

GOD SEPARATED WATER FROM WATER

Lord, You set Your glory above the heavens. When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what are people that you should be mindful of them, the son of man that you care for him (Ps. 8:1-4)?

How awesome it is to truly understand - God so loved you and me and the world so much that He gave His only Son so that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish; instead, have life eternal (John 3:16 TLB).

The Son of God tells us:

“Unless a person submits to this original creation – the ‘wind hovering over the water’ creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life – being born again – it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. When you look at a baby, it’s just that: a body you can look at and touch. But, the person who takes shape within is formed by something you can’t see and touch – Holy Spirit – and becomes a living spirit.”

“So why marvel that I have said to you, ‘You must be born again’? Does this offend you? It is the Spirit that quickens, makes alive, gives life; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

“So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ Don’t let this throw you completely. The Spirit makes life. Sheer muscle and willpower don’t make anything happen. Every word I’ve spoken to you is a Spirit-word, and so it is life-making. But some resist, refusing to have any part of this. No one is capable of coming to Me on their own. You get to Me only as a gift from the Father. That you may believe - I am the Christ, the Son of God - and that by believing you may have life in My name.”

“A person is born again not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God.”

John 3:5-6 Message, John 6:61-62 KJV, John 3:7 KJV, John 3:7 NLT, John 6:62-65 Message, John 20:31 NIV, 1 Peter 1:23 NIV



Paul explains why God does this, “The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me,” Gal. 2:20. God’s economy isn’t fueled by money. His economy has been established on Faith. God sent His Son to save us from the consequence of sin – Death. Not just death of the body, but death to all that is Good.

Satan and his evil cohorts have made it their mission to kill, to steal and to destroy (John 10:10a) all that is Good in our world, in us and in our lives. But God, for He has made it His mission to send His Word so that we can do more than just know; instead, that we may have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10b).

Jesus died so we could enjoy life, life in relationship with God and life here on earth. There are times when being selfish is commendable, and what would prove the most important time of self-care that which is invested in God. It is good to talk about God, but it is much better for us to live a life that speaks of and glorifies God.

Job 34:4 offers this instruction, “Let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good.” We’re not to be critical and judgmental, for even Jesus said:

“I did not come to judge the world, but to save it,”

John 12:47

Therefore, let us stop judging by mere appearances, and make right judgments (John 7:24).



As explained in Hebrews 4:2: When faith is omitted, the Glad Tidings (sent to us by God to reveal His love) will be of no benefit. So God sent His Son to dwell among us (John 1:14) knowing the tiniest seed of faith, when watered, could reach unlimited heights. These seeds of Truth are words of Love (Luke 8:11).

Wherever God is, Love can be seen. Gen. 2:8 reveals God planting a garden in the East where He made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground, and where He put the man He had formed. My hope in sharing God’s Word: That Love will not only enter our thoughts, but we would know through experience that Holy Spirit is working to cultivate within our heart a garden so the glorious aspects of Love can be displayed throughout the world. And there is so much of the beauty of God’s love for us to glean from within the precious chambers of His Word.

However, we are not only going to glean from God's glorious garden, we are going to taste and see God is good (Ps. 34:8). We are going to eat the fruit of Light - Truth, Righteousness, Humility - from the right hand of God so we too can ride forth victoriously with the Lord (Ps. 45:4).



We are going to partake of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) - Love, Joy, Peace, Kindness, Gentleness, Goodness, Patience (Longsuffering), Faithfulness, Self-Control - so we too in every way and in every place can accept and acknowledge with deep appreciation and with sincere gratitude (Act 24:3 AMP) what God has done and is doing to make His love for us apparent.

In Eden, God made all the delicate, inner parts of our being knitting them together. How amazing it is to think about Your marvelous workmanship, Father. What gratitude to be encountered as we come to individually proclaim while I, _____, was being formed in utter seclusion You Lord were there. You made me so wonderfully complex! You saw me before I was born, and scheduled each day of my life

before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in Your Book (Ps. 139:13-16 TLB).

How awesome to know that You delight in those who fear (revere, honor, exalt) You and Your Word, who put their hope in Your unfailing love (Ps. 147:11). For fear of the Lord fills a person with assurance and confidence with peace and contentment. Knowing, considering, acknowledging how precious it is to realize that You Lord are thinking about me constantly. How many times a day Your thoughts turn toward me they can't even be counted. When I awake in the morning You are still thinking of me (Ps. 139:17-18 TLB).



A river went out of Eden that watered the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became four heads (Gen. 2:10). Before we delve into the meaning God has flowing from this river. Let us first consider the meaning that has been designated to the number one.

The number one is only divisible by itself. It is independent of any other numerals yet composes them all. It symbolizes in the Bible the unity and primacy, and the oneness of the Godhead. It also represents

the unity between God the Father and His Son, Jesus. By His singular sacrifice, God has forgiven sin through Jesus.



Now let us consider the meaning of the number four – creation. Four directly relates to the creative ability of God. Each and every number has meaning and symbolism in the Bible and four has a sense of completeness. It is associated with God’s design and world’s order.

The number four personifies everything that surrounds us. It reflects the creations of God. The four main elements within the universe: fire, water, earth and air. The four sides of the world: east, west, north and south. The four main time classifications: morning, noon, evening and midnight. Every year has four seasons: summer, autumn, winter and spring.

http://www.spiritwalk.org/bible_num_4.html

A river flowed from Eden so every nation, tribe, language and people who live upon the earth could one day hear the eternal Gospel being proclaimed through the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (Rev. 14:6).

So the sparkling clear waters of the River of Life could wash away the corrosive buildup of deception, and God's love reaching into the heavens could be seen. So we can know His faithfulness ascends into the skies; that His righteousness is like the mighty mountains, and His justice like the great depths of the deep.

So we can come to realize how priceless is the unfailing love of the One Who preserves both man and beast. That anyone and everyone can find refuge in the shadow of His wings, and feast on the abundance of His house. God gives us drink from His River of delights. With Him is the fountain of Life; in His light we see Light. His unfailing love continues to flow, His righteousness sets a heart upright (Ps. 36:5-10).



Number four symbolizes the price of salvation. Jesus was tried and condemned to die on a cross to bring salvation to mankind. That cross had four points – the left side, the right side, the top and the bottom. God knew it wouldn't be easy to send His Son to die for the sins of mankind, but He made that ultimate decision. Will you be among those who have made the ultimate decision to live by the Spirit, and crucify your prideful, sinful nature with its passions and desires (Gal. 5:24).

For those who belong to Jesus know from the beginning God destined people from every nation, language and tribe to be molded into the image of His Son and share inwardly His likeness (Rom. 8:29 AMP).

Yes, those who belong to the Lamb, Who was slain from the creation of the world (Rev. 13:8), believe in the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him.

The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it (John 1:1-5 NLT). People who sat in darkness have seen a great Light; they sat in the land of death, and the Light broke through upon them (Matt. 4:15-16 TLB) like a flowing river.



From the beginning God said to the serpent:

“He will crush your head,

and you will strike His heel!”

Gen. 3:15

God fulfilled what He said through all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer. That sins may be wiped out, and times of refreshing may come from the Lord when we repent and turn to God (Acts 3:18-19). For then God’s words of love can flow within us:

“Come with Me as a bride gives her heart. Yes, come with Me giving all your heart to Me. Look up at the heavens and see; gaze at the clouds so high above you. My descent from the crest was to make My covenant with you when I take away your sins so you can be My jewels, My special possession, My peculiar treasure.”

“You have stolen My heart, My bride; You have stolen My heart with one glance of your eyes. How delightful is your love My bride! You are a garden locked up, you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain is My bride.”

Job 35:5, Rom. 11:27, Mal. 3:17 AMP, SS 4:8-12

Let us rejoice and be glad and give the Lord glory! For the wedding of the Lamb is fast approaching, and His bride is making herself ready! Fine linen, bright and clean were given her to wear (Rev. 19:7-8).

Yes, delight greatly in the Lord; my soul, rejoice in my God. He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bride adorns herself with jewels. As the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seed to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations (Isa. 61:10-11).



We are God's garden. Jesus said,

“Anyone who is thirsty may come to Me! Anyone who believes in Me may come and drink! And rivers of living water will flow from your heart,” John 7:37

God places Holy Spirit in our heart so the fruit of Light and Righteousness can develop and flow with gratitude, praise and thanksgiving for the One Who saves us from sin and death and ourselves, and be heard throughout the nations.

Holy Spirit's presence within us is God's guarantee that He will give us -ALL - that He has promised. The Spirit's seal upon us means that God has already purchased us, and He guarantees to bring us to Himself. This is just one more awesome reason for us to praise our glorious God (Eph. 1:13-14 TLB).



In the beginning God planted a garden on the earth with a river that branched off in four directions. When we consider the meanings of these rivers and the places where they flowed we can glimpse the purpose and plan God had to return us to His land of promise.

The first river head was Pison, which means changing, extension of the mouth, grow up, be grown fat, spread selves, be scattered....

Earnestly wait for the Lord, waiting for the day when He rises up to the attack as a Witness, Accuser or Judge, and a Testimony. For His decision and determination and right it is to gather the nations together, to assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them His indignation, even all the heat of His fierce anger; for in that day all the earth shall be consumed with the fire of His zeal and jealousy.

For then changing their impure language, He will give to the people a clear and pure speech from pure lips that they may call upon the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one unanimous consent and one united shoulder bearing the yoke of the Lord (Zeph. 3:8-9 AMP).

So repent think differently, change your mind, regretting your sins and changing your conduct, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand (Matt. 3:2 AMP). Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy and unkind speech. Come to God like a newborn babe. Cry out for the nourishment of pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Yes, cry out and taste the Lord's kindness (1 Peter 2:1-3 NLT).

Then you will no longer be immature like children. You won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. You will not be influenced or tricked by people who lie so cleverly it sounds like their telling the truth. Instead, you will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ.

Jesus is the head of the Church (Eph. 4:14-15 NLT). His righteousness endures forever; He has scattered abroad His gifts to the humble and

lowly in spirit, and lifts them high in honor (Ps. 112:9). From His throne flows the river of the water of life (Rev. 22:1). The Way made for the righteous to follow is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full Light of Day (Prov. 4:18).

Yes, those who fear and revere the name of Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness, Who has risen with healing in His wings, you will go free (Mal. 4:2 NL). I pray you hear and believe the words of Holy Spirit:

“Break out into loud and joyful song for the nations will see your righteousness and your glory. You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord’s hand, and royal diadem in God’s hand. You will be called Hephzibah for the Lord will take great delight in you. As a bridegroom rejoices over His bride, so will your God rejoice over you.”

“Yes, rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He has proclaimed peace with God to

the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

“As for you, because of the blood of His covenant with you, God will free your prisoners from the waterless pit. So return to your Fortress, O prisoners of Hope; for God has remembered His love and His faithfulness to His people. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.”

“You will see Zion as a place of holy festivals, and Jerusalem a city quiet and secure. Like a tent whose ropes are taut and whose stakes are firmly fixed. The Lord will be their Mighty One. He will be like a wide river of protection that no enemy can cross, that no enemy ship can sail upon.”

“For the Lord is their Judge, their Lawgiver, and their King. He will care for them and save them. The enemies’ sails hang loose on broken masts with useless tackle. Their treasure will be divided by the people of God. No more will God’s people say, ‘We are sick and helpless,’ for the Lord will forgive their sins.”

“People will come from all over the world – from the east and west, the north and south – to take their places in God’s Kingdom. So spread out your home, and spare no expense! Soon you will be bursting at the seams. Your descendants will occupy other nations and resettle the ruined cities.”

“So fear not, you will no longer live in shame. Don’t be afraid, there is no more disgrace for you. You will no longer remember the shame of your youth and the sorrows of the past. For your Creator will be your Husband, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies is His name! He is your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel! The God of all the earth! The Lord has called you back from your grief – as though you were a young wife abandoned by her husband.”

