

## IT'S NOT GOOD FOR MAN TO BE ALONE

God said:

*"It's not good for man to be alone, for him I'll make a helper."*

From the soil God formed every kind of creature, giving them to man to name. But for Adam a suitable companion was not found. Into a deep sleep God placed this man, taking a rib or part of his side to make for him a mate. And when presented by God Adam said, "Her name shall be woman for she was made from man."

The two the man and his wife were naked, free of shame or fear or embarrassment (Gen. 2:4-25). How essential to know the Word of Truth restores and renews God's people with Faith and Hope and Love so we too can stand before Him freed from the ungainly coverings of fear and guilt and shame.

Man is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man (1 Cor. 11:7-10).

Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy. He who loves his wife loves himself, and cares for her as Christ does the Church for we are

members of His body – the two becoming one flesh. Therefore, the husband must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband (Eph. 5:25-33).

He who finds a wife finds what is good, and receives favor from the Lord (Prov. 18:22).



Eccl 4:9&12 tells us two are better than one; however, a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. May the amazing grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the extravagant love of God, and the intimate friendship of Holy Spirit be with you (2 Cor. 13:14).

Your Creator is your Husband, the Lord of Heaven's Armies is His name! He is your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of all the earth. The Lord has called you back from your grief – as though you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit – a wife who married young, only to be rejected (Isa. 54:5-6).

Our Almighty God says:

“Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety. I will betroth you to Me forever, I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in

love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness and you will acknowledge the Lord,” Hos. 2:18-20.



Yes, God made man in the image of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in their likeness to rule over all He made upon the earth. Saying:

“Blessed are you to be fruitful to fill the earth and subdue (best, defeat, overcome) it.”

Gen. 1:26-28

However, there was one more subtle and crafty than any other creature God had made. The serpent (Satan) who asked the woman, “Can it really be as God said, ‘You shall not eat from every tree?’” The woman spoke to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from every tree except the one in the middle of the garden. For God has said you shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, or you will surely die (Gen.3:1-2).

As defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary exaggeration is an overstatement of the truth. On the Mac Elevation Forum

<https://mackelevationforum.com/is-exaggeration-lying-in-disguise/>

This explanation was given: Exaggeration is birthed out of insecurity, it is deceptive and damages the core of all relationships.

Exaggeration can hinder others' ability to trust:

- Exaggeration kills credibility and creates doubt
- Exaggeration the cost is trust



The unfortunate truth about deception is that it doesn't require malicious intent. It simply happens. However, those that can repress a momentary urge to overstate understand the value of trust.

Are you tempted to exaggerate, or put a pretty smile on a problem instead of shooting straight?

Don't be deceived, shoot straight

BECAUSE as reported in INC. by Minda Zetlin:

1. People may take you at your word
  - ❖ It can be tough for others to distinguish when someone is exaggerating for added effect and when they literally mean what they are saying
2. When you do have something extreme to say, people may not believe you
3. If you are not precise, people may not understand you

❖ Not saying what you mean can lead to confusion and misunderstanding

4. You'll have to take things back, A Lot!

❖ There's always a risk people will be angered by what you say, misunderstand it, or take it at face value. That will leave you spending a lot of time talking about how you were misconstrued, pushing you from what you intended to say, which could be the last thing you want



God created us in His likeness so we could be known as children of God. Before the world was created God in love predestined mankind to be adopted as His sons through His Word (Eph. 1:4-5), Who was with God in the beginning. The Word is God. Through Him all things were made. In Him is life and that life is the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it (John 1:1-5).

Yes, our acceptance was preordained in accordance to God's pleasure and will - to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given to us in the One He loves (Eph. 1:-6). In His Word we find redemption; IF, we have faith that through the blood of Jesus, we receive forgiveness for our sins.

We were predestined to have God lavish all Wisdom and Understanding on us. He has made known the mystery of His will, which He purposed in Christ Jesus, to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one Head (Eph. 1:7-10).

