Is it possible that Christianity is a combination of the carnal, the earthly and the spiritual? If Christianity is not believers living the life of Christ, then what is it? Is it possible that God intended us to just talk about this deeper, richer life but never really pinpoint it into one life called the Christ-life? Is it possible that He intended that salvation, or any other experiences we have, would overshadow the fact that we are to live the Christ-life? Is it possible that God really intended that there be all sorts of degrees of believers, that there be no common bond, that there be no single stature, that there be no constant image? Was that His plan? Is Christianity intended to be a hodgepodge of believers who are simply saved according to their own interpretation of the

Scripture, and their living never become defined enough to be recognized by others as that of believers of Christ? What is Christianity? Is God ever definitive on this subject?

It has been my conclusion of late in the study of God's Word that one of the surest, most painstaking and meticulous acts of God is to make sure that there is only one Savior, one Lord, one Christ. If my study of the Bible has shown me anything at all, historically, it shows me that there is just one Son of God, and that all the rest of us, to be sons, must be shapened into the image of that Son. The Scriptural and historical record is so clear on this subject.

When God sent forth His Son in the fullness of time, made of a woman, made under the law, He made sure Christ was not just another faithful Abraham. He made sure Christ was not just another good man like Enoch. God made sure Jesus was not a great prophet like Isaiah or an important man like Solomon. In fact, God was so sure of this point that He made such pointed statements as, “A greater than

Solomon is here" (Matt. 12:42; Luke 11:31), so He is not a Solomon. Some men thought He was Elijah or Moses raised from the dead, but Jesus rejected this theory in Mark 8:29 by asking Peter, "*But whom say ye that I am?*" And Peter answered, "*Thou art the Christ.*" Distinctly, He was not made up of any of these other individuals. He was not Abraham raised from the dead; He was not Moses raised from the dead, nor was he Elijah come back. Jesus of Nazareth is a distinctive product of God's eternal wisdom. Carefully, God planned this. He planned that there would be only one Jesus, only one Lord of Heaven and Earth.

He completely obliterated every idea or truth that had ever been thought of so that we would come out knowing without any doubt that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Out of all the world, out of all the billions who have ever lived (Our world today has many billions of people; there was a world of many millions 1900 years ago; there was a world of 150 million destroyed in Noah's flood), God, in His Word, planned it so that just one man would be Christ and, therefore, just one man who would be the life of the redeemed. There should never be a doubt in the mind of a single believer who has ever read the Bible that Jesus is the Son of God, for God has given to us many facts in the

Bible that pinpoint Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

For an example, let us say you wrote a letter to John Doe, 500 East Elm Street, Dallas, Texas, U.S.A.. Zip 75209. Now there may be 15,000 John Does around the world, but out of all the nations on Earth, it is narrowed down to one nation, the U.S.A. Out of fifty states in this nation, it is narrowed down to one state, Texas. Out of all the zones in the state of Texas, it is narrowed down to zone nine. Out of over a million people in the Dallas area who live on thousands of streets it is narrowed down to one street—East Elm. If there were a 500 West Elm, it would be narrowed down all the more by the word *East*. When it comes here, it passes many mailboxes on East Elm. Here it is narrowed down to his one and only number. If there are 16,000 John Does, and you are in the heart of Africa, and you send a letter to him with all of the restrictions against every other John Doe receiving it, it is going to go exactly to the one John Doe you addressed.

Now I believe the Bible is just that clear and distinct in pointing out that Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the Son of God, is our life. I will not equivocate with you; we will go to the facts. The Bible is a letter written to us from God designating who Jesus is, and we should have no problem in locating the Christ-life, for out of all

the other lords, all the other professed christs and saviors, all the other miracle workers, all the soothsayers, fortune tellers, spiritualists, demon-possessed, angels or those heaven-sent, there is no doubt. Out of all of them, the Bible narrows down to the one life we ought to live—down to one single individual and leaves absolutely no doubt. In basics, in rudiments, in programs, in ideas, in faith, in walk, in speech, in hearing, in saying, in telling, in going, in living, in dying, in doing—in all things, we are narrowed down to one single example.

Let us go into the Word of God and see this as it unfolds, how God designates the one Son who is to be our life. In Genesis 3, God began bringing forth a Son in the fullness of time by narrowing the choice of our life down to one-half of the human race.

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed, and it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:16).

God narrowed the Savior down to womanhood, thus eliminated one-half of the human race at the very beginning. "*God sent forth His Son, made of a woman*" (Gal. 4:4). Now there can be no doubt about it. Many of the great truths of the Christ-life are to evolve from this fact. Why is it Paul said in weakness we shall bear our

IF CHRISTIANITY IS NOT BELIEVERS LIVING THE LIFE OF CHRIST, THEN WHAT IS IT?

greatest strength? (2 Cor. 12:9) Our very Savior is produced in God's plan from the weaker half of the human race. He is to be born of a woman, not of a man, and thus the principles begin to evolve out of God's prophetic utterances of how He is going to designate one life to be our life.

In my study, I came across something in the fourth chapter of Genesis that does not have a lot to do with my subject, but while I am this near to it, I want to point it out to you. In the first verse it says:

"And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord."

I did some research on this first verse, and it came to me for the first time that most scholars see, according to the Hebrew, that probably Eve believed that she had brought forth that man child who was to be the Savior of the world, and that is why she makes this statement in this first verse. She only brought forth Cain, but she was so strong in believing this prophetic utterance (Gen. 3:16).

But now let us go a step further. Turn with me to the ninth chapter of Genesis where we see that God now eliminates two-thirds of the nations of this world as being a possibility for bringing forth our life. Verses 26 and 27:

"And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge

Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant."

Shem, Ham, and Japheth are the sons of Noah; all nations of the world flow out of these sons. Two of them are rejected—Japheth and Ham. Only one rises up as the promised seed. Thus, God has eliminated two-thirds of the nations of the world, and said that they shall not have the promised seed. So this Christ-life will not come out of nations aside from the descendants of Shem. If you want further information on this, in the eleventh chapter of Genesis, we have all the descendants of Shem listed, which are the generations of Noah and Shem which have to do with the production of the Lord Jesus Christ as our life.

Soon after this, another choice is made. Out of all the nations that spring forth from this one son of Noah, God eliminates all of them except one. From the seed of Shem comes forth a man in the Ur of the Chaldees named Abraham. Let us read about it in Galatians 3:8:

"And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed."

God has eliminated now, not only two-thirds of the world's nations, but ninety-nine per cent of the

nations that came forth from Shem and has limited it to one man, who starts a nation named Israel, Abraham.

"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ" (Gal. 3:16).