Isa 62:2-5, Zech. 9:9-12, Ps. 98:3, Isa.33:20-24 NLT, Luke 13:29, Isa.54:2-6 NLT



This first branch Pishon, flowed around the entire land of Havilah (Gen. 2:11). The meaning given Havilah: to twist or whirl, to dance, to writhe in pain or fear, to wait, to pervert, bear, make to bring forth, drive away, fall grievously, great, hope, look, form, sharpen, travail, trust, wait carefully. Listen to what the Spirit of Truth says:

“Both their hands are put forth and are upon what is evil to do it diligently, the prince and judge ask for a bribe, and the great man utters his evil desire. Thus they twist between them the course of justice.”

“They are continually saying to those who despise God and His Word, the Lord has said: You shall have peace, and they say to everyone who walks after the stubbornness of their own mind and heart, no evil shall come upon you.”

“Who among them has stood in the council of God that they should perceive and hear His Word? Who has marked God’s Word noticing and observing and giving attention to it and has actually heard it?”

“Behold, the tempest of the Lord has gone forth in wrath, a whirling tempest; it shall whirl and burst upon the heads of the wicked. The anger of the Lord shall not turn back until He has executed and accomplished the thoughts and intents of His mind and heart. In the latter days you shall consider and understand it perfectly.”

“For there was a war in heaven! Michael and the angels under his command fought against the Dragon and his host of fallen angels. And the Dragon lost the battle, and was driven from heaven. This great Dragon – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world – was thrown down onto the earth with all his army.”

“Satan was a murderer from the very start. He couldn’t stand the Truth because there wasn’t a shred of truth in him. When the Liar speaks, he makes it up out of his lying nature and fills the world with his deceptions. How many say they are on God’s side, but are imposters? Refusing to admit the coming of God’s Son, Christ Jesus, the Messiah, in bodily form. Such a person is also an imposter, an antagonist of Christ, and the antichrist.”

Mic. 7:2, Jer. 23:17-20, Rev. 12:7-9 TLB, John 8:44 Message, 2 John 7 AMP

The war continues against the one called Faithful and True; the One Who suffered death for us (Rev. 19:11). Yes, by God’s grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone. God for Whom and through Whom

everything was made chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that He should make Jesus, through His grievous suffering, a perfect Leader, fit to bring God's people into their salvation (Heb. 2:9-10 NLT).

Because God's children are human beings - made of flesh and blood - the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could He set free all who lived in fear of Death and dying (Heb. 2:14-15 NLT),



Jesus was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not (Isa. 53:3). Pilate had Jesus flogged; then handed Him over to endure and be much sorely pained then crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium, and gathered the whole company of soldiers around Him to grieve Him more. They waited carefully and patiently as someone placed a staff in His right, while others stripped His clothes from Him.

They put a scarlet robe on Jesus, and set upon His head a crown of thorns they had twisted together. Then they knelt in front of Him and mocked Him saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spit on Him, and took the staff and struck Him on the head over and over and over again (Matt. 27:26-30).



Yes, this one, Christ Jesus, after He had offered a single sacrifice for our sins that shall avail for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, to wait until His enemies should be humbled and made a stool beneath His feet. By this single offering the Lord has forever completely cleansed and perfected those He has set apart and made holy (Heb. 10:12-14 AMP). Thus the Lord has said:

“Take note: The earlier predictions of judgment have been fulfilled. I’m announcing the new salvation work. Sing to God a brand new song, sing His praises all over the world! Make God’s glory resound, echo His praises from coast to coast.”

“God steps out like He means business. You can see He’s primed for action. He shouts announcing His arrival; He takes charge and His enemies tremble and fall in line.”

“I’ve been quiet long enough. I’ve tarried, biting My tongue. But now I’m letting loose, letting go, like a woman in travail giving birth. But I’ll take the hand of those who don’t know the way, who can’t see where they’re going.”

“I’ll be a personal guide to them, directing them through unknown country. I’ll be right there to show them what roads to take, make sure they don’t fall into the ditch. These are the things I’ll be doing for them - sticking with them, not leaving them for a minute.”

“But those who have invested and trusted in the no-gods are bankrupt – dead broke. They’ve seen a lot, but looked at nothing.”

“Pay attention! Are you deaf? Open your eyes! Are you blind? You’re My servant, and you’re not looking! You’re My messenger, and you’re not listening. The very people I

depended upon, servants of God blind as a bat – willfully blind!”

“You’ve seen a lot, but looked at nothing. You’ve heard everything, but listened to nothing. God intended, out of the goodness of His heart, to be lavish in His revelation. But this is a people battered and cowed. Victims licking their wounds, feeling ignored and abandoned.”

“Is anyone out there listening? Is anyone paying attention to what’s coming? Who do you think turned Jacob over to the thugs, let loose the robbers on Israel? Wasn’t it God Himself, the One against Whom you’ve sinned against – not doing what He commanded, not listening to what He said? Isn’t it God’s anger that’s behind all this, God’s punishing power?”

“Their whole world shaken and collapsed, but they didn’t get it. Their life is in ruins, but they don’t take it to heart. They will not understand the reason why – that it is God, wanting them to repent.”

“Because of the sin of My people, I will refine and test them, for what else can I do? Don’t be surprised at any painful trial you suffer, as though something strange is happening to you. I know so well how treacherous a heart can be, how rebellious you have been since birth.”

“For My own sake and for the honor of My name, I wait and hold back My anger. In the furnace of suffering that is on the earth I will refine you. Gold put in the fire comes out of it proven pure; faith put through suffering comes out proven genuine.”

“Yet, I am always with you. I will tell you of things that are entirely new, things you never heard of before. Come and listen for I am calling you to send you on an errand, and help you succeed. Not convicted of guilt and self-condemned by being one who goes on sinning. Such a person is perverted and corrupted, utterly changed by evil.”

“I am the Lord your God, Who teaches you what is good for you, and leads you along the paths you should follow. Oh, that you would listen to My Word! Then you would have

peace flowing like a gentle river, and righteousness rolling over you like waves in the sea because you have trusted the Son of God was raised from the dead.”

“A brand new life I give so you have everything to live for, including hope for a future in heaven – and that future starts now. The Day is coming when you’ll have it all – life healed and whole. It’s your faith, not your gold that I will have on display as evidence of Christ’s victory.”

Isa. 42:9-25 Message, Jer. 9:7-9, 1 Peter 4:12-13 NLT, Isa 48:8-20 NLT, Titus 3:11 AMP, 1 Peter 1:3-7 Message

Don’t let anyone throw you into confusion by trying to pervert the Gospel of Christ (Gal. 1:7). Such people are being deceitful. And no wonder, Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

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The name of the second river's branch is Gihon, which means to gush forth, to issue, break forth, labor to bring forth, grace, draw up and take out.

The Lord says:

“Those who turn a deaf ear to God's Word, even their fasting and their prayers are detestable. For these people draw near to Him with their mouth and honor the Lord with their lips, but their heart is far from Him.”

“God listens to those who do His will. Whose fasts are the ones He has chosen – to loose the chains of injustice, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke. To share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless; to give clothes to those who need them, and won't hide from family who need their help.”



Yes, God listens to those who know:

BREAK EVERY CHAIN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucY6NwQTI3M>

There is power in the name of Jesus

There is power in the name of Jesus

There is power in the name of Jesus

To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain

To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain

There is power in the name of Jesus

There is power in the name of Jesus

(There is power) There is power in the name of Jesus

(We know where it is)

To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain

To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain

There's an army rising up

There's an army rising up

There's an army rising up

To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain

To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain

Song by Tasha Cobbs Leonard



The Word of God says:

“Your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear, when you fast the way I have chosen. Yes, your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.”

“You will call, and the Lord will answer, and you will cry for help and He will say: Here am I.”

Isa. 29:13, Isa. 58:6-9 NLT

Remember, the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose heart is fully committed to Him. However, those who do foolish and deceptive things will always be at war (2 Chron. 16:9). Those who don't realize the Lord is righteous and His judgments are just. The decrees He issues are righteous, and altogether trustworthy (Ps. 119:137-138 ASB).

So don't be like those who will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. Who follow their own desires and look for teachers who labor to bring forth whatever the itching ears of the people want to hear. They reject the Truth and chase after myths (2 Tim 4:3-4 NLT).

So sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it, shout, you depths of the earth, break forth into singing you mountains! The Lord has redeemed Jacob, and He glorifies Himself in Israel (Isa. 44:23 AMP). Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth and sing for joy, yes sing praises (Ps. 98:4 AMP). Those who don't let others spoil their faith and joy with their philosophies, their wrong and shallow answers built on men's thoughts and ideas, instead of on what Christ has said (Col. 2:2-7 TLB).

Think about it, who can comprehend the power of God's anger? His wrath is as awesome as the fear and reverence He deserves. Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, He Who formed you from the womb:

"I am the Lord, Who made all things. Who alone stretched out the heavens, Who spread out the earth by Myself. I am the Lord Who frustrates the signs and confounds the omens upon which the false prophets' forecasts of the future are based. Who frustrates the boasting liars and makes fools of diviners. Who turns the wise backward and makes their knowledge foolishness. Who confirms the word of His servant and performs the counsel of His messengers."

Isa. 44:24-26 AMP



Just as you trust Jesus to save you, trust Him also, for each day's problems, live in vital union with Him. Let your roots grow down into Him, and draw up nourishment from Him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the Truth you were taught.

Let your lives overflow with joy and, let thanksgiving come forth for all He has done. For in Christ there is all of God in a human body, so you have everything when you have Christ Jesus, and you are filled with God through your union with the Lord. He is the highest Ruler, with authority over every other power (Col. 2:8-10 TLB).

Great is Adonai, and greatly to be praised; His greatness is beyond all searching out. Each generation will praise His works to the next, and proclaim His mighty acts. I will meditate on the glorious splendor of His majesty and on the story of His wonders.

People will speak of His awesome power, and I will tell of His great deeds. For they will gush forth the fame of His abounding goodness, and sing of His righteousness; Adonai is merciful and compassionate,

slow to anger and great in grace. Adonai is good to all; His compassion rests on all His creatures (Ps. 145:3-9 CJB).

From God's Word understanding is received:

“Know the Kingdom of Heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, gathering fish of every kind; and when it is filled, they drew it up on the beach, and sat down to gather the good fish into containers, but the bad fish they threw away. So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will cast them into the furnace of fire, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matt. 13:47-50 NASB



The branch of Gihon flowed through the whole land of Ethiopia (Gen. 2:13), which has this meaning - blackness; heat. Hear the words of Truth:

The great day of the Lord is near – near and coming quickly.
Listen! The cry of the day of the Lord will be bitter, the

shouting of the warrior there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness (Zeph. 1:14-15).

This is what Jesus said to the religious teachers of the law, and the legalistic Pharisees:

“You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you. These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. They worship Me in vain, their teachings are but rules taught by men.”

“What sorrow awaits those who go to great depths to hide their work in darkness and think, ‘Who sees us? Who will know?’ They turn things upside down, as if the Potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to Him Who formed it, ‘He did not make me?’ Can the pot say to the Potter, ‘He knows nothing?’”

“Let this day be the one when God’s Word is heard so out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see. Know the

humble are rejoicing in the Lord trusting Him to save them. The needy are rejoicing in the Holy One of Israel trusting Him for each day's problems."

"The ruthless will vanish, the mockers will disappear, and all who have an eye for evil will be cut down. Yes, the day of the Lord will be darkness, not light – pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness for those who are like natural brute beasts. They speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption."

"Yes, they will receive the wages of unrighteousness. They have spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions. They have eyes full of adultery that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls."

"They have a heart trained in covetous practices. They have forsaken the right way and gone astray loving the wages of unrighteousness. These are wells without water clouds carried by a tempest, for who is reserved the blackness of darkness forever."