No one was excluded by God; however, sadly, many have chosen to exclude themselves. Not choosing to clean house! Not making a clean sweep of malice and pretense, envy and hurtful talk. However, those who have had a taste of God's goodness are like infants being suckled and drinking deeply of God's pure kindness. Learning, listening, stepping out in faith and trust, growing up mature and wholly in God (1 Peter 2:1-3 Message).



Very crucial decisions must be made regarding Good and Evil for our own physical well-being. Following the Word of God or our own personal agendas will determine the outcome of our spiritual well-being. Unfortunately, without adequate knowledge of Truth we are lured by the multi-dimensional aspects of deception – error, misbelief, misconception, distortion, inaccuracy, misinterpretation, stories, fibs, duplicity, cunning, craftiness, insincerity....

The variables of falsehood are immeasurable and no matter the calculative measures the final outcome is simply meant to steal and to kill and to destroy (John 10:10) the children of God. Satan is not only an enemy of God's he is an enemy to God's children.

We can choose the Word of Truth, Christ Jesus, to be our Lord, our Savior, Teacher, Mentor and Protector; OR, we can continue to allow Satan to lord-it-over us. Poisoning us with the venom of deceit to beguile, mislead, dupe, delude, fool, defraud, swindle, fascinate, enchant, allure, seduce, entrap, enmesh, tangle, bewitch, charm.....so many means and methods to distract us and throw us off course and into that waterless pit (Zech. 9:11).



Second Cor. 11:13 warns us to beware because Satan masquerades as an angel of light. Now in hindsight it's not surprising that temptation's (power, allure, and persuasion) caused the tree to look so appealing and the fruit quite pleasing. The serpent responded to Eve's exaggerated statement, "if we eat or touch the fruit we will die," by saying, "Surely you'll not die." Adding to what God's Word says or subtracting from it (Deut. 4:2) will always lead to trouble.

With a little imagination Eve can be seen touching that piece of fruit, and when nothing happened, trouble started to brew questioning, doubt, concern and a new sensation when anxiety about God and His Word arose. For the serpent had replied, "Surely you'll not die. God knows when it is eaten your eyes will be opened, and you'll be like Him knowing the difference between good and evil and blessing and calamity."

So she ate, and her husband who was with her also ate (Gen. 3:4-6).

Did Adam eat because Eve didn't die? Much is left to the imagination, but, of this I'm certain whether it was Adam, Steve, George or Harry they too would have eaten. When I took steps toward renewal and recovery, I learned to recognize and value the importance of listening, accountability, responsibility, being honest and possessing gratitude.



Like Adam and Eve we too have much to learn because we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). Instead of doing as first Tim. 1:19 instructs clinging tightly to their faith in God's Word and doing what was right. They disobeyed God and did what they knew was the wrong thing to do. Their faith and trust in God was misplaced by willfulness (1 Tim. 1:19-20). And anyone who does



anything wrong willfully and openly blasphemes the Lord (Num. 15:30 AMP).

As a result, a major dilemma (stalemate, emergency, impasse) occurred. As a result of willfulness, disobedience and blasphemy a life-altering decision was made. So what else could God do about sin, but refine and test His people (Jer. 9:7). A life-altering decision must once again be made. Why? Exaggerating, overstating the truth, as defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, results in error and misleading. God's Word says:

“You have never heard; you have never known; for a long time your ears have not been open. I knew that you were treacherous, a rebel from birth. I will delay My anger for the honor of My name. I will restrain Myself for your benefit and for My praise. You will not be destroyed.”

“I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. I will act for My own sake, indeed, My own, for how can I be defiled? I will not give My glory to another.”

“I will turn My hand against you, and will burn away your dross completely; I will remove all your impurities. Zion will be redeemed by justice, her repentant ones by righteousness. But, both rebels and sinners will be destroyed”

“Those who abandon the Lord will perish. They will be ashamed of the sacred trees they desired. They will be embarrassed because of the gardens they have chosen. Like an oak whose leaves are withered so too are they like a garden without water.”