Now God has limited the world down to one single nation and has said that it shall bear the seed. What seed? Christ. This is God painstakingly, meticulously, bringing forth the one single life that all men must have if they have life eternal at all.

Let us go further now. In the twenty-sixth chapter of Genesis, we see God's next step in bringing forth our life. Abraham had several sons. Among them were Ishmael and Isaac. I do not know exactly how many sons Abraham had, for He had sons by different wives, but he had two sons that figure predominantly in the plan of God, and God had to make a choice between these two sons. In Genesis 26:2-4, God speaks to Isaac: *"And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; And I will make thy seed to*

THIS IS GOD
PAINSTAKINGLY,
METICULOUSLY,
BRINGING FORTH
THE ONE SINGLE
LIFE THAT ALL
MEN MUST HAVE
IF THEY HAVE LIFE
ETERNAL AT ALL.

**What is
the
answer
to sin
after
salvation?**

**KNOWING
you are
dead to
sin
(Rom. 6).**

multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."

God has now, in one single family, limited it down to one single son, Isaac.

Incidentally, there is some blessed truth given to us on this subject in the ninth chapter of Romans which you ought to look at for just a moment.

"Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, in Isaac shall thy seed be called" (Rom. 9:7).

Here, in the New Testament Church, the Christ-life message is strongly presented so that they would not believe that Israelites could bring forth a Savior; and so that the heathenistic belief that every man is his own god should not flourish. (This is evidence that the New Age people are in total error teaching that any human can be his own god). God says, even in the New Testament, that He wants all Jews to know that the plan of God is now down to one single son of Abraham, Isaac and his seed.

To continue, Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob. It is necessary for God to further narrow down His plan of bringing forth a son. Let us turn to the Book of Numbers and see God moving once again in a supernatural way to bring forth our life.

"I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but

not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Seth. Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city" (Num. 24:17, 19).

God has now narrowed His choice down to one single grandson of Abraham, Jacob.

I would like you to see that every time God makes a prophetic move He is using the unusual. It is not a natural, rationalized decision that God makes. Did you ever wonder why God chose Jacob over Esau? Did you ever wonder why God chose the least rather than the greatest, the smallest rather than the strongest? Why is God like that? It is because He wants to show us that He definitely is pinpointing one life. He is not using the wisdom of man; He is not rationalizing as natural man would. He does not want us to end up with a life where we get up every morning and interpret it into our own everyday living. He wants us to see that the coming forth of the Christ-life is supernatural, that God must manipulate it. God must have His hand in it; it must be a move of God's Spirit. It cannot be the ordinary; it must be the unusual. If God is going to have sons on this Earth, it will be of His own choosing; it will be

of His own will. He chooses very often the profane, the ungodly, the unyielded, the sinful and the lying, and changes and shapes them into what He wants them to be, just as He did with the Apostle Paul, and now with us. He does so to show that it is not rationalization, it is not everyday normal living that God is interested in, but a people who are supernatural, who are what they are by the grace of God and not by the circumstances of time.

To go a step further, turn back to Genesis 49 and see another tremendous choice our Father had to make. In the natural, it would seem that Jacob literally confuses the plan of God because God allowed him to have twelve sons. Although God allows him to love one of his sons, Jacob, more than any other, He does not allow him to have his way when it comes to bringing forth the promised seed. What a beautiful story evolves from God's choosing and God's eliminating power. In Genesis 49:8-10, we see God's choice of Jacob's sons:

"Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my sons, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre

HE WANTS US TO SEE THAT THE COMING FORTH OF THE CHRIST-LIFE IS SUPERNATURAL, THAT GOD MUST MANIPULATE IT.

shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.”

While man chose Joseph, God chose Judah, who did not have the great thrills Joseph had of rising to be prime minister. You see, Joseph is merely an illustration of the life; he is not the life. So God does not choose the way man chooses. Here again He does not use the things man understands. He does not accept the principles man sees with his natural mind. He chooses Judah.

In Psalms 18:67–70, we see one of the strongest statements God makes concerning our life (Christ). There are some verses we ought to see, and then we will leave them and come back a little later on.

“Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim: But chose the tribe of Judah, the mount of Zion which he loved. And he built his sanctuary like high places, like the earth which he hath established forever. He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds.”

Do you see it? He chose not Ephraim; He chose not Joseph; He chose Judah, the lion. He eliminated all others.

We see again God’s next program of elimination in narrowing down to the one life we should live in Isaiah, 11:1–2:

“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.”

God has narrowed down out of Judah’s family now, to one family member called Jesse.

Time moves on, but the fullness of time has not yet come. Many lives have been chosen by God, but the fullness is not yet come. Let me make an important point to you from Galatians 4, for here is our story, especially if we have been serving the Lord a long period. As we walk with God, learning daily, and until we come to a fullness of Christ through the revelation of Jesus Christ, there are many parts of the Christ-life we fall into. See how many phases God leads us through. He chooses a Jacob over an Esau; He chooses Abraham out of all the families of Shem. Likewise, God continually keeps narrowing down your walk. You may have started out as a Methodist, changed to a Baptist, then decided to be a Pentecostal or a Lutheran, and maybe got married and decided to go to the Episcopal Church. Maybe you wandered from religion to religion and then one day you were born again. All of this is God’s manipulation in your life, narrowing it

down to the a single life He wants you to live.

This is why I say you should never despise God’s dealings in your past life. You see, we have not yet come to the fullness of time; we have not yet come to the understanding of who we are in Christ. God has reserved the right in dealing with His people through the generations to continually narrow them down to a focal point—the fullness of time. This is why so many people ask me why everyone does not believe the Christ-life. Their fullness of time has not yet come.

So now, out of all families of Judah, God has narrowed it down to one family, the family of Jesse. An important point here is that out of all God ever chose, none was so humble, so meager as was Jesse and his line. Abraham was the richest man in the Ur of the Chaldees; Shem was one of the three greatest nations on Earth, but when it gets narrowed down to Jesse, we are dealing with a common, everyday man through whom God would do His greatest work. Little Mary of Nazareth is not akin to Abraham, nor Jacob, nor Isaac, nor Shem. She has her greatest identity in God’s prophecy with that meager family God chose out of Judah, the family of Jesse. They were not great; they were not rich, and they were not famous. They were just common people, but

YOU SHOULD NEVER DESPISE GOD’S DEALINGS IN YOUR PAST LIFE. YOU SEE, WE HAVE NOT YET COME TO THE FULLNESS OF TIME; WE HAVE NOT YET COME TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST.

(CHRISTIAN LIFE
CONTINUED ON PAGE 28)

JOY!

Al Haig

“And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves” (John 17:13).