“Why, didn’t they come when I knocked? When I called, why was there no one to answer? Is My arm shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? Or have no power to deliver?”



A shoot has come up from the stump of Jesse; from its roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him – the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord – and He will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will make peace your governor and righteousness your ruler. No longer will violence be heard in your land nor ruin or destruction in your borders, but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise. Then will all God’s people be righteous, and they will possess the land forever.

“They are the shoot I have planted, the work of My hands, for the display of My splendor. I am the Lord; in its time I will do this swiftly.”

The Lord will wash away the moral filth of Zion; He will cleanse the bloodstains from Jerusalem by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire. Then the Lord will create over all of Mount Zion, and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night, over all the glory will be a canopy. It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.

Matt 15:7-9, Isa. 29:15-16&20, Amos 5:20, 2 Peter 2:12-17 NKJV Isa, 50:2 NKJV, Isa. 11:1-6, Isa. 60:17-21, Isa. 4:2-6



The name of the third river branch is Hiddekel, whose meaning is loud voice, sound; also known as the Tigris, which means arrow or the encircling

Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. About the ninth Jesus cried out with a loud voice:

“Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

Some of those who stood there, when they heard that said, 'This Man is calling for Elijah!' Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, soaked it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. The rest said, 'Let Him alone, let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him from death.'

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks were split. The graves were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep in death were raised to life. And coming out of the graves after the Lord's resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.



When the centurion and those who were with Him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the many things that had happened, they were terribly frightened and filled with awe saying, 'Truly this was the Son of God.'

"Look and consider, for I am despised. Is it nothing to you, all who passed by? Look around and consider is any

suffering like My suffering that was inflicted on Me in the day of God's fierce anger?"

"From on high He sent fire, sent it down into My bones. He spread a net for My feet and turned Me back. He made Me desolate, faint all the day long. Your sins had been bound into a yoke; by His hands they were woven together. They came upon My neck, and the Lord God sapped My strength. He handed Me over to those I could not withstand."

"I had offered My back to those who beat Me, My cheeks to those who pulled out My beard. I did not hide My face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign God helps Me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore, I set My face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He Who vindicates Me is near."

Yes, it was God's will to crush Christ and cause Him to suffer, and though the Lord made His life a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, and the will of God shall prosper in His hand. After the suffering of His soul, He saw the Light of Life and was satisfied; by His

knowledge God's righteous Servant will justify many because He bore their iniquities.

I looked and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And a voice I heard speaking to me like the sound of a trumpet said,

“Come up here, and I will show you what must take place.”

At once the Apostle John was in the Spirit, and there before him was a throne in heaven with Someone sitting on it. And the One Who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne.

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, the perishable will not inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye.

The Lord will appear over us; His arrow will flash like lightning. The Sovereign Lord will sound the trumpet; He will march in the storms of the south, and the Lord Almighty will shield us. The Lord our God

will save us on that day as the flock of His people. We will sparkle in His land like jewels in a crown.

Yes, the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Afterwards, those who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air to be with the Lord forever.

Therefore, encourage each other with these words.

Matt. 27:46-54 NKJV, Lam. 1:11-14, Isa. 50:6-8 NKJV, Isa. 53:10-11, Rev. 4:1-4, 1 Cor. 15:50-52, Zech. 9:14&16, 1 Thess. 4:16-17



Gen. 2:14 tells us the third branch, the river Hiddekel, flowed toward the east of Assyria, which means: to be straight, to go forward, to be honest, proper, blessed, go, guide, lead, relieve.

Give heed to God's Spirit of Truth:

“The Lord will lead you in His righteousness or your enemies – fear, pride, jealousy, hatred...- will conquer you. He will make straight the way before you. Those who rebel

against God will fall beneath the weight of their own transgressions. They cannot speak truthfully their hearts are filled with evil intent. Their suggestions are full of the stench of sin and death. Their tongues are filled with flatteries to gain their wicked ends. God will hold them responsible.”

“The Lord makes the path of the righteous level; God’s upright One makes the way of the righteous smooth. For those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh – that godless human nature – with its passions and appetites and desires: and the Lord will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths He will guide them; He will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things He will do. He will not forsake His people”

Pay close attention to the Word of God:

“So declare and go bring forward your strong arguments for praying to gods that cannot save; yes take counsel together. Their idols weigh down beasts and cattle. The images you carry are burdensome. The gods cower, they crouch

together, unable to relieve the burden, and those who carry them go into captivity,”

“To whom will you liken Me or count Me equal? To whom will you compare Me, that we should be alike? I have carried you since birth. Even to your old age, I will be the same, and I will bear you up when you turn gray. I have made you, and I will carry you, I will sustain you and deliver you.”

“I will go before you and will level the mountains. I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you the treasure of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know - I am the Lord - the God of Israel, Who summons you by name.”

“For the sake of Jacob My servant, or Israel My chosen, I summon you by name, and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from Me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged Me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting

people may know there is none besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other.”



Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it. Test and prove yourselves not Christ. Do you not yourselves realize and know by an ever-increasing experience that Jesus is in you – unless you are counterfeits, disapproved on trial and rejected?

“Look to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself, the Word is gone out of My mouth in righteousness and shall not return void, that unto Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.”

“Only in the Lord shall one say, I have righteousness, salvation, victory and strength to achieve. To them shall come all who were incensed against the Lord, and they shall be ashamed. In the Lord shall all the offspring of Israel be justified and shall glory.”

“Be honest in your judgment and do not decide at a glance, superficially and by appearances; but judge fairly and righteously. For truly I tell you, whatever you forbid and declare to be improper and unlawful on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit and declare to be proper and lawful on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven.”

“For wherever two or three are gathered together as My followers in My name I AM in the midst of them. Again I tell you, if two of you on earth agree about whatever they may ask, it will come to pass and be done for them by My Father in heaven.”

Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion, to You our vows will be fulfilled. O You Who hear prayer, to You all people come. When we are overwhelmed by sins, You forgave our transgressions. Blessed are those You choose, and bring near to live in Your courts! We are filled with the good things of Your house. You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

Ps. 5:8-10 TLB, Isa. 26:7, Isa 46:3-6, Gal. 5:24 AMP, Isa. 42:16, Isa 46:1-2 BSB, Isa 45:2-7, 2 Cor 13:5 AMP, Isa. 45:21-25 AMP, John 7:24 AMP, Matt. 18:18-20 AMP, Ps. 65:1-5



The fourth branch of the river is Euphrates (Gen. 2:14), which holds this meaning: to break forth, rushing.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying:

“Suddenly the glory of the God of Israel appeared from the east. The sound of His coming was like the roar of rushing waters, and the whole landscape lit up with His glory. Can’t you hear the voice of Wisdom? Let Me give you understanding. I have important information for you. Everything I say is right and true, for I hate lies and every kind of deception. My advice is wholesome and good. There is nothing of evil in it. My instruction is far more valuable than silver or gold.”

“So get rid of all uncleanness and the rampant outgrowth of wickedness, and in a humble, gentle spirit receive and welcome God’s Word. When implanted and rooted in your heart Truth contains the power to save your soul.”

“Be doers of the Word, obeying God’s Message, and not just listeners, betraying yourself into deception by reasoning contrary to the Truth.”

“For the coming of this man the lawless one, the antichrist, will be to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those who are perishing and on their way to destruction, because they did not welcome and love the Truth that they might be saved.”

“Yes, his power shall be mighty, but it will be satanic strength and not his own. Prospering wherever he turns, he will destroy all who oppose him, though their armies may be mighty, he will devastate God’s people.”

“He will be a master of deception, defeating many by catching them off guard as they bask in false security. Without warning he will destroy them. So great will he fancy himself to be that he will even take on the Prince of Princes in battle, but in so doing he will seal his own doom,

for he shall be broken by the hand of God, though no human means could overpower him.”

“You may as well know this too, in these last days it is going to be very difficult to be a Christian. For people will love only themselves and their money; they will be proud and boastful, sneering at God, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful to them, and thoroughly bad.”

“They will be hardheaded and never give in to others; they will be constant liars and troublemakers and will think nothing of immorality. They will be rough and cruel, and sneer at those who try to be good.”

“They will betray their friends; they will be hotheaded, puffed up with pride, and prefer good times to worshipping God. They will go to Church, yes, but they won’t really believe anything they hear. Don’t be taken in by people like that.”

“Instead, break forth joyously, sing together, for the Lord has comforted people, He has redeemed them. The Lord has

made bare His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, revealing Himself as the One by whose direction the redemption of God's people is accomplished. All the ends of the earth shall witness the salvation of God."

"Cleanse yourselves and be clean, for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard. Behold, God's Servant shall deal wisely and shall prosper. He is exalted and extolled and shall stand very high."

Ezek. 43:2 TLB, Prov. 8:1-9 TLB, James 1:21-22 AMP, 2 Thess. 2:9-10 NLT, Dan. 8:24-25 TLB, 2 Tim. 3:1-5 TLB



God's Word reveals the Good News about Christ Jesus. In His earthly life the Son of Man was born into King David's family line, and was shown by the power of Holy Spirit to be the Son of God when He was raised from the dead. He is Christ Jesus, our Lord, the Word of God, Who instructs us to:

"Test all things. Hold fast to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."

1 Thess. 5:21 NKJV

And by the power of Holy Spirit we too might be raised up for this very purpose: That God may show His power in us, as He did in Pharaoh, and that His name may be declared in all the earth (Rom. 9:17 NKJV). Know the Lord works out everything for His own ends – even the wicked for a day of disaster (Prov. 16:4).

Paul wrote: Is this grounds for complaining that God is unfair? Not so fast, please. God told Moses:

“I’m in charge of mercy. I’m in charge of compassion.”

Compassion doesn’t originate in our bleeding heart or moral sweat, but in God’s mercy. God made the same point with Pharaoh,

“I picked you as a bit player in this drama of My salvation power.”

All we’re saying is that God has the first word, initiating the action in which we play our part for good or ill. Who could think they could possibly second-guess God? Do you for one moment suppose any of us knows enough to call God into question? Clay doesn’t talk back to the fingers that mold it saying, “Why did you shape me like this?”

Isn't it obvious that a potter has a perfect right to shape one lump of clay into a vase for holding flowers and another into a pot for cooking beans? If God needs one style of pottery especially designed to show His angry displeasure, and another style carefully crafted to show His glorious goodness, isn't that all right? God's Word says:

"I'll call nobodies and make them somebodies. I'll call the unloved and make them beloved. In the place where they yelled out, 'You're nobody!' they're calling you 'God's living children.'"

"If each grain of sand on the seashore were numbered, and the sum labeled 'chosen of God.' They'd be numbers still, not names. Salvation comes by personal selection. God doesn't count people. He calls them by name. Arithmetic is not His focus."

"Careful, I've put a huge Stone on the road to Zion. A Stone you can't get around, but the Stone is Me! If you're looking for Me, you'll find Me on the way, not in the way."

All those people who didn't seem interested in what God was doing actually embraced what God was doing as He straightened out their lives. There are so many who misunderstand because instead of trusting God, they take over (Rom. 9:14-17,20-32 Message).



When God's Word, Christ Jesus, lived on earth in bodily form, He offered prayers, with a loud cry and tears, to the One Who could rescue Him from death. And God heard His prayers because of the deep reverence He felt for God. Even though Jesus was God's Son, He learned obedience from the things He suffered. In this way, God qualified Him as a perfect High Priest, and He became the Source of eternal salvation for all those who honor and heed His Word (Heb. 5:7-10 NLT).

The Living Bible offers this translation: Yet while Christ was here on earth He pleaded with God, praying with tears and agony of soul to the only One Who could save Him from (premature) death. And God heard His prayers because of His strong desire to obey God at all times.