“The strong one will become tinder and his work a spark; both will burn together, with no one to quench the flames.”

Isa. 48:8-11 ASB, Isa. 1:27-31 ASB

Many have been deceived and deluded and misled; however, God will not allow Himself to be sneered at (scorned or mocked by mere pretensions or professions, or by His Word being set aside). A person inevitably deludes and deceives themselves when they attempt to deceive God.

For whatever they sow, that and that only is what they will reap. If they sow to their own flesh (lower nature, sensuality) they will reap from

the flesh decay and ruin and destruction. But, those who sow to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life (Gal. 6:7-8 AMP).



Moving forward one chapter in Genesis the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast” If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? However, if you choose not to do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it,” Gen. 4:6-7. God has tried to keep us away from sin, but we continue to allow sin to master (overtake, control, dominate).

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve didn’t have a book of instructions to read. You would think they had it much better because they literally walked with God; however, it’s pretty obvious they weren’t being honest in their communication with Him. When they chose to think differently from God, a strange thing occurred. A desire to be god-like covered their soul before there was ever a need to cover their flesh.

Why? Because they followed their heart – their emotions and intellect and their will gained control. When they choose to ignore God’s will and His Word, they learned to speak the native language of the liar, Satan, the father of lies (John 8:45) exaggerations, pretenses, dishonesties, deception.



Faith in God's Word was all they needed to possess. God had given them paradise in which to dwell. We're told in Luke 4:13 when the devil ended every (the complete cycle of) temptation, he (temporarily) left Jesus (that is, stood off from Him) until another more opportune and favorable time. There is a process to deception: (1<sup>st</sup>) exaggerate to dispraise Truth (2<sup>nd</sup>) tempt to use as bait (3<sup>rd</sup>) repeat until the lie is swallowed and sin not just against God but to defile (violate, ravage, destroy) self.

God can't prevent sin from occurring because He blessed us with free will the freedom of choice. Paul wrote in first Cor. 10:23, everything is permissible; but, not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible, but not everything is constructive, if it doesn't edify which means to instruct and improve especially in moral and spiritual knowledge to enlighten or inform.

God's Word says:

"The words I speak to you are Spirit and they are Life. Woe to the world for such temptations to sin and influence to do wrong (Matt. 18:7 AMP)! Those who give people a hard time,

bullying or taking advantage of their simple trust, will soon wish they hadn't. They'd be better off dropped in the middle of the lake with a millstone around their neck. Doom to the prince of this world and those who give the God-believing children a hard time! Hard times are inevitable, but they don't have to be made worse – and it's doomsday to those if they do.”

John 6:63, Matt. 18:7 AMP, Matt. 18:6-7 Message



The devil uses exaggeration to cause dis-ease, confusion and disease by polluting our thinking with thoughts of selfish desire. This is why it is so important to understand when tempted, no one should say God is tempting them. For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone, each person is tempted when, by their own evil desire, they are dragged away and enticed. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death (James 1:15) because the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).

The Ten Commandments were given so that all could see the extent of their failure to obey God. But, the more we see our sinfulness, the more we see God's abounding grace forgiving us. Before, sin ruled over people and brought them to death, but now God's grace, His loving-

kindness rules instead, giving us right standing with Him and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 5:20-21 TLB).

Our own sins build barriers between us and God (Isa. 59:2). The process of deception is to exaggerate, to tempt and to be pursuing (to follow in order to overtake, capture, kill or defeat) with sin, our own offenses. Though God also pursues it is His enemies and He will make an end of them (Nah. 1:8).



Every single person was at one time alienated from God. We were His enemies because of our evil behaviors (Col. 1:21). Without Hope and without God in our world; but God, though we were once so very far away the blood Jesus shed brings us near (Eph. 2:12-13).

All of us lived to gratify the cravings of our sinful nature by following its desires and thoughts. We were by nature objects of wrath. But, because of His great love for us, God, Who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by God’s grace we are saved. When our faith is placed in Jesus, God raises us up with the Lord and seats us in the heavenly realms in Christ (Eph. 2:2-6).