I have cancer. One year ago the doctor discovered that there were tumors on my esophagus and upper stomach. The surgeon removed one-third of my stomach and most of my esophagus. Recovery was very slow and painful.

Slowly I got back on my feet only to learn that the cancer had spread to my liver with many tumors.

The doctor said the cancer was inoperable and I had only a few months to live. Many people marveled at the way my wife Judy and I handled all this bad news. They said “Why are you so full of joy and peace?”

Now I knew the answer to that was Jesus Christ is in me and He is my certain hope to glory.

You see, in my seventy-fourth year I had a revelation of Jesus Christ. I had been a new creature in Christ Jesus, old things had passed away; all things became new. I now had a rich love affair with Jesus Christ. I constantly prayed this little prayer “I love you Jesus. Help me to love you more.”

Occasionally, I preach at our church, and because I was so excited about Jesus, all I wanted to talk about

was Him. At church, they began to have a nick-name for me, “The Jesus Man.” I proudly wear that title. So, you see why I am at peace with this fatal disease.

Christ, the hope of glory, chose to live in me. If Christ, the only real source of joy and peace is in me now, can I be in self-pity, anger or depression?

Jesus said He was going to prepare a place for us and that He would come again and receive us unto Himself so that where He is, there we will be also.

Paul said, “*For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily*” (Col. 2:9). So, if Jesus abides in me and I in Him, the fullness of the God Head dwells in me. This means that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are in me at this very moment and forever. I am now living eternal life.

In His own good time, Jesus will come for me, and the Jesus in me will jump for joy at His coming. Maybe He will say to me, *Because I live, you shall live also.*

He will give me a new body, one like His glorious body. Heaven will spread out before my eyes, and it

will take my breath away. The fulfillment of that great promise:

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

Now do you see why I am so happy? †

Warren's and Robbie's 2009 Schedule

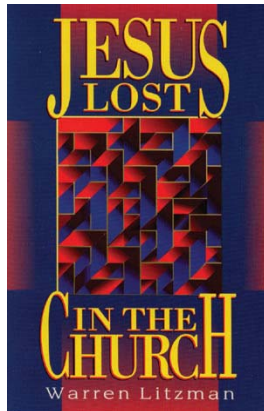
- Sept. 11 Hutchinson, KS 6:30pm**
Contact: Paul Marsh 620-947-2648
- Sept. 27 Rogersville, TN 10am**
Contact: Richard Cassidy 423-921-8372
- Oct. 10-26 South Africa**
Contact: Denise Hayes 27-41-3744741
- Nov. 14 Portland, OR 10 am**
Contacts: Jim Moore 503-357-3051
Karen Nell 503-579-6900
- Nov. 20-22 Weekend in the Word**
Houma, LA
Contacts: Frank Blakeman 985-381-3033
Dallas Office 214-391-0488
- Dec. 4 Hutchinson, KS 6:30pm**
Contact: Paul Marsh 620-947-2648
- Dec. 11 Sacramento, CA 7pm**
Contacts: George Moll 916-660-0309
Joanne Gibson 916-988-7783
- Dec. 12 Pleasanton, CA 10am**
Contacts: Allen Unfried 925-846-8218
Dixie Campbell 510-797-9772
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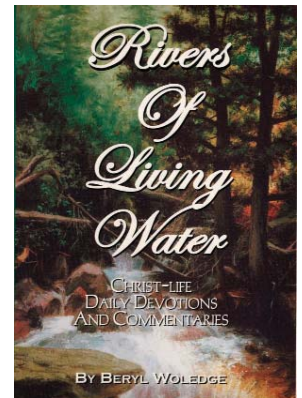
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PIERCING WORDS OF TRUTH

PART 1

By Frank Gonzales



We all know our brother Paul came years after the Day of Pentecost. There were 120 saved in the upper room, then about 3,000 souls, and the Lord kept adding “daily as should be saved” (Acts 2:41, 47). We also know our salvation is one thing, then comes the knowledge. Paul says in 1 Timothy 2:4, “Who will have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” Thank God it only takes a sincere believer to be saved; it’s the knowledge of the truth where we miss the mark.

Yes, Paul comes later, but listen to how he writes, “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and

worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting” (1 Tim. 1:12–16).

Am I missing something here in my reading of verse 16? Paul says “in me first” and “for a pattern to them which should here after believe....” How can he be first and a pattern to them which should believe afterward? (Pattern: the original, the mold, the example.) I was re-reading time and again “The Sufficiency of Grace” by Richard Cassidy in a *Life in the Son* magazine. He says Paul used the word *grace* 81 times in his letters while others only a few times. (Peter uses it 10 times, the most of the others.) Could Paul be the first to fully understand grace and mercy? Could he mean he was first to receive and experience this grace and

mercy? This could well be because we must not forget the way he received his gospel of grace, by revelation of Jesus Christ (Gal. 1:12). It stands to reason that, if I was born again and, years later, another is born again also but he speaks as the first to receive mercy and grace, I would question his claim. Maybe he knows something I don’t. If he did and it came from God, well, you can be sure I would be knocking at the throne’s door. God is not a respecter of persons.

I really believe Paul, the first and the pattern. For sure Paul knows something by revelation we don’t get by sense knowledge. Is this the reason the enemy works overtime to stop believers from following Paul, who follows Christ? (1 Cor. 11:1) When I first read Romans 1:2, I thought I was to read the Bible to have my mind renewed and be transformed. Not so! In the Old Testament, the “old man” does not have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 1:16). No

way! If I am to be transformed, I need the mind of Christ; and to have this, I must stay close to Paul and his writings. Peter, when he first preached, didn't know this. How can Christians not see this?!

Why is it that Christians don't understand that in the book of Acts, when it says, "*They spoke the word of God with boldness*" and, "*the word increased*" and, "*many received the word*" (Acts 4:31; 6:7; 8:14, and other places), that the "*word*" spoken was not New Testament word. Paul is not even around yet, and hasn't yet written any letters.

Peter preaches that they must repent and be baptized. Did Peter know "*that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them*" (2 Cor. 5:19)? Did Peter know (remember, Jesus told them) that the Holy Spirit came to reprove the world of sin "*because they believe not on me*"? (John 16:9) Did Peter know that our message to the world is the reconciliation message (2 Cor. 5:19)?

Peter was a witness that Jesus was raised from the grave, but did Peter know that the old Peter died with Christ and was raised with Christ? (Rom. 6:1-6) Did Peter know about the new covenant (Heb. 9:15-17). Peter understood the law, but did Peter know that "*Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth*" (Rom. 10:4)? Did Peter know that

the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith (Gal. 3:24)?