And even though Jesus was God's Son, He had to learn from experience what is like to obey when obeying meant suffering. It was after He had proved Himself perfect in this experience that Jesus became the Giver of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him (Heb. 5:7-10 TLB).



God calls us to the obedience that comes by faith. I write because faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17 NKJV). By the power of Holy Spirit our faith will grow and develop into - devotion, worship, determination, affection, allegiance, commitment, confidence, trust, hope - in and for God and His Word.

God knows when His gift of faith in Christ is accepted it will take time for us to believe we are filled with the greatest of all, which is Love.

Paul tells us, "Love never fails. We know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me."

“Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love,” 1 Cor. 13:8-13.



God sent His Word; but sadly, there have been many by the wayside who heard, then the devil came and took away the Word out of their heart, lest they should believe and be saved (Luke 8:11-12 NKJV).

However, there is sadness yet to be known by those who have heard the Word and believed, but left opportunity and knowledge and experience by the wayside when God’s Word was not obeyed.

But God, He sends His Holy Spirit because we need help to put some of our childish things away. There are thoughts and beliefs that got their start early in our lives. Thoughts and beliefs we have altered as we’ve aged, but amazing discoveries would be made when God is given opportunity to reveal our little faith (Luke 12:28).

We need to hear God’s Word, but we also need Holy Spirit to help our faith grow so we can be engulfed by hope, and consumed by the love

of God. Holy Spirit works so we not only come to know God, but experience His goodness and mercy following us all the days of our lives. Simply because we know, that we know, that we know – we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Ps. 23:6).



Faith in Jesus makes it possible for us to receive Holy Spirit, and with His power the work of the nemesis of God's Word can be defeated – deception, doubt, mistrust, unbelief, low self-esteem, anxiety, disloyalty, treachery, unfaithfulness, alienation...

Those seen by God as righteous live by faith in His Word, not by sight. God fearing people who walk with Holy Spirit will be confident in this, as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. However, since that is not the case we make it our goal to please Him (2 Cor. 5:6-9).

God has a plan and purpose that is unique and costume-tailored just for you. As Holy Spirit imparts meaning about God's Word, your faith will grow as will your trust for God. Holy Spirit guides us in Truth and teaches us the ways of the Lord. Yes, Holy Spirit teaches us so we

understand and remember the Lord's great mercy and love, so our hope will be in the Lord all day long (Ps. 25:4-6).



Yes, through faith God leads us to the Root. So consider this: You do not support the Root, but the Root supports you (Rom. 11:18). For the Root of Jesse will spring up, One Who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in Him. I pray the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust Him and follow His Word, so that you many overflow with hope by the power of Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:12-13).

Because what counts in your life, is it green and blossoming? Because if it's deadwood it goes on the fire (Matt. 3:10 Message); if the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the Root is holy, so are the branches (Rom. 11:15-16). The Spirit of Truth explains:

“God attends to this Vine, the Root His right hand has planted, the branch He has raised up for Himself. Jesus is the Vine, and you are the branches. If a person remains in the

Lord and He in them, they will bear much fruit. Apart from the Lord you can do nothing.”

“Those who chose not to remain in God’s Word, they are like a branch that is thrown away and withers. Such branches are picked, up, and thrown into the fire and burned. Those who remain in the Lord, God’s Word remains in them, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.”

“I share with you the Truth, anyone who has faith in Jesus will do what He has done. They will do even greater things because He is with the Father. This is to God’s glory that you bear much fruit, showing yourself to be disciples of the Lord.”

Ps. 80:14-15 BSB, John 15:5-8, John 14:12



Therefore, consider the kindness and sternness of God: Sternness to those who fall away, but kindness to those who continue in His kindness (Rom. 11:22). He will ignite the Kingdom Life within you. A fire within you, Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out,

He's going to clean house – make a clean sweep of your lives. Through His Word and your faith, the Lord will place everything true in its proper place before our heavenly Father. Everything false He'll put out with the trash to be burned (Matt. 3:11-12 Message).

Paul wrote: I don't want you to be ignorant of this mystery so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of Gentiles has come in. And so, all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

“The Deliverer will come from Zion; He will turn godlessness away from Jacob, and this is My covenant with them when I take away their sins.”

“I discovered Israel like grapes in the wilderness. I saw their fathers like the first fruit of the fig tree in its season. But they went astray consecrating themselves to Shame, and became detestable, like the things they loved.”

Rom. 11:25-27, Hos. 9:10 ASB



I pray those who have fallen away would repent and be baptized, every one of them, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. And they will receive the gift of Holy Spirit. God's promise is for everyone, even those who are far off – for all who hear and answer the call of the Lord, Christ Jesus (Acts 2:38-39).

Though our soul may languish and grow faint for the salvation of Christ, but when our hope is in God's Word (Ps. 119:81 AMP) know, within our own sphere the Word will be enlarged even more by sharing the Gospel; so don't boast in what has been accomplished in the sphere of another. Those who boast are to boast in the Lord. It is not those who commend themselves that are approved, but those whom the Lord commends (2 Cor. 10:14-18 NASU).



Do as Holy Spirit instructs:

“Judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness, and will expose the motives of each person's heart.”

“Faith comes by hearing the Good News. And people hear the Good News when someone tells them about Christ.”

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household. And at that appointed time you will receive your praise from God.”

1 Cor. 4:5, Rom. 10:17 ERV, Acts 16:31

When we hope in God’s Word, Holy Spirit will help us not to lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen; for what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal (2 Cor. 4:16-18).



Faith works to help us gain confidence so hope and trust for God and His Word and Holy Spirit will grow. Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our heart, touching our spirit, telling us who we really are – a child of God. Holy Spirit does this so we will know, because of our faith we are really living, since we are standing firm in God’s Word, in Christ Jesus (1 Thess. 3:7).

And since we are God's children, we will share His treasures because we are His heirs. All God gives to His Son Jesus is now ours because we are co-heirs with Christ. However, in this fallen world we will also share in Christ's sufferings by doing as Jesus did giving honor and all glory to our heavenly Father (Rom. 8:16 TLB).

There was a time when Jesus was teaching when a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave You birth and nursed you." But Jesus replied:

"Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and obey it."

Luke 11:27-28

If we go through the hard times with the Lord, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with Him that we may also share in His glory (Rom. 8:16-17 Message). And of this you can be certain: What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory God will give us later (1 Cor. 4:5 TLB).

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So don't conform any longer to the pattern of this world (Rom. 12:2a); instead, keep your eyes on Jesus, our Leader and Instructor. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy He knew was to be His afterwards; and now He sits in the place of honor by the throne of God (Heb. 12:2 TLB). The Lord knew that cross was looming before Him, but what He saw was you and me and the rich bounty of all God's children standing before Him.

Love for God and for you and me and the world is what kept Jesus in that garden where death was approaching. In His anguish His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. Thankfully, God sent an angel from heaven to strengthen Him (Luke 22:44). So too does God send help to strengthen our heart, His Word and His Holy Spirit (1 Thess. 3:13a).

Surely, the Lord was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by God's power (2 Cor. 13:4a). If you don't want to become fainthearted and weary, remember Christ's patience as sinful men did such terrible things to Him. After all, you have yet to struggle against sin and temptation until you sweat great droplets of blood (Heb. 12:3-4 TLB). Yet of this you can be certain, He is not weak in dealing with us; instead, He is powerful among us (2 Cor. 13:4b).



Remember, you're blessed when the tears flow freely, for joy comes with the morning (Luke 6:21 Message). Tears of sadness, tears of joy as the old self with its practices is being shed, and the new self is being donned (Col. 3:9-10) as our mind is being renewed (Rom. 2:12b).

From now on, regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though it is true, we once regarded Jesus in this way, we do so no longer. Those who are in Christ Jesus are new creations! The old has gone, the new has come! (2 Cor. 5:16). We are transformed (Rom. 2:2c), and being renewed in the image of our Creator and in knowledge of His Word (2 Cor. 5:17).

Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His; give praise and thanks at the remembrance of His holy name! His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning (Ps. 30:4-5 NKJV).

Yes, the Lord gives strength to the weary, and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint (Isa. 40:29-31).



First Peter 5:10 starts out identifying our heavenly Father as the God of all grace. Why? So we are reminded that no matter our circumstances in this life there is One Who manifested His love for the world to see. What reason could possibly be good enough to shun such Love as this?

When God's Word, Christ Jesus, is known then you too can be confident of this – nothing can separate us from God's love – not death, not life, not angels or ruling spirits. You will be assured that nothing now, nothing in the future, no powers, nothing above us or nothing below us – nothing in the whole created world – will ever be able to separate us from the love God has shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:37-39 ERV).

God couldn't prevent suffering from occurring in this world. When the first few chapters of Genesis are read, we discover if God hadn't found Noah there would be no you or me walking on this earth. And yet the

same decision continues to be made to focus on the desires of a heart that's been tainted by evil.

You know a definition for insanity is doing the same thing over and over again expecting a different result. Whenever sin is followed, undesirable consequences are going to occur as does the same behavior to not only shift our focus outward, but to lie and deny and shift the blame even onto God. All an attempt to wash our hands of guilt, but that same heart we follow will never allow evil doings to be forgotten because forgiveness requires kindness and compassion.



There will be a time when we'll know the "Why" God sent that flood upon the earth. What we do know, the Lord saw how great the wickedness on earth had become; that every inclination of the thoughts of the people's heart was only evil all the time (Gen. 6:5). But God, His heart is all about salvation, deliverance and healing.

Peter who was crucified upside down, because he determined even on that cross there is only One Who could be ever exalted in life and death as Head of God's church, Christ Jesus. Definitely not Simon Barjona a man, who without God's forgiveness and grace would have followed

his evil heart and his own reasoning into the depths of hell. Even through this heinous act of death, Peter's transformed heart and his way of thinking pointed to feet that followed Jesus, the only Way for anyone to gain entrance into the realms of heaven.

Peter wrote, "The God of grace, Who has called us into His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, will Himself make you perfect, establish you with Faith, strengthen you with Hope and settle (restore, relieve, recover, renew) you with intimate knowledge of His Love (1 Peter 5:10 KJV).



God works good (salvation, preservation, defense, protection, soundness, security, safety...) so we can be victorious. However, like the lawless one, all those who are rebellious will be revealed, and the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of His mouth and destroy by the splendor of His coming (2 Thess. 2:8), for out of His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations (Rev. 19:15).

The Word of God has given this warning:

“Repent! Otherwise, I will soon come to you, and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. To those who overcome I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give them a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to those who receive it.”

Rev. 2:17



So do not love the world or the things in the world. If you love the world, the love OF the Father is not in you. These are the ways of the world: wanting to please our sinful selves; wanting the sinful things we see, and being too proud of what we have. None of these come from the Father, but all of them come from this evil world.

The world and everything that people want in it are passing away, but the person who wants the love OF the Father in them, will do what God wants and live forever (1 John 2:15-17 NCV).

God surrounded His Word with flesh and blood, so His Christ could make His dwelling among us and His glory could be seen. The glory of the One and Only, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth

(John 1:14). The glory of the One for which the Old Testament prophesied:

*“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory
And the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven
And earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; You are
Exalted as Head over all! Wealth and honor come from You;
You are the Ruler of all things. In Your hands are strength
And power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God,
We give you thanks, and praise for Your glorious name.”*

1 Chron. 29:11-13



Christ Jesus! He was made a little lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor, for by the grace of God, He experienced death for everyone (Heb. 2:9 Military Bible). By His death, Jesus defeated the rulers and powers of the spiritual world. Yes, with the cross He won the victory over them and led them away, as defeated and powerless prisoners, for the whole world to see (Col. 2:15 ERV).

Death on that cross exalted Jesus, for Whom all things exist and by Whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the

Captain of their salvation perfect through suffering; for both He, Who sanctifies with truth and grace, and those who are sanctified are all one (Heb. 2:10 Military Bible).

God chose to bring many children into glory, and it was only right that He should make Jesus, through His suffering, a perfect Leader, fit to bring them into their salvation. So now Jesus and the ones He makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them His brothers and sisters. For He said to God:

“I will proclaim Your name to My brothers and sisters,
I will praise You among Your assembled people.”

“I will put My trust in Him,”
“That is, I and the children God has given Me.”

Because God’s children are human beings – made of flesh and blood – the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could He set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to fear – fear of dying, fear of failure, fear of rejection.....(Heb. 2:10-14 NLT).



God's doesn't set His focus on our outward appearance (1 Sam. 16:7), but on the appearance of our heart. He knows a pride-filled heart will cause us to keep our sights set on what it feels and thinks, its wants and wishes, but God sees the anguish and sorrow that has pierced our heart.

God has given us His gift of faith so we could know and believe and trust the enmity of sin is no more. We don't have to enter God's courtroom with all our guilt if His ruling is accepted. For those who place their faith in His Son, Christ Jesus, God pardons their transgressions.



Micah 7:19 tells us that God will have compassion on us, He will tread our sins underfoot, and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. Yes, God forgives us, and He also gives us His Spirit of Grace (Zech. 12:10) so we can receive power to stand firm in faith, and submit ourselves to His Word of Truth.

When the decision is made to accept God's Son as our Lord and Savior, through Him we can come near to God. I write because there are learned behaviors and character deficits that we have developed that continue to keep us double-minded unable to receive all God wants to bestow.

I write because we need the Lord, the Word of God, to help us not to be swayed by doubt or bent over by compromise, contradiction or confusion, but to stand upright on the solid foundation of the faith given to us by God.

The Lord is full of grace and truth, and this is what we can expect to receive from Him and so much more. Without knowledge of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship we can share with the Spirit of Truth we continue to display the patterns of deception - denial, avoidance, deflecting, comparing, rationalizing, excusing, minimizing..- our self-protective coverings.



Why? A prideful heart has great difficulty with accepting especially the Truth. And, God's Word clearly states:

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

Jer. 17:9 NKJV

Even when we have the desire to submit ourselves to God, it can be really difficult to resist temptation, when we’re struggling with the stormy “whethers” that inner turmoil churns up. The Word of God assures us:

“If you resist the devil, he will flee from you. Come near to God, and He will come near to you.”

James 4:7-8

Unfortunately, when evil gained entrance into the world, life was turned upside down causing the physical realm to be viewed as what’s normal and thereby given the weight of what’s important. As a result, the spiritual realm has been ignored even rejected because its importance has been downgraded by what is seen.

But God, He has always sent His Word to reveal our being in relationship with Him is not just important it is eternally essential. Paul wrote, now faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). But, faith is also the substance

of things that rob hope, and the evidence of things not seen like fear and disbelief and deception.

When our faith is placed in God and in His Word we receive Grace and Truth and Life. However, when our faith is in “self” a life-long search for peace and happiness and contentment will be pursued. So God made His Word tangible so what is spiritual could be seen and heard and be made known.



So I share what is essential God’s Word:

“For God has not given you a spirit of fear; but of Power and of Love and of a Sound Mind.”

“Righteous Father, though the world does not know You. I know You, and they know that You have sent Me. I have made You known to them, and will continue to make You known in order that the love you have for Me may be in them and that I Myself may be in them.”

“Be on guard against the yeast of pride and self-righteousness, which is hypocrisy. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.”

“I tell you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. Instead, I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him Who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell.”

“I tell you the Truth, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”

“You should not be surprised at My saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and they are Life. Yet there are some who do not believe.”

2 Tim. 1:17 NKJV, ohn 17:25-26, Luke 12:1-5, John 3:5-9, John 6:63-64



The flesh counts for nothing because it gives rise

- To pride: vanity, arrogance, self-interest, pretense, self-opinion, self-righteousness, complacency, self-importance, self-centeredness, conceit...
- To fear: agitation, discomposure, worry, disquiet, cowardice, dismay, concern, anxiety, phobia, panic, terror...
- To hypocrisy: deception, insincerity, double-dealing, deceptiveness, duplicity, two-facedness, self-satisfaction, dishonesty, shamming, fraudulence.

The Spirit of God gives rise to a life

- Of Power: voice, authority, leverage, management, importance, weight, privilege, hold, reins, pull, right, direction, moment-by-moment....
- Of Love: enjoy, delight in, adore, revere, memorialize, treasure, cherish, revel in , appreciate, respect, prize, esteem, worship...

- Of a Sound Mind: logical, sensible, well-grounded, coherent, reasonable, informed, sure, confirmed, solid, true, just, valid, common sense, level-headed...

All of these are intangible; therefore, spiritually attained.



When I thought about Jesus making this analogy, Holy Spirit being as the wind, this thought came to mind. If we were to raise a flag, over time weather conditions would cause it to fade and fray and just naturally fall apart. Well, our fallen nature raises willfulness as a prideful banner, and over time the “whethers” that come with circumstance just naturally causes weakening and conflict and decline.

But God, He grafts His Super: mighty, specialty (the miraculous), positive, pure, substantial, abundant, astonishing, plentiful...to our to our Natural: regular, innate, ingrained, basic, normal, inmost, crude, unrefined, unpolished, in the rough...to make known the connection Christ makes for us to the supernatural: divine, sacred, supreme, blessed, everlasting, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, Almighty God.

As Paul wrote, when I am weak, then I am strong. He wants everyone to realize just how trustworthy God's Word:

“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 Cor. 12:9-10

What's amazing when our focus is on all that is Good – which is God – negativity will just naturally fade and abate and fall away. With faith and hope in the Lord, love will just naturally grow for God's Word revives us and gives us life (Ps. 119:50) by comforting and encouraging our heart (2 Thess. 2:17).

God desires to make a personal connection with you. There are so many things He wants to share. For He longs to take you to the banquet hall (SS 2:4a), and those who are taught by God shall go. Everyone who listens to the Father, and learns from Him comes to the Lord, for He has said:

“I tell you the Truth, those who believe have everlasting life. I am the Bread of Life. The forefathers of faith ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But, here is the Bread that comes down from heaven, which a person may eat and not die.”

“I am the Living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, they will live forever. This Bread is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

“God’s Word fills you with knowledge to strengthen the resolve of your faith, as you come to understand My love is the banner over you.”

John 6:45-51, SS 2:4b-5



Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is the Lover of our soul. His fruit is sweet to our taste; you will delight to sit in His shade (SS 2:3). For the fruit of Righteousness will be peace; the effect of Righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever (Isa. 32:17).

My prayer for you is that your love will overflow more and more, and you will continue to grow in knowledge and insight so you will understand what really matters. For I always want you to see clearly the difference between right and wrong, learning to love appropriately so you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ’s return.

May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation – the righteous character produced in your life by God’s Word, Christ Jesus – for this will bring much glory and praise and thanksgiving to God (Phil. 1:2-11 NLT). Know the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and winning souls is wise (Prov. 11:30).

So tell how God fervently remembers the Word and promise in which He gives us hope and comfort and consolation in our affliction. It is His Word of Truth that revives us and gives us life (Ps. 119:49-50 AMP). God has lifted up a Banner so hands would be lifted up to the throne of the Lord, Who will be at war against the enemies of God from generation to generation (Ex. 17:15-16).

God will lift up a signal to call together a hostile people from afar to execute His judgment. He will hiss for them from the end of the earth, as bees are hissed from their hives. And behold, they shall come with speed, swiftly!

In that day they – the army from afar – shall roar against the Jews like the roaring of the sea. And if one looks to the land, behold, there is

darkness and distress; and the light itself will be darkened by the clouds of it (Isa. 5:26,30 AMP).



Though my thoughts were set in a certain direction, Holy Spirit like the wind diverted me to share the lyrics of this song, "Are You Ready," by DeGamo and Key from the album Rock Solid: Absolutely Live.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQNbWK0A8sE>

Are you ready?

Are you ready to sit by His throne?

Are you ready not to be alone?

Someone's coming to take you home

If you're ready, He will carry you home

Are you ready?

Are you ready?

Jesus Christ is coming, we don't know just when
I know we'll be ready when He comes back again

Are you ready to sit by His throne?
Are you ready not to be alone?
Someone's coming to take you home
If you're ready, He will carry you home

Are you ready?
Are you ready?

Rumors of war everywhere, perhaps you wonder why
Now don't you worry, a new day's dawning
We'll catch the Son, and away we'll fly

Are you ready to sit by His throne?
Are you ready not to be alone?
Someone's coming to take you home
If you're ready, He will carry you home
Are you ready?



And now, beloved, I want you to know what happens to a Christian when they die so that when it does happen, you will not be overwhelmed with sorrow, as those who have no hope. For since we

believe that Jesus died and then came back to life again, we can also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with Him all the Christians who have died.

I can tell you this is directly from the Lord: That we who are still living when the Lord returns will not rise to meet Him ahead of those who are in their graves. For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a mighty shout and with the soul-stirring cry of the archangel and the great trumpet-call of God.

And the believers who are dead will be the first to rise to meet the Lord. Then we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with Him forever. So comfort and encourage each other with this news (1 Thess. 4:13-18 TLB).



What a wonderful God we have – He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Source of every mercy, and the One Who so wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does He do this? So when others are troubled, needing our sympathy

and encouragement, we can pass on to them this same help and comfort God has given us.

You ought to know, dear brethren, about the hard time we went through in Asia. We were really crushed and overwhelmed, and feared we would never live through it. We saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, Who alone could save us, for He can even raise the dead. And He did help us and we expect Him to do it again and again (2 Cor. 1:3-4.8-10 TLB). So I encourage you to continue:

TO PUT INTO PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES
FOR TAKING STEPS TOWARD
RENEWAL AND RECOVERY
TO BE MORE GOD-DEPENDENT INSTEAD OF
CO-DEPENDENT

- The first key is to maintain an honest view of reality not only considering particular circumstances and events as substantial, but recognizing the substance of Truth – the Life, the Alpha and Omega, the heart and the spirit as we work on taking steps of faith acknowledging:

- God exists and I matter to Him
- Admitting I am powerless
- Acknowledging in certain areas my life became unmanageable
- Believing God will restore me with Love, a Sound Mind and Power
- Believing God will help me stay committed to this decision to put all of who I am into His possession and safekeeping
- Believing the Word of God will encourage, support and strengthen me as I make a searching and fearless moral inventory of myself
- Because of God's loving-kindness I have become willing to admit to God, to myself and another person the exact nature of my wrongs
- With Truth as my solid foundation I have become entirely ready to have God remove all my defects of character
- Having received knowledge of the faith and hope and love for the Surety God has given, I humbly ask Him to remove my shortcomings
- In my desire to gain knowledge and insight and understanding, I have become willing to make a list of anyone I have harmed, and to make an amends to them all

- My desire to gain confidence and trust in God's refuge, I have become willing to step out with the mindset I am doing this with God and for His glory to make amends whenever possible unless to do so would cause injury to others
- I embrace my covenant relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit by continuing to take a personal moral inventory, and when I am wrong being prompt to admit it
- I invest in my relationship with God by communicating through prayer and meditation to improve my conscious contact with Him seeking knowledge of His will and the power of grace to carry that out
- I seek Revival, Restoration and Reconciliation, a spiritual awakening, as a result of taking steps to carry God's message to others and to practice these principles in all my affairs



God's Word encourages us so we can resist the devil, for then he will surely flee. So I share about codependency and people pleasing and emotional trauma so we can be rid of what is self-destructive. Issues such as these wear us down, and prevent us from really co-laboring, partnering, with God through His Word.

I can't imagine how great the resistance Jesus experienced as the Jewish leaders made demands such as this of Him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove Your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them:

"Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and You are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple He had spoken of was His body. After He was raised from the dead, His disciples recalled what He had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken (John 2:20-22).