My fellow Christians, Peter did not know any of these truths because they and much more were written by Paul, and Paul had not yet received the gospel of grace. Peter was a good preacher, but not according to New Testament knowledge (Rom. 10:2). Let me say that God did bless and God did save people like He does today, even those who preach law, but is it because Jesus "*ever liveth to make intercession for them*" (Heb. 7:25)?

In Hebrews 5:2, the Word says that the high priest had compassion on the ignorant and on them that are out of the way. Jesus is today our High Priest (Heb. 4:15). How He must intercede for us!

So please let us move past Peter, who had much to learn, and follow Paul, as he follows Christ. Peter did say that Paul had wisdom given to him, that there were things hard to understand (2 Peter 3:16). Of course, the gospel of Paul came by revelation, that of Peter by sense knowledge. I mean, how hard is it to understand do's and don'ts. This was given to me when I was a child, and there were no Christians around.

We in the Christ-life message believe the body is but a container. We also have a soul and spirit. I will use Hebrews 10:5-7 and a few other Scriptures to focus on

these three things: spirit, soul and body.

"Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, sacrifice and offerings thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, lo, I came (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will, O God."

The first thing to point out is that this is Jesus speaking, Jesus as spirit. He is saying that the Father has prepared Him a body, the container. This body will be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. So far we have Jesus as spirit, and a body which will be the container.

In Mark 14:33-34, the Word says,

"And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; and saith unto them, my soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch."

So we have Jesus as spirit, body as container and a soul that is exceeding sorrowful. The Word does say that we are spirit, soul and body (1 Thess. 5:23).

When God created man, He started with the body, which was made from the dust of the ground. So the container was the first to be created. In Scripture, it is called a temple.

"Jesus answered and said unto them, destroy this temple and in three days I

will raise it up...but he spoke of the temple of his body” (John 2:19, 21).

The Word says that God breathed into Adam’s body, and Adam became a living soul. So, we have a body and a soul. The soul is made of the will, the mind and the emotions. Adam was purely soulish.

“And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural, and afterward that which is spiritual” (1 Cor. 17:45–46).

Did you notice that the first was not spiritual? Adam was a living soul, with no god-spirit! Because God, who is eternal, breathed into Adam’s body, Adam’s soul is eternal also. The Amplified Bible has something to say about God, man and eternity:

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He also has planted eternity in men’s heart and minds [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy], yet so that men cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end” (Eccl. 3:11).

Inside every human body dwells a soul that connects him with almighty God. Some have chosen not to believe this to be true, and so their souls are not satisfied by God. Others have

believed, and so by learning from God enter into rest well satisfied. Amen.

So, God breathes into Adam’s body, the body comes alive, and now Adam can think, reason and have emotions. Adam can now will. But Adam is a created being; he is not birthed of God. Adam is not a son to anyone. He is just an innocent, soulish man.

When Adam sins, it is but a soulish sin. He willed to sin against God, and here Satan’s seed enters into Adam. Satan’s seed makes Adam his child. Adam is spiritually dead. He must be born again! So, now we have a body from the dust of the ground, a soul with the wisdom of the world and a spirit born of Satan. Those who are not re-born by the Spirit of God are still born by Satan. These have a mind full of the wisdom of the world. They are guided by the senses, the emotions, the will of their father, Satan. The old man is born and will live in the lives of mankind until he understands that he was nailed to the Cross of Christ and rendered powerless.

From this time on, God will deal with people who are dead to Him. These people are ruled by the seed of Satan in them. They are worldly, sensual and devilish (James 3:14–15). They are carnally minded, spiritually dead and fleshly. They have a mind that is enmity against God for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be (Rom.

8:7). They are of this world and Satan is their god (2 Cor. 4:4). They live in darkness, in sin, in the spirit of death, in the flesh, alienated from the life of God (Eph. 4:18). All of this came about because of one sin.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned” (Rom. 5:12).

God now has to work with “I see, I believe” kind of people. Many of the church today don’t understand that miracles, signs and wonders are mostly for unbelievers, to draw them to God.

“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (John 20:30–31).

So many Christians are going from place to place seeking signs and wonders from the Lord. They seek the Lord here and there to see what He is doing these days, *He is here. No, now He is over there doing something new.* They look for the Lord everywhere but inside them. *“Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29).*

The Lord had to show them something outwardly to keep them focused on Him. The faith movement of today uses Old Testament

INSIDE EVERY HUMAN BODY DWELLS A SOUL THAT CONNECTS HIM WITH ALMIGHTY GOD.

Scriptures (anything before the crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord is Old Testament) to teach Christians faith, and this is wrong. I'll not get into this subject of faith because it is not the subject I'm into now, but take it from me, faith before and after the Cross is different.

We are still focused on the spirit, soul and body. The soul-mind is where knowledge is taken in and stored. When Moses comes on the scene and is given the law, it was given to keep them under control, keep them busy. I personally know pastors who have "a home" for drug addicts. These residents must keep all kinds of rules if they are to stay there. From day-break until night, they work steadily in schedules and meetings, doing their duties of the day, their prayers, Bible studies, church and all the activities that goes with the ministry. The purpose? To keep them busy-minded on the ministry lest they start thinking about the streets where they came from. Even with all to do, some still leave, break away and go back to the streets. There are many who stay because the Lord touched their hearts and they believed and were born again. But if one thinks about it, they all were spiritually dead. The pastor works with them on a fleshly, carnal level. Unless they are born again, the seed of Satan dwells in

them. There is nothing spiritually good in them or coming out of them.

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me but how to perform that which is good I find not" (Rom. 7:18).

These are the kind of people God had to work with. He kept them busy with all the types and shadows and figures with "worldly sanctuary" (Heb. 9:1) and "carnal ordinances" (9:10), with laws that made nothing perfect (Heb. 7:19), and so on. Their minds were filled with the world on worldly things, religious things. Of all the people, Jesus rebuked the religious people more than any.

So now we can see the state of mind Peter was in and why we needed a Paul. At least the Gentile world was without all of this in their minds. I told a Christian prisoner, "It's easier to teach baby Christians than those who have been Christians for a good time. These are so full of laws and doctrines and commandments of man that they make the Word of God void" (Mark 7:7-13).

We cannot blame Peter and the rest because they preached what they knew to be true, that

"The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son, Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the

presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But you denied him, the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the grave; where of we are witnesses" (Acts 3:13-15).

This is the sum of what they knew. At this time, getting people baptized was very important to Peter and the rest, for Jesus told them to do this (Matt. 28:19). Here is where so many Christians miss it. "Well, Jesus said to do it; we must obey." Yes, but if so, then obey Matthew 10:5-6:

"Go not into the way of the gentiles and unto any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

According to these two commandments, you are to preach to Jews only.