Paul encourages us to reflect on God's Word, for the Lord will give you insight: wisdom, perception, discernment, understanding, sensitivity, appreciation (2 Tim. 2:7) and experience. Before I embarked on this spiritual journey in search of knowledge of the Lord, I too would have been as confounded probably even offended if what was so personal – thoughts, feelings, beliefs – were rebuked and challenged.

But this is what God's Word does. We can acquire knowledge and even understanding, but without doing what God's Word says we will continue to lack what is essential - experience. To know that we know, that we know Jesus is with us because we are consumed and transformed by God's Word.



There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every part of Scripture is God-breathed by Holy Spirit, and is useful one way or another - showing us Truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our error and mistaken judgments, training us to live God's way (2 Tim. 3:15-16 Message). And those whom the Lord loves He rebukes and disciplines (Rev. 3:19).

I can't tell you exactly when my heart began to profess "Jesus is Lord." But I can tell you it was during the going through adversity and pain, when there was no place to look for relief but up. It dawned on me the title Jesus wears "Word of God" is meant for us to know when we read Scripture the Lord is sharing something about Himself and His relationships with God and mankind.

Holy Spirit breathes life into the Word of God so we can see the Son rising before us. So we can know and understand and believe we aren't just reading words on the pages of a book, there is the weight of substance – manifestation, incarnation, heart, soul and spirit of the Alpha and Omega – Christ Jesus is in our presence.



With this knowledge when Scripture verses like Ps. 3:3 are read we can know and rely on the Truth and Substance of God's Word, Christ Jesus is lifting our head; He is a shield for us (AMP). We falsely give ourselves credit for what the Lord is and has been doing for us Himself.

Rom. 10:9-13 assures, if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

The Scripture also says, "Anyone who trusts in and relies on and depends on the Lord will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and

richly blesses all who call on Him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”



What a wonderful promise salvation when we do what God requires – believe in the One He has sent (John 6:29). Our spiritual being will live in God’s kingdom forever because of what the Lord has done for us. But, only God knows who is appropriating the Lord’s life and the saving merit of His blood,

Appropriating His life isn’t just acknowledging Jesus as Savior, but accepting God’s Word as Lord and doing what He says, so we can be made acceptable, apt and harmonious – body, soul and spirit – willing to accept correction, willing to accept discipline, while becoming balanced and able and serviceable to God not the whims of me, myself and I.



Paul tells us just because something is technically legal doesn’t mean that it’s spiritually appropriate. If I went around doing whatever I thought I could get by with, I’d be a slave to my whims.

You know the old saying, “First you eat to live, and then you live to eat?” Well, it may be true the body is only a temporary thing, but that’s no excuse for stuffing it with food, or indulging it with sex. Since the Lord honors you with a body, honor Him with your body!

God honored the Master’s body by raising it from the grave. He’ll treat yours with the same resurrection power. Until that time, remember that your body is created with the same dignity as the Lord’s body. You wouldn’t take His body off to a whorehouse or to a drug buy, would you? I should hope not.

There’s more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much spiritual mystery as physical fact. As written, “The two become one.” Since we want to become spiritually one with the Lord, we must not pursue the kind of sex that avoids commitment and intimacy, leaving us more lonely than ever – the kind of sex that can never “become one.”

There is a sense in which sexual sins are different from all others. In sexual sin we violate the sacredness of our own body; bodies that were made for God-given and God-modeled love, for “becoming one” with another.

Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body (1 Cor. 6:12-20 Message).



With knowledge of God's Word, Holy Spirit will help us to recognize and overcome the harmful ways of negativity that we've adopted. But not only that, the Counselor, Holy Spirit, teaches all things and reminds us of everything God's Word has said. Yes, it's important for us to get our hands clean and our hearts purified (James 4:7-9) because the Lord wants us to have what He has left us His peace – peace of mind and peace of heart. The Lord doesn't give to us as the world gives (John 14:25-27).

So I encourage you to put your faith and hope in God and His Word, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption. The Lord Himself will redeem all God's people from all their sins (Ps.

130:7-8). There is so very much God wants to make known like the hope of glory we receive when Christ is in us (Col. 1:27).

So put your hope in the Lord, for you will yet praise Him as your Lord and your God (Ps. 42:11), and honor Him with a humble and obedient heart. The Lord pours out His grace on us abundantly (1 Tim. 1:14a), so we can not only overcome shame and regret and guilt, but receive strength and encouragement, comfort and perseverance from the love the Lord has for us (1 Tim. 1:14b)



When Jesus lived on earth He was 100% God and 100% a man of flesh and blood. As the Son of God He reveals His great love for His Father, as the Son of Man He reveals His great love for mankind. Jesus Himself suffered when He was tempted, but He knew that He had come from God, and would go back to God. He also knew the Father had given Him complete power (John 13:3 CEV). For the One Whom God sent was given the Spirit without measure (ESV).

God's Word of Truth tells us that whoever believes in the Son has eternal life (John 3:36). With this faith we can daily receive from the Father: knowledge and understanding, wisdom and insight,

encouragement and endurance, comfort and consolation...through His Word.

The love of the Son for His Father is 100% the reason Jesus laid Himself down on that cross. The Love of the Son for mankind is 100% the reason no one took His life from Him, Jesus laid His life down on His own accord (John 10:18).

The Son of God assures us:

“Just as the Father knows Me, I know the Father.”

John 10:15

Through the Spirit of Holiness Jesus was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead. In regard to His being the Son of Man, Jesus was a descendant of King David (Rom. 1:3-4).



God bestows faith and hope that will not disappoint us, because He has poured out His love into our hearts by Holy Spirit, Who helps us grow in trust and belief and love for the Son of Man. Sadly, our pride

causes us to focus on our own achievements and the achievements of other people.

The greatest, most important and glorious achievement anyone could ever accomplish was accomplished on that cross. The Son of Man continues to be revealed as the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being. God is sustaining all things by His powerful Word. But again, our prideful heart causes us to depend on the sustaining power of our own thoughts and feelings and beliefs.

After Jesus provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven (Heb. 1:3-4). For on Him God the Father has placed His seal of approval, and the work God requires of us: Believe in the One He has sent (John 6:27-29), be sealed with Holy Spirit. Marked, branded as God's own, secured for the day of redemption the final deliverance through Christ from evil and the penalty of sin (Eph. 4:30).



The Son of Man came into this world for judgment (John 9:39 NIV); to bring everything into the clear light of day, making all the distinctions clear, so that those who have never seen will see, and those who have

made a great pretense of seeing will be exposed as blind (John 9:39 Message).

Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so all people must die; BUT GOD, does not take away life; instead, He devises ways so a banished person may not remain estranged from Him (2 Sam.14:14). What can God do for those who use their own claims of knowing what is best as sunglasses to ease Truth's radiance, but let the guilt of their sin remain (John 9:41)?

The Son of Man spoke the truth of what He knew (John 3:11) so it could be proclaimed: That which was from the beginning, has been seen and heard. It is a personal choice whether experience will be claimed, but know the Lord is waiting to share of Himself personally with you.

Yes, the Word of Life was looked upon (1 John 1:1). Such grace, such kindness offered the undeserving, those not even belonging. Such love, such compassion reaching to the depths of a soul; an ever extended invitation to come over here as you are, and help yourself for how else would it be realized you are favored in God's sight (Ruth 2:14).



No one has ever gone into heaven except the One Who came from heaven – the Son of Man (John 3:13). Born a Hebrew child and given the bread of adversity and the water of affliction so your Teacher would be hidden no more; with your own eyes Truth will be recognized.

So whether you turn to the right or to the left you'll hear a voice saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Then you will say, "Away with you" to all your idols (Isa. 30:20-22). For it will be understood as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man was lifted up to expose and destroy the slithering of deception for everyone who believes in Him there is an eternal life of Promise.

For God so loved the world, He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have life eternal. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it; instead, to save the world through Him (John 3:11-17). To deliver us from death and our feet from stumbling so we may walk before God in the Light of Life (Ps. 56:13).



God so loves the world, He sends His Word to deliver us from fear. With faith in the Lord, God will work to rescue us from every evil attack and bring us safely to His heavenly kingdom (2 Tim. 4:18). God so loves the word, He sends Holy Spirit to fill us with faith and trust and expectation for God to continue to help and deliver us.

How could thanks not be given for the gracious favor He has granted to us (2 Cor. 1:10-11)? How could songs not be sung about the grace and love He so freely gives us? God has become our fortress, our refuge in times of trouble (Ps. 59: 16).

God has revealed a love so fervent and unconditional how could words not be spoken to Him and written about Him telling of our desire to know and understand Him, His Way, His Holy Spirit.

When faith and time are invested in the Lord, we receive dividends from our obedience to God's Word. For Holy Spirit deposits Truth and Wisdom and Discernment for as long as it takes for this realization to dawn:

My Beloved is mine and I am His”
Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away

SS 2:15-17



My Beloved was heard by some “It is done.” So the world could hear Him say:

“I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. To those who are thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the Water of Life. Those who overcome will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be My son.

Rev. 21:6-7

How very sad, how very unnecessary to be among those eternally separated, consumed a second time by the murky waters of death. Waters that have been polluted by every kind of evil! Because mercy was not remembered, and the poor and needy persecuted; clothed with cursing as with a garment. Cursing that seeps into the inward life like water, and like oil into the bones (Ps. 109:16-18 AMP).

Truth has clearly spoken:

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again and again and again; but, whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

John 4:13-14

Singing as servants of God! Those who believe in Jesus will eat and not go hungry, they will drink and not go thirsty, they will rejoice and not be put to shame. They will sing out of the joy of their heart, not out of anguish wailing in brokenness of spirit. Like those who will be put to death by the Sovereign Lord their names reduced as curse words. Those who serve God are blessed to receive another name. For the earlier troubles will be gone and forgotten, banished far from God's sight (Isa. 65:13-16).



Water is everywhere. Nearly 70% of the earth's surface is covered with it. Nearly 60% of our bodies are made up with it. Water is essential for life. As a matter of fact, all the space agencies of the world use this mantra “follow the water” for this is where life could exist. But why

only water? Well, it has been determined life could exist without oxygen, sunlight and other building blocks, but not a single organism could live without water.

<https://www.amnh.org/explore/ology/water/what-is-water#:~:text=All%20living%20things%2C%20from%20tiny,almost%20no%20water%20at%20all.>

The first mention of water in the Bible is found in Genesis 1:2, and the last mention is found in Revelation 22:17. When read, you will discover water flows through the pages of the Bible because God's Word is life-giving. We are cleansed by the washing of the Water of the Word of God. God gives to everyone with faith in Jesus, Holy Spirit, so rivers of living water will flow from our heart (John 7:38-39).

Without water life ceases to exist so naturally common sense says "drink" several times a day. When consideration is not given to our eternal well-being, minds become darkened by negativity, and confusion sets in - the consequence of refusing to be refreshed by Living Water. Many claim to be wise in their knowledge of God (Rom. 1:21-25); however, the choices being made loudly cry out - foolishness.

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As waters being gathered so dryness could come upon the land, people gather silly ideas of what God is like causing the soul to become a dry and arid place. So what can be done but to let them worship idols carved from things made by God; to watch as they go into every sort of sin, doing whatever they want with each other's bodies.

Appearing strong when actually willful, self-reliant, influenced by like-minded people adopting behaviors on an emotional rather than rational basis while refusing to be enlarged with godly wisdom, insight and the Breadth of understanding. Refusing to be strengthened and empowered by faith so praise and glory would be given God instead of what is flesh and blood.

Why be like the mule, which lacks understanding and must have a bit placed in its mouth? The Lord will instruct you; the Word of God will teach you in the way you should go counseling while His eye is upon you. So make Him your hiding place, for the Word of Truth preserves a soul from trouble; surrounding them with songs and shouts of deliverance.

Just do what God's Word says, and stop doing what brings pain and sorrow and regret.

Pray, for God has given this gift of time so the Son of Man can be followed. When God's Son is known, when the great waters of trial overflow, they shall not reach the spirit in you. For God instantly forgives all guilt when sin is acknowledged and iniquity not hidden (Ps. 32:4-9). God sends His Word to dwell in us so with joy we can draw water from the wells of salvation (Isa. 12:3).



Yes, God pours out water on the thirsty land; He pours out His Spirit (Isa. 44:3) to guide and satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land; to strengthen so you will be like a well-watered garden (Isa. 58:11), and the fruit of the Spirit grows in abundance – Love, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control (Gal. 5:22-23).

A soul nourished and refreshed by the river of the water of life, which is as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb (Rev. 22:1), Christ Jesus, the Bearer of peace. So those days that were lived utterly apart from God will be as mere memories. Lost, without

God, and without hope considered His enemy with seemingly no promise of God's help, all this wiped away.

When all that Jesus has accomplished by the shedding of His blood is acknowledged and accepted, though you were far away from God, you too are acknowledged and accepted as belonging to the Lord. He will personally bring you very near the Father's heart (Eph. 2:12-14).

So come join the Spirit and the bride of Christ. Come! Whoever is thirsty, let them come; and whoever wishes, let them take the free gift of the Water of Life (Rev. 22:17). Let them discover within the Word of God, there are unique and individual experiences to be enjoyed.

If there is willingness to accept God's invitation to "Come, let us reason together," Isa. 1:18; to search for deeper meaning i.e. the word reason - to defend, consider, inspire, justify, determine, factor - all words related to reason as was this - the Alpha and Omega - the Son of God, Who was made manifest (visible) for this reason - to undo (destroy, loosen and dissolve) the works the devil has done (1 John 3:8) in us.

~

Join this very unique journey. One personally designed with great intentionality and purpose for this was God's good pleasure. To extend an invitation to all people everywhere so the fear of the Lord could be known and the glory of Jesus revered, for it is as beautiful and awe inspiring as the rising and setting of the sun.

The sails have been hoisted in anticipation for the Word of Truth to come like a pent-up flood to drive us along with the breath of Holy Spirit (Isa. 59:19). So Paul's prayer would bless you, and the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, would grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation (of insight into mysteries and secrets) in the (deep and intimate) knowledge of Himself (Eph. 1:17 AMP).

Intimate friendship with God will bless your house with counsel that lights the way before you to walk safely through the darkness, confident the Almighty is still with you. While projects prosper as the Rock pours out streams of oil (Job 29:3-6 AMP). For the anointing you receive from Jesus, God's Holy Spirit, will remain in you to teach you about all things (1 John 2:27).



When the Word of Truth is really heeded you will be taught by Him, to do what IS in our own best interest, to test everything, to hold on to the good and avoid every kind of evil (1 Thess. 5:21-22), understanding (all) truth is in Christ Jesus (Eph. 4:20 AMP).

Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light, and his servants as ministers of righteousness (2 Cor. 11:15). Such people are serving their own appetites deceiving people with their smooth talk and flattery (Rom. 16:18).

However, Holy Spirit will help us to discover what pleases the Lord (Eph. 5:10) so we can see from the perspective of God's overall purpose (Rom. 11:28 Message) to establish peace for us (Isa. 26:12) so eternal life, which is in His Son, can be received (1 John 5:11). For this is what He promised (1 John 2:25) to bring health and healing:

“I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security.”

Jer. 33:6



When the Word of Truth is heeded, your peace will be like a river and your righteousness like the waves of the sea (Isa. 48:18). For God gives

grace so we would not just hear about the endless treasures available to us in Christ, but we would receive eternal riches that money cannot buy.

God created all things for this eternal purpose: To display His manifold wisdom to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, which He accomplished through Christ Jesus (Eph. 3:8-11 NLT) so the world could be saved through Him (John 3:17b).

However a choice must be made - God has set before you - Life and Death, Good and Evil - a decision that is solely yours to make.

However you should know doing as the Lord instructs is not something beyond your strength and reach; for the words of Truth are not in the far heavens, so distant you can't hear and apply them. No one is needed to bring them down to SEE level and explain them before you can live them.

Nor are they beyond the sea, so far that no one can bring you God's message; instead, they are very close at hand, as near as the tongue in your mouth, as near as the heart in your chest. Just do it! Walk in God's ways, follow His Word so that you live, really live, live exuberantly, blessed by God (Deut. 30:11-16 Message).



Blessed by God for receiving His Message of faith (the leaning of your entire personality on the Lord in absolute trust and confidence of His power, wisdom and goodness) (Col. 1:4 AMP).

Blessed by God for offering love that doesn't devalue and charity that isn't about pity; instead, all about glorifying Him. Though charity and love are similar in meaning - charity is meant to be an expression of love, so don't just open your wallet, open your heart and serve for the glory of God.

Yes, be blessed by God for responding to His Message of hope, and experience what He has laid up reserved and waiting for you in heaven (Col. 1:5 AMP). This is not a message of grace and freedom to do just as we like without fear of God's punishment (Jude 4).

Brennan Manning said, "The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians, who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable."



Be blessed by God for heeding His Message of judgment, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1).

However, the time has come for judgment, and it must begin first among God's own children. Even Christians must be judged. What terrible fate awaits those who have never believed in the Lord? If the righteous are barely saved, what chance will the godless have?

So if you're suffering remember, there is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Keep on doing what is right and trust yourself to the God Who made you, for He will never fail you (1 Peter 4:16a,17-19 TLB). God has given us the power of the life-giving Spirit, and that power is yours through Christ Jesus, Who has freed us from the vicious circle of sin and death.

We aren't saved from sin's grasp by knowing the commandments of God because we can't and don't keep them. BUT GOD, He put into effect a different plan to save our spiritual being from the consequence of sin by sending His own Son (Rom. 8:2 TLB). Yes, God has a plan for you and me and everyone who invites Jesus, the Son of Man, to walk with them on earth.

God sent His Word, Christ Jesus, in a human body to destroy sin's control over us by giving Himself as a sacrifice for our sins (Rom. 8:3 TLB). Now despite ourselves, God can save us from our own evil heart if we choose to follow Holy Spirit and heed God's Word.



God's words are plain; however, a mocker seeks wisdom and never finds it, but knowledge comes easily to those with understanding (Prov. 14:6 NLT). Why? The thoughts of people can be like a deep well, but someone with understanding can find the wisdom there (Prov. 20:5 NCV).

So listen, and find the wisdom in the thoughts of Asaph:

What I say is wise, and my heart speaks with understanding.
Why should I be afraid of bad days? Why should I fear when
evil people surround me? They trust in their money and
brag
about their riches. No one can buy back the life of another.
No one can pay God for their own life, because the price of
a life is too high. No payment is ever enough. Do people live

forever? Don't they all face death?

See, even wise people die. Fools and stupid people also die, and leave their wealth to others. Their graves will always be their home. They will live there from now on, even though they named places after themselves. Even rich people do not live forever; like the animals, people die.

This is what will happen to those who trust themselves, and to their followers who believe them. Like sheep they must die, and Death will be their shepherd. But God, He will save my life, and will take me from the grave.

So don't be afraid of rich people because their houses are more beautiful. They don't take anything to the grave; their wealth won't go down with them. Even though they were praised when they were alive – and people may praise you when you succeed – they will go where their ancestors are. They will never see light again. Rich people with no understanding are just like animals that die. God wants true worship.

Psalm 49:1-19 NCV



The Apostles shared their thoughts about the Message they received from God. Holy Spirit gave them God's living and active Message to put in writing so their prayers and requests for all believers would not only continue but prosper in our souls as well as our bodies.

That we would be filled with the full (deep and clear) knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom (in comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God), and in understanding and discernment of spiritual things.

That we may walk (live and conduct ourselves) in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him and desiring to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing and increasing in and by the knowledge of God) with fuller, deeper, and clearer insight, acquaintance, and recognition.



Yes, their prayers will be continually heard, that we may be invigorated and strengthened with all power according to the might of

Christ's glory, (to exercise) every kind of endurance and patience (perseverance and forbearance) with joy.

Giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified and made us fit to share the portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God's people) in the Light.

The Father, has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in Whom we have our redemption through His blood, (which means) the forgiveness of our sins (Col. 1:9-14 AMP).



What will take place on the day when God will judge the secrets of everyone through Jesus? For it is not those who hear the Word who are righteous in God's sight; it is those who follow the Word who will be declared righteous (Rom. 2:13).

The responses of every person, their choices to God's yes and no, will become public knowledge on the day God makes His final decision about every man and woman. This Message from God that comes to you through Jesus takes everything into account (Rom. 2:16 Message).

There is need to be careful that this power of choice (this permission and liberty to do as you please) which is yours, does not somehow become a hindrance (a cause of stumbling, an impulse to sin) (1 Cor. 8:9 AMP). That temptation would be fallen into, for the spirit may be willing, but the body is weak (Matt. 26:41).



There is no need to worry about what others may think or say about you so do everything heartily and freely to God's glory. No need for callousness in your exercise of freedom, thoughtlessly stepping on the toes of others; instead, be considerate of the feelings of others in all matters (1 Cor. 10:31-33 Message).

For this Message of the Kingdom of God is not a matter of mere talking; it is a matter of living each day by God's sheer power. Being empowered to make informed decisions: experience God as a severe disciplinarian, (the consequence for never listening and being full of pride and arrogance); or as a good Friend and Counselor Who shares heart-to-heart with you (1 Cor. 4:18-21 Message).

A Message that empowers by faith, not as unbelief or distrust which causes wavering and the doubtful questioning of God's Word and His promises (Rom. 4:20), His protection and His care. When in fact, the Word speaks of God's grace, His promises and His counsel to build us up (Acts 20:32), and make us strong in the Lord empowered through our union with Him.

So draw strength from Him (Eph. 6:10) as Abraham, and you too will be fully satisfied and assured God is able and mighty to keep His Word and do what He has promised (Rom. 4:20-21 AMP).



God sent us His Message of faithfulness that brings honor to the One from the house of David whose throne is established and made secure by Love. In faithfulness the Son of Man sits on it - One Who in judging seeks justice, and speeds the cause of righteousness (Isa. 16:5). Who instructs us to judge nothing before the appointed time; instead, wait until His coming; for then, the Lord will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of a person's heart (1 Cor. 4:5).

There are many issues of the heart known only to God. He will reveal the - what and the where, the when and the how; however, the "Why"

that we ask can cause us to continue feeling as a victim. For this reason, God will help us better understand any portion of the “Why” that applies to us personally, but He will not disclose details about another that are not His to share.

This is what Joel Osteen suggests, “Keep in mind, hurting people often hurt others as a result of their own pain. If somebody is rude and inconsiderate, you can almost be certain they have some unresolved issues inside of them. Some major problem with anger, resentment or some heartache they are trying to cope with or overcome. Responding angrily would only make matters worse.”



Thankfully, God responds with loving-kindness and goodness, so ready to forgive, so full of mercy for all who ask His aid (Ps. 86:5). He sent His Word, Christ Jesus, to give eternal life – so our life right now, right here on earth can be enjoyed in abundance – to the full, till it overflows (John 10:10 AMP) brimming with joy (Zech. 10:7); for in the presence of the Lord there is fullness of joy, at His right hand there are pleasures forevermore (Ps. 16:11 AMP).

Respond in faith and be shown a more excellent way – one that is better by far and the highest of them all – love (1 Cor. 12:31 AMP). Put your faith to work, and experience the God of Hope filling you with joy and peace in believing that by the power of Holy Spirit hope will abound and be overflowing (Rom. 15:13 AMP).

So take a step of faith earnestly believing that God exists, that you matter to Him and He has the power to renew our thinking. This is a step (course, process, feat) that brings hope - we can recover from guilt and shame, remorse and regret, sorrow and loss.