This, of course, was what Peter and the rest were doing, but they didn't know that Jesus died for the Gentiles, too. (I just can't figure out these teachers, how they can be so blind to plain facts written in the Bible.) But this is all they knew, and this is what they preached. The Word of God did spread; it did increase; they "*spoke the Word of God with boldness,*" and "*many received the Word,*" but my friends, it was all Old Testament preaching. It had nothing to do with what Paul received

from the Lord. (Yes, God will pick up where he left off with his people, the Jews, but for now Israel is left outside of present truth.) Revelation is so clear; I mean one can see the error where “another gospel” is preached. Paul went through a lot and yet he taught about entering the rest of God (Heb. 4:1). I doubt he had any rest. No wonder he teaches so much on grace, here is one who really needed God’s grace—so do we who are trying to teach the same. So many wish to be transformed by the renewing of their minds (Rom. 12:1–2), but if they want to accomplish this from the Old Testament, they will only get a head full of sense knowledge.

When I was an inmate at the Texas prison, I taught the Christ-life to a group. The Lord blessed me with some who caught on pretty quickly. One day, they were passing out mail, and they called my name. I got up and took my letter. It had my name and number, but it didn’t have a return address so, to this day, I have no idea who wrote it. It was signed “A brother in Christ.” It was a three-page letter. This brother condemned me from top to bottom, dipped me in Hell so many times (figuratively speaking), I was almost convinced I belonged there. Why? Because I was following Paul, man, and not Christ. I was misleading God’s people and because

of this I was condemned by God. I went through many changes because of this one letter. Everyone was a suspect to me since I didn’t know who wrote it. All I know is that by the grace of God, I finally put it behind me, after a good while. But why did this all start? One of the brothers who was in the group came to me crying because two groups confronted him. One wanted him to get baptized in the name of Jesus according to Acts 2:38, the other in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost according to Matthew 28:19. The brother wanted to know which was the right baptism. Because he was young in the Lord, he didn’t want to offend either one, plus he wanted to please the Lord. Boy, did I need wisdom here!


Well, the only thing I offered was for him to read Romans 6:1–6 and decide for himself. Glory to God a few days later, he came to me and said, “It really doesn’t matter, and so I won’t hurt either group. I will not get baptized!” Praise the Lord, was that of the Lord or what? Yes, Jesus said to do it, and Peter did baptize in the name of Jesus, but Paul is not on the scene yet. Paul has not written his letter to the Colossians where it says, *“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumci-*

sion nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all and in all” (Col. 3:10–11). Amen.

The most important thing about the final gospel is the person of Christ, our Lord, and our union with Him in death and now in life. †

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MODERN PRISON EPISTLE

THOUGHTS ON THE MESSAGE

By Richard Moore

When I first came into the Christ-life message and found out Christ was the incorruptible Seed in me, it opened a whole new understanding of God. I had been around Christian circles for a while, and I had never heard this. Now, when I tell others Christ is the incorruptible Seed in them, they inevitably tell me (well, almost inevitably) “Yeah, I knew that.”

This is the dilemma we find ourselves in as Christ-life believers. What will break through the veneer of spiritual pride and the false security of their doctrines? Nothing, except dissatisfaction in where they are in God, and an openness to moving on in the things of God. The Christ-life is totally need-based. This is the part of the equation that must be left up to God. This puts the emphasis on my living of Christ. In so doing, I am creating an awareness of something people can be drawn to. The Father then brings people into my life with whom He is dealing. This is how the message has unfolded in my life. This doesn't mean I don't make manifest the knowledge of God wherever I am—it is Christ alive in me

making His Father known. But unless the Father has prepared a heart, there is no possibility of them receiving this message. In the meantime, what I have to say is roundly rejected by religion. But this I know: a true testimony of Christ is being made, and those whom the Father has prepared can be led into a deeper understanding of what He has done. I'm afraid it is the sufferings of Christ—mostly by our brethren in the Lord. But it is being led from glory to glory, even by the Spirit of the Lord. Who could ask for anything more?

I'd like to share the following anecdote if I may, and some insights the Spirit shared with me. I was watching a piece on George Foreman (the ex-boxer) giving his testimony. Apparently he had lost a big fight and afterwards he had some sort of near death or out-of-body experience where he met the Lord. When he regained consciousness, the first thing he said was, “Jesus Christ has come alive in me!”

This is the understanding he initially got from God. That's where man and religion get in the way; they say,

“No, that's the Holy Spirit.” If, from our inception into Christ, we would listen to God, the only thing we would ever get is the revelation of Jesus Christ. But because of man and religion, we start out wrong, and it can be a long way back around to the simplicity of Christ in you. Oh well. It's good to know the truth.

I'll close with the following story: Several years ago, I had the privilege of leading a brother (fellow prisoner) into the Christ-life message. He had been raised Catholic. Sometime in his 20's he found his way into a mainstream denomination and was born again. But that gospel and spiritual environment was unable to sustain him, and he eventually fell away into a devastating drug addiction that cost him his family, resulted in a lengthy prison term and left him psychologically impaired.

The Lord healed his mind and restored his mental faculties. He becomes emotional whenever he speaks of it, as you can imagine. When you've done that to yourself, you have no right to expect you might ever regain it.

When I met him, he was a very knowledgeable brother in the Lord. He was

enrolled in a Bible college seminary-level course. I began sharing the Christ-life message with him (with not an unusual or inordinate amount of resistance or objection) and through our talks and some materials, I shared the Spirit, ministered the truth and Christ was revealed. We had some precious talks where the Spirit of revelation was so present in our fellowship. We were blessed.

One morning as I awoke in the early hours, the Spirit gave me, for lack of a better term, a vision, if you will. It was a manifestation of the Spirit I had experienced before so I was not unfamiliar with it. I saw in the Spirit a bright neon sign flash two

words: THE BEST. As I lay there thinking, I was unsure what it meant and I pondered it the rest of the day. Later that afternoon or evening, we were having one of our talks. He was recounting the spiritual journey he'd been on, the staunchly Catholic background, being born again, the loss of his mind and the Lord healing him, to where he was now. At that moment I knew what the Lord had said to me. I told my friend, "Through it all, look where the Lord has brought you, to the best understanding of the gospel that exists in the world." I already knew that, but now I knew it unequivocally. It was a moment we both knew was from the

Lord. God's grace had triumphed most wonderfully in his life.

That's what the Father has entrusted us with. Let us be faithful stewards, live Christ, desire God's best. Fruit will be brought forth which glorifies God. I am so blessed to be a part of seeing peoples' lives transformed through the revelation of Christ in them. Nothing is more meaningful to me, nor ever could be. This is when you know the Father's purpose is being realized. My single-minded pursuit to know Christ is a direct result of the Father removing every other pursuit in my life. I'm so thankful he did.

Grace and peace to you. †

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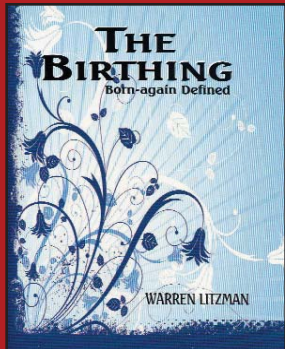
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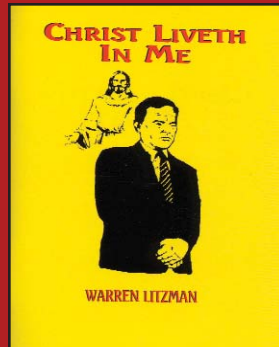


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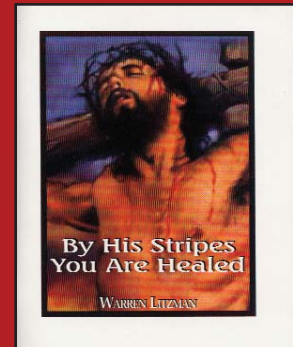
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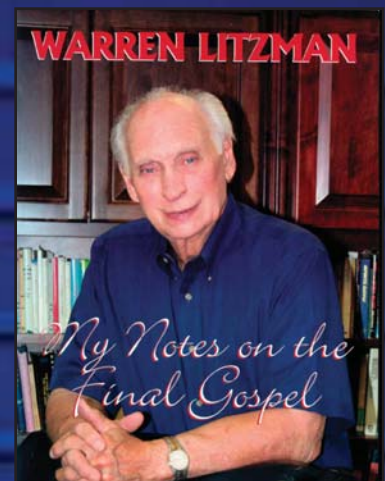
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TESTIMONY FROM SOUTH AFRICA

By Don Johnstone

Dear Warren and Robbie, I praise our Father in Heaven for the day you came into my life. I was introduced into the Christ-life by a very dear friend, Louis Downie, who in turn put me into contact with Trevor and Denise Hayes who I knew from more than 45 years ago.

This message really puts me at peace with myself and gives me the ability to cope with the truths in life. There is so much that I could write about of my past life thinking that I was a good Christian, but now realize that I did not have a clue what the word meant.

This is the seventh year that we, my wonderful wife Suzette and myself, have attended the conferences in Port Elizabeth.

Christ-life gives me the ability to be at absolute peace with myself and the strength to accept the tragedies in life!

March 2003, my youngest daughter, Desirée, at the age of 32 died in a tragic shooting accident. I can't go into the details, but my wife and I were devastated. Desi, as we called her, never had the opportunity to attend a Christ-life conference. I'll never forget the last time I spoke to her face to face. I said, "Desi, there where you

work, you must try and teach those people about Jesus." She looked me straight in the eye and said, "Dad, I don't want to try and teach them anything. I just want them to see Jesus in me!" You have no idea what these words mean to me; what peace they give us, the ability to live and accept her death, but also to know that she is not dead because God's Word says that if you believe you have eternal life. So, if you have eternal life, you cannot die. So we live with the knowledge and peace that Desi is dead, but she lives! What peace!

Two and a half years ago, I suddenly started to have a heart attack, so I rushed myself to the doctor. The result was I had an emergency quadruple heart bypass. The surgeon said to me that I was in a very bad state. He gave me a fifty percent chance of survival and warned me that I could easily die on the operating table.

I would go around saying Desi is dead but she lives, but then I was looking death straight in the face, where did I really stand with my big mouth? I then thought about my child, and I thought, if she can go through death, so can I. Immediately, the Spirit said to me, *You are a believer. If*



you believe you have eternal life, therefore, you are not going to die. You are either going to wake up here on Earth or in Heaven.

That gave me incredible peace, calmness and relaxation, and I went into the operating theatre with zero fear. I had also just read Acts 17:26, which says your time is pre-appointed, so I also know that if it was my time I was going to die, and if it was not, I was not.

What a wonderful way to live, knowing that Christ is our all in all; knowing that we do not have to face death; knowing that we died on the cross with Christ and knowing that we already are eternally alive in Him and He in us! What indescribable peace!

I remember many years ago, I was in a very charismatic church, and the pastor asked if there were any prayer requests. Up went my hand and I asked, "Please pray for me that when I read the Bible I can understand it and remember it." He answered, "No. I cannot pray for something like that



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for you, because I have been in religion all my life, and I don't remember everything and still don't understand it, so you who are at the age of fifty-something only starting now will never understand it or remember it. I was very upset then, but I sat down and opened my Bible and my eyes fell on John 14:26:

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

I put my hand up again. He said, "Yes, Don, what now?" So, I said, "You don't have to pray for me, just listen to this." He did not like my reaction, that I won't learn anything about Christ from man, but only through the Holy Spirit.

I read your books, listen to you talk at the conferences and listen to your tapes over and over again. Sometimes, I don't hear a word that you say, and other times it hits me like a bomb.

Thank you so much for your dedication and love for us. Suzette and I love you very much. †

**Not
WWJD
(What
Would
Jesus
Do?)**

**But
CLTM
(Christ,
Live
Through
Me)**

(RELATIONSHIP CONT. FROM P. 4)
tionship with our heavenly Father in this dispensation when salvation is available through belief and acceptance of His Son.) The most intimate relationship with our Father, after those chapters in John, is pointed to by Paul and revealed by the Holy Spirit in God's time, not ours.

Once this realization hits you, when you do hear His voice, when you can and want to talk to your Father all the time, you no longer act as a Christian, because you aren't acting. You stop guessing, "What would Jesus do in this situation?" The effort to "be a good Christian" just stops. Now you talk to your Father regularly. You ask Him, "What would you have me do?" It takes practice to recognize that first voice that comes to you, before you reason it

away. It takes time to totally trust His voice. Some things you will hear you may not like, you will want to ignore. Sometimes, without asking Him, you'll get a nudge out of the blue to do the most unexpected things, and when you follow that nudge, you see the Father's plan unfold. Many times you may do things and not know why except that you were told to do them. When you make a mistake or sin, the Spirit of truth (John 14:17) convicts you in your mind and you repent and move on.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom. 8:1).

You simply become engrossed in this relationship and no longer have to live life on your own, trying to be good,

looking out for sin, checking some checklist of Christian characteristics.