In John 11:44 Jesus said:

“Loose him, free him of the burial wrappings and let him go.”

Jesus called to Lazarus who was dead and buried for days. This story of Lazarus gives an excellent depiction of what happens when a person recognizes the voice of Jesus. We are freed from the burial wrappings of death that have enshrouded our spiritual being because of sin.

We are pardoned from the penalty that our rebellion and prideful way of living once demanded – death separating us eternally from all that is Good.

Yes, those who trust God have confidence in a better hope, through which we draw near to Him (Heb. 7:19 NLT). For we are saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope at all, why would someone hope for what they see? But, if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance (Rom. 8:24-25 NKJV).

The glorious riches of this mystery that God has shared –

The hope of glory is Christ in you

Col. 1:27

Jesus told those who were present when Lazarus walked out of that tomb:

“I am the Resurrection and the Life. Those who believe in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 11:15-16



Lazarus was raised from the dead by the power of God, and all who trust Christ are given new life and lifted out of the graveyard of sin. Holy Spirit helps to loose us from grave clothes that have kept us bound to – fear, anger, hatred, lust... to set us free.

Later Lazarus was seen seated at a table eating with Jesus (John 12:2). All believers are “seated with Christ” in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6) enjoying spiritual food, the Word of God, the living Bread that comes down from heaven (John 6:50). How very sad, when a heart will not yield to Truth, for the Spirit of Grace cannot fill them with the breath of resurrection Life.



What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have Him, the Father of our Lord Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand-new life.

We have everything to live for, including a future in heaven – and that future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when we’ll have it all – life healed and whole.

I know how great this makes you feel, even though you have to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime. Gold put in the fire comes out of it proven pure; faith put through this suffering comes out proven genuine.

When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of His victory for redeeming you (1 Peter 1:3-7 Message).



Why let your inner-self be cast down and discouraged? Why let your heart be sad? Put your hope in God, and wait expectantly for Him (Ps. 42:5 AMP/NLT) because:

- Hope offers opportunity for a brand new way of thinking to be developed
- A new approach to life is discovered when we are willing to grasp for and cling to the potential that encompasses this promise that exudes HOPE – we can move into a new neighborhood where peace and joy and contentment reside

- HOPE generates an empowerment within us as a result of the knowledge, insight and understanding that is offered as we embark on this spiritual journey of renewal and recovery
- Hope presents us with Truth so we can overcome the emotional traumas of life that prod us into regions of darkness, places where hopelessness, pain and despair permeate the atmosphere
- Hope allows us to experience the Word of God, “Freeing us from the stifling atmosphere of pleasing others and fitting into the little patterns they dictate. Can’t you see the central issue in all of this? It is not what you and I do -- submit to (the dictates of people and the messages of the world). It is what God is doing, and He is creating something totally new, a free life! (One where His) peace and mercy (is poured out) on us! Gal. 6:14-16 Message Bible.
- Hope makes it possible for us to, “ARISE (from the depression of compromise, distraction or estrangement, all of which allows circumstance to keep us stuck, stymied; instead, rise be filled with new life as you sing to God! Sing praises to His name. Exalt Him Who rides on the clouds – His name is the Lord! A God of deliverance; our Rescuer from death. A God Who summons His

power and shows His strength, which He exerts on our behalf to give strength and power to His people (Ps. 68:4,20,28,35)! That we can Shine (be made radiant with the glory of the Lord), for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!" Isa. 60:1 AMP.

- Hope begins to do for us what we struggle doing for ourselves -- to strengthen and establish and exhort and comfort and encourage with faith in the Good News of the Gospel of Christ, so that you should not be disturbed and beguiled and led astray by afflictions and difficulties -- 1 Thess. 3:2-3 NASU.
- What Hope offers may at times be uncomfortable because it provides opportunity for the Light of heaven to shine upon us. God said:

"Light shall shine out of darkness."

God is the One Who has shone in our hearts to give (you and me and the world) the Light of the knowledge of the glory of Himself in the face of Christ Jesus," 2 Cor. 4:6 NASU.

- Change is not easy. Change is something we tend to avoid because we get comfortable right where we are. Know, God always offers us Hope, for He has designed a process for change to occur. One that will reveal His goodness, mercy and compassion: Ask, Seek and Knock.

God's Word assures us:

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; those who seek find; and to those who knock, the door will be opened,”

Matt. 7:7-8



No matter what your beliefs may be. No matter the discomfort gazing upon the Light of Truth may cause let Hope intervene because:

For every good and perfect gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of all [that gives] light, in [the brilliance of] Whom there can be no variation [rising or setting] or shadow cast

by His turning [as in an eclipse]. And it was of His own [free] will that God gave us birth [as sons] by [His] Word of Truth

James 1:13-16 AMP

God desires to rescue us from the domain of darkness, and transfer us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins

Col 1:13-14 NASU

Therefore, don't be misled, let no one say when they are tempted, I am tempted from God; for God is incapable of being tempted by [what is] evil and He Himself tempts no one. However, every person is tempted when they are drawn away, enticed and baited by their own evil desires (lust, passions). For that evil desire, when it's conceived, gives birth to sin, and sin, when it's fully matured, brings forth death

James 1:17-18 NASU

The miraculous flows from the Kingdom of God; therefore, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you

Matt 17:20-21 NASU.

- Just think -- what if that mountain is you
- How many times mole hills have been turned into mountains
- How many thoughts, feelings, opinions, disrespectful judgments and beliefs lay dormant until emotions erupt and harm occurs

- Remembering a tragic experience is gut-wrenching
- Which makes Hope an integral component in the process of our renewal and recovery
- Hope needs to be embraced during our journey to inner healing
- Hope is essential for with it we can take on the monsters that our emotional traumas have breathed life into
- Hope offers opportunity for a brand new way of thinking to be developed



God helped free me from the errors in my thinking so I could come to know His will for me (2 Tim. 2:25-26), and He will definitely help you too.



- A person's **self**-concept is their **understanding** of who they are and what makes them unique. This understanding can include the physical **self**, the social **self**, the competent **self** and the inner or psychological, **self**. Meanwhile, a person's **self-understanding** is about knowing what motivates their actions
- Listening to, talking with, and actually seeing people who have been as upset as we have been and are; and seeing that they have found peace in circumstances sometimes worse than our own, will help us come to believe there is Hope
- When we believe we are crazy we will find Hope
- Insanity has been described as doing the same thing over and over and over again expecting a different result
- Why??? -- Because it is impossible for anyone to identify the damage our own thoughts, feelings, beliefs and opinions have caused us
- It is impossible to escape the anger, the confusion, the insecurity of our own behavior when foolishness, stupidity, thoughtlessness, instability, absurdity has at times been present

- Many a plea could be made for temporary insanity when -- the loss of reason -- occurred, bringing about the personal gain of regret, shame, guilt, self-accusation, disappointment..... shrouding factors of negativity that work to overwhelm, confound, crush, defeat - so the enemy's ultimate desire to kill, steal and destroy can be executed
- How many times our inner being has been crippled, deprived of the ability to function properly, due to the emotional traumas related to abuse that has been perpetrated on us in some or all of its ugly forms: verbal, emotional, physical, psychological, sexual, financial
- Sadly the harm done to self is ongoing as we ruminate -- puzzling over, dwelling on, worrying about, brooding over -- developing and engaging in self-protective strategies that help us survive but never thrive
- Self-protective strategies (designed to assure the proliferation of Codependency and Denial):
 - "I'll do it Myself" - the classic "Martyr" that often suffers; however, not always silently while feeling resentful, being

easily offended, having difficulty saying “No” and often overwhelmed

- “Self-Righteous” -- blames, accuses, condemns, criticizes – thinks their way is the right way
- “Self-Sabotage” -- hard on self, obsesses over failures, perfectionism
- “Acting Politically” -- Family secrets, censoring behavior and presenting only what is deemed socially acceptable
- “Cynicism” -- Don’t have to believe in anything to avoid disappointments, which causes the soul to be closed off
- “Sarcasm” -- the use of cutting remarks to lighten a situation or put someone in their place. May be viewed as humor, but the laughter is always at the expense of someone else. The effect is disempowering – generates self-doubt
- “Intellectualization” -- Challenging people and ideas; being argumentative keeps you from having to feel or empathize with others when upset
- “Domination” -- Using your position and authority to make demands on others telling them what to do; Bullying or shouting or cursing when upset -- It’s not pretty

- “Coalition-Building” -- Gossiping or talking to others about how upset you are and what someone has done to cause this in an attempt to get them to agree with how “right you are”
- “Withdrawal” -- Whether physically, emotionally or mentally you disengage when upset; refusing to talk when someone is upset with you or avoiding conflict by walking away from or walking out on the person upset with you
- These self-protective strategies as identified in the Henley Leadership Group may offer a sense of power, but it’s not the kind of power that is wanted or feels good upon evaluation
- When we realize the way we have been living and not living is insane, there is Hope
- Taking this step to earnestly believe God exists and will help because you matter to Him is the beginning of a mindset on becoming sincerely invested in the options and choices that this journey of renewal and recovery offers

- We become invested in seeking knowledge about God, ourselves, renewal, recovery, our self-destructive Codependent behaviors, our character deficits, and the negative effects of emotional trauma

In Hosea 4:6 God has said, “My people are destroyed (they perish) for lack of knowledge.”

The Message Bible states it like this, “My people are ruined because they don’t know what’s right or true, because they’ve turned their back on knowledge,” Hosea 4:6 of God.

- Become invested in choosing Hope because it embodies promise and possibility, “Yet I show you a more excellent way, Love” 1 Cor. 12:31. God is love (1 John 4:8)
- Hope unveils potential, the prospect of being equipped with power to get things done, to be effective, “To no longer walk in futility of mind, being darkened in our understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in us, because of the hardness of our heart; calloused, because we have given ourselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity,” Eph. 4:17-19.

- Hope imparts confidence, faith and expectation as new information is acquired and knowledge gained - "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to mankind that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all mankind by raising Him from the dead," Acts 17:30-31.
- How amazing this knowledge that God is willing to overlook our times of ignorance
- Times that remain current and ongoing and innumerable
- HOPE enables us to walk out of unawareness, inexperience, unenlightenment, foolishness and benightedness, which is defined as being in a state of pitiful or contemptible intellectual or moral ignorance - typically owing to a lack of opportunity (to acquire the desired knowledge, understanding and information) about God and His Word and His Spirit of Truth
- One of the biggest changes that overtakes is that trauma saps your power causing you to feel helpless and fearful
- Striving to cope with personal trauma can be likened to a child in a dark room groping for the light switch

- Darkness and fear are “bedfellows”
- The spirit of trauma causes you to live in fear
- Breaking free of its grip is all about learning how to face and manage your fears
- God does not want us to be intimidated or to live in fear

- Being aware of how the effects of emotional trauma can manifest is key:
 - Nightmares, unwanted memories, avoidance of situations that bring those memories to mind, heightened reactions, anxiety or depressed mood
 - Agitation, irritability, hostility, hypervigilance, self-destructive behavior or social isolation
 - Flashbacks, fear, severe anxiety or mistrust
 - Loss of interest or pleasure in activities, guilt or loneliness
 - Insomnia
 - Emotional detachment or unwanted thoughts

- Defying the voice of trauma is the first step in reclaiming your power
- The only way to keep someone bound to or dominated by fear is by “Getting into their heads”

- In 2 Timothy 1:7 Paul tells us, “God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, love and a sound mind (self-discipline and self-control).”
- John who claimed to be the disciple the Lord loved wrote, “There is no fear in love, perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment. We love, because God FIRST loved us.”

I pray that your love may abound yet more and more and extend to its fullest development in knowledge and all keen insight. So that you may surely learn to sense what is vital, and approve and prize what is excellent and of real value (Phil. 1:9-10)