We were created to have a very real relationship with our Creator, not to act good. (After all, acting good is no more than exercising the knowledge of good and evil, which equates with trying to be your own god.) Our Father wants a relationship so intimate that in the Word it is likened to both a Father/child love and a bride/groom love. How much more intimate could we get? How many people get saved and live their whole lives not knowing this intimate love with their heavenly Father? In the end, when everything is said and done, you will stand before God. Will you come to Him only knowing Him as Judge or King, or will you know Him as your Father? †

INTO AND OUT OF THE FIRE

By Cliff Gardner

It is so hard to watch so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ heading for the suffering of going through the fire on their journey to knowing Christ in them as Life. To me, it is a grievous thing. My desire is to be with those who have been through the fire. They may be still smoldering, burned and smell like smoke, but they are beginning to understand what life is all about. They may have failed miserably—and maybe are still failing yet—but they are becoming aware of the

fact that “*in them (in their flesh) dwelleth no good thing*” (Rom. 7:18). This breaking is aimed at making them open to go on in seeing and understanding “*Christ in them, their hope of glory*” (Col. 1:27).

I could wish that my heavenly Father would grant me the luxury of choosing with whom I would associate, but in His sovereign will and plan I must submit to His choosing. My heart is very burdened for those who must bear the harvest of the mixing of law and grace, which

the Apostle Paul spoke of in his letter to the Galatians, but alas, I cannot force them into my timetable. I must trust in His. For me to give them up to Father is not an easy thing to do. For me to give up my self-effort to give them shortcuts is even harder.

In all of this, I am learning to hope in Him and let His timetable take effect. I, only through Christ in me, must be open and available to affirm and uplift these dear pilgrims on their way to the Father’s House. †

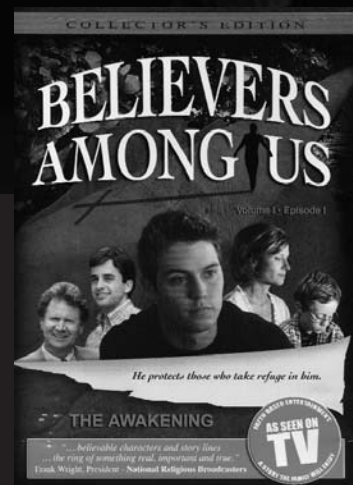
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that is where Mary has her identity, for the Scripture says that she came from the house of David, the seed of Jesse. Only God could have planned it like that, for He is bringing forth MY LIFE. This is the history of my life; this is the background of the life I now live in Christ Jesus.

Now, looking back into the family of Jesse, we turn to Psalms 132:11-13:

“The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne. If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore. For the Lord hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.”

Where is Zion? We have seen now for the third time that the Scripture calls the man God chose as His promised seed to be Zion. What an interesting thought. Now, Jesse had eight sons. Another divine choice must be made. Who will God choose out of these eight sons? We saw that Jacob had twelve sons, and he believed the one chosen would be Joseph, but God rejected him and took Judah. Now we have Jesse with eight sons. Since God did not choose the youngest of Jacob, surely He will not choose the youngest of Jesse, but you see, that is

man’s reasoning. God is in the process of bringing forth MY LIFE. The life that I now live (Christ) is not going to be manipulated by human hands. You will never put His life in a box and tie it up with a ribbon and call it worship. You are never going to put Him in rituals and ceremonies. He is not going to fit into man’s plan. He is going to break loose from it.

His life is always different from man’s. You can come to a service ready to sing your song, but He may want you to shout. You can come ready to preach, but He may want you to deliver the sick. You can come ready to pray, and He will want you to sing. You are not going to put His life in a box. You will never write the life of Christ on a program and say, *At 10:00 we will do this; at 10:15 we will do that.* Jesus is not the product of man. Contrary to what man would have done, God did not want the youngest of Jacob, yet He did want the youngest of Jesse. So He took the little lad from the backside of the desert where he was herding sheep and chose him to be the promised seed who would bring forth MY LIFE.

Do you see what He is doing? Let there be no man’s wisdom here. The life I now live in Christ Jesus is God’s product, not man’s. People used to say to me, “You should not preach to the sinner that Christ is a mystery. Just preach the simple gospel

and tell them how to get saved.” My friends, that is not the Word of God. In a sense, the gospel is so simple that if anybody will accept it by faith they can be saved; but in another sense, you do not understand it. I cannot understand the choices God makes, but I am not supposed to. I am to trust in Him because, the life I now live is not of man. I am not to be the product of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah or Jesse, but the life I now live is the life of the Son of God.

Now, we must narrow this down again. David had many sons, so God, through the process of elimination, must again choose the son that most pleases Him. In 1 Chronicles 28:5 we read:

“And of all my sons, (for the Lord hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel. And he said unto me, Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts: for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. Moreover I will establish his kingdom for ever, if he be constant to do my commandments and my judgments, as at this day.”

It is narrowed down now to one son out of many in the household of David.

Once we reach Solomon, the next great promise of distinguishing the Son of God as our life is the promise in Isaiah 7:13:

“And he said, Hear ye now, house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Now, once again, out of all the household of David, God has limited the very life we are to live to come from a single virgin. But there may be thousands of virgins in the household of David, so it must come from one particular virgin who has been given to God, who has the ability to believe and to have a babe without having known a man.

This is the narrowest highway prophecy has ever walked. God has now narrowed down MY LIFE to the most impossible and unbelievable situation. His choice now goes beyond all finite comprehension. Why does God do this? He wants to make sure that you are not an impostor. He wants to make sure that Adam never rises up and says, *I am God. I am the life that you ought to live.* He has it narrowed down now so that we have no doubt as to what life we shall live. It is a virgin, thirteen or fourteen years of age. She must bring forth a child having never touched a man. How sad it is that multitudes of Christians argue and fuss over the building, the denomination or the doc-

trine they accepted without the slightest understanding of who they are in Christ.

Do you not see something here? Two things are important: My life must be born of a virgin, and that virgin must descend from Solomon, who is of the lineage of David, who is of Jesse’s household. Only the miraculous power of God could work this out, and my Lord is so arranging the life that we should live that He will not allow an impostor.

Notice that He has made the Christ-life such a miracle that absolutely no man on Earth could impose a similar life. No church could bring forth such life. No one can say he knows all about that life unless he fits into the rudiments of God and has had a revelation of this same Jesus, born of a virgin, made of a woman, made under the law. Unless you have that Christ, you do not have the true Christ. God has so lined it up and has so placed, historically and prophetically, before us that there is absolutely no doubt who Jesus is. We cannot say, *Well, I have the same feeling. Or, I have the same understanding. Or, It does not make any difference what church you go to. It does not make any difference what methods you believe in as long as you are really born again.* My friends, that is not so. It all makes a difference. My Father, with a fine-tooth

comb, went through civilization after civilization to bring forth MY LIFE according to His will. He reiterates to us the kind of God He is and the reason He makes choices the way He does; it is all in the background of the Savior who is MY LIFE. There can be no doubt about it. When it gets down to saying that it comes from a virgin who knows not a man, it is God saying, *Any other life you live is not the true and only life of Jesus Christ.*

There was another important stipulation which I found in Micah 5:2:

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands in Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

It is not only a virgin who shall bring forth MY LIFE, but she shall do it in a describable, literal town called Bethlehem Ephratah, the least of all the cities in Judah. The place of His birth is stipulated. His address is plainly written now. Notice, out of all the continents, God chose one, Asia. Out of all the states in Asia Minor, God chose one, Canaan. Out of all the areas about Canaan, God chose one province, Palestine. Out of all the areas of Palestine and all the cities of Judea, God narrowed it down to one, Bethlehem Ephratah. Only God could have done that. †

(Cont. in the next issue.)



Christ-life Fellowship Weekend in the Word 2009 Houma, Louisiana November 20-22 Speaker: Warren Litzman

The Houma, Louisiana, Christ-life Fellowship is delighted to invite you to a Weekend in the Word. My fervent prayer is that you will put it all together and add your unique expression of Christ to our family during the weekend of November 20 through 22, 2009 (Friday night through Sunday morning).

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Register and pay online at www.christ-life.org or by calling the Dallas office at 214-391-0488 or mail the enclosed form along with payment.

We have blocked out rooms at the Quality Inn of Houma (210 S. Hollywood Road). To reserve a room for the special group rate of \$75/night rate, email the reservations manager, Ms. Hessie Cox at hessie@qualityhotelhouma.com. Her personal office phone number is 1-985-879-7024. Inform her of your choice of double beds or king-size bed and give her your phone number. She will call you to receive your credit card information and reserve your room. Make sure you mention the Christ-life Fellowship to receive the group rate discount. A free, hot breakfast buffet is included. The Woodmen of the World Hall is located a half mile from the hotel. Dress is casual, but modest. Swimming pool will be open in the afternoon; and, again, modest swimsuits. The tentative schedule will be:

Friday P.M.: Supper at 5:30 with Warren sharing at 7:00.

Saturday A.M.: Warren sharing at 10:00 with lunch to follow.

Saturday Afternoon: Free for fellowship, shopping, resting, etc.

Saturday P.M.: Supper at 5:30 with Warren sharing at 7:00.

Sunday A.M.: Warren sharing at 10:00 with lunch to follow.

For more information phone our offices at 214-391-0488 or Frank at 985-381-3033. Airport Transportation is available through Frank Blakeman.

I pray that during this “eye blink” of time called life, we should all make a quality decision to dedicate some time and attention to our “eternal” well being. This “coming away time” is not just for us but for the rest of the Body of Christ who need our unique expression of His Light, Love, and Life.

Eternally yours, Frank Blakeman

Christ-life Fellowship Houma Weekend in the Word Retreat

November 20-22, 2009

Registration Form

We are excited that you will be joining us for *Weekend in the Word!* Please return this completed form along with your registration payment to: **Christ-life Fellowship, P.O. Box 170307, Dallas, TX 75217-0307**

Date: _____

Names: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Number of Adults (ages 16 & older): _____ Number of children: _____

Name of hotel where you will be staying _____

Arrival Date/Time: _____ Departure Date/Time: _____

Payment:

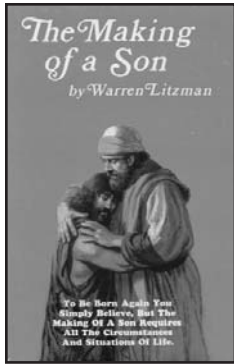
Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ _____ Check. # _____

Or charge \$ _____ to my MasterCard _____ Visa _____ Exp. Date _____

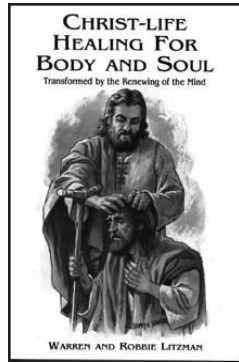
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Signature: _____

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Christ-life Healing For Body and Soul deals with healing both the body and the soul. The born-again believer needs to understand where healing comes from and how it works. By Warren Litzman. Paperback, 232 pages \$12



Free At Last Spiritual freedom was bought and paid for at the Cross. It cannot be earned; it is a gift from God. Sadly, most humans will live and die never knowing freedom in Christ. Ignorance of true grace produces religious commingling contrary to rightly dividing the truth. By Warren Litzman. Paperback, 243 pages \$8

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By Sandy Pretorius

Rightly Divide the Scriptures

All the Bible is **for** all people, but all the Bible is not **to** you.

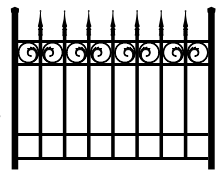
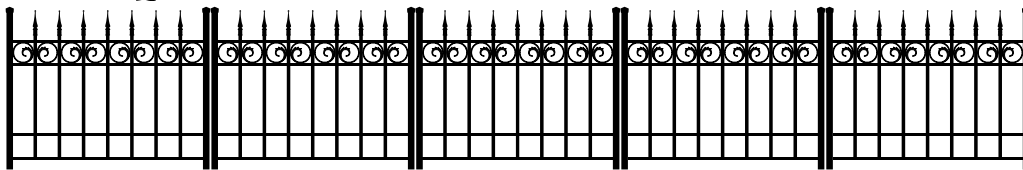
Don't apply Scriptures that aren't addressed to you. If they have worked previously, it is because of God's grace. God blesses for a while, until we grow up into Christ.



When you only read what is **for you**, you will have a tendency to see God as Almighty God only, and not as Father. You won't learn who you are in Christ.

The Old Testament and the Synoptic gospels do not teach about being in Christ. The Old Testament is **to** people who lived by law, doing something to be acceptable to God.

The Gospels are about Jesus fulfilling God's plan for Israel and His message to Israel. There is good moral teaching there but no life, no knowledge of who you are in Christ.



For a child to come to the fullness of who he is, he has to know God as Father.

When you read what is written **to you**, you will see God as your Father. You'll learn that it is not what you do or don't do that matters to God, but who you are in Christ. You'll learn to live by grace. Christ becomes your all and in all and your only life (Gal. 2:20). You must get into the Scriptures that are **to you** to live victoriously on this Earth. So much of our living falls because we try to apply promises that are not to us.

Scriptures addressing the born-again believer: John chapters 14 through 17, Paul's epistles and 1 John.