Why? Love is as strong as death, His jealousy as unrelenting as Sheol. The love God has for us burns like fiery flames, the fierce blaze of all. Mighty waters cannot quench Love, nor could rivers wash God's love for us away (SS 8:6-7 BSB).



God not only cares for those who trust in Him (Nah. 1:7), He lavishes His unfailing love upon anyone and everyone who loves Him and obeys His Word (Deut. 7:9 NLT). By living our lives the best that we can for God's glory, we too will be able to proclaim as confidently as David did, "Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever," Ps. 23:6.

However, those whose eyes are focused on self-interest will find they have remained numbered among God's foes, those He will pursue with an overwhelming flood into darkness (Nah. 1:8).

Even though God has revealed His great love for the world (John 3:16), deception continues to cover hearts and minds (2 Cor. 3:15) with a veil that hinders a person's ability to truly get to know God (2 Cor. 4:3), to know through experience that His love is unconditional. However, though God's love is unconditional it is definitely not enabling.

God gives Faith for the sake of conviction (a state of mind in which a person is free from doubt); however, it is treachery and disillusionment that imprisons us in fear. God has given us a free will, choosing to be willful ensures a person remains self-willed (hard-nosed, head strong, self-opinionated).



But, those who choose to turn from evil and do good have also decided it is in their very best interest to seek peace and pursue it. For God has given His Word, His promise the eyes of the Lord are on those who desire God's Righteousness, His ears are attentive to our prayers (1 Peter 3:11-12).

Amazingly, God seeks our permission, our willingness before He can place His seal upon our heart, His Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 1:22). God gives us the very best, His Word, so we can know and believe, grow and flourish in trust for Him, Who has given us His love as a banner we can rally to and rest under. Everyone who delights in Truth will rally to the Lord, and God will deliver and rescue His beloved people by His strong right arm (Ps. 60:4-5 TLB).

So be careful. If you are thinking, "Oh, I would never behave like that" - let this be a warning. For you too may fall into temptation and sin.



But, remember this – the wrong desires that come into your life aren't anything new and different. Many others have faced exactly the same problems before you. And NO temptation is irresistible.

You can trust God to keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it, for He has promised this and will do what He says. He will show you how to escape temptation's power so that you can bear up patiently against it (1 Cor. 10:12-13 TLB).



This is why I share God's Word so Truth and assurance and comfort will not only be discovered, but also recognized as eternal treasures of heaven. For then we can do as Heb. 2:16-3:1 asks: Believe with certainty that Jesus did not come as an angel, but as a human being-yes, a Jewish man. It was necessary for Him to be like us so that He could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God.

A Priest Who would be both merciful to us and faithful to God in dealing with the sins of the people. Since He Himself has now been through suffering and temptation, He knows what it is like when we suffer and are tempted.

So we can know and be confident that He is wonderfully able to help

us. That is why we should do for God as He has done for us setting us apart for Himself in Christ Jesus choosing us for heaven. Set God apart for yourself by thinking about and doing all things for the Lord's glory for He is God's Messenger and the High Priest of our faith.

God talks to us about the things that we are aware of, like the heavens are higher than the earth. And, how rain and snow fall from heaven and does not return without watering the earth to make it bud and sprout and provide seed to sow and food to eat.

However, He also wants to talk to us about those things we are not aware of. In order to do so, we must know His Word of Truth so those things that deceive can be recognized and examined; so the new Life we receive will bud and sprout as the seeds of Truth are sown; so we can partake in the fruit of Righteousness – Peace, and enjoy its benefits quietness and confidence forever (Isa, 32:17).



Over the years I have made the Psalms my prayers. Telling the Lord to do as Ps. 26:2-4 says, "Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; I want your love ever before me; I want to walk continually in Your Truth. I don't want to sit in Your Presence with deceit in my heart, nor do I wish to behave as a hypocrite."

What I wanted was to learn about Jesus. It seems a lifetime ago when I made this decision; however, it came about as a result of adversity. There are a lot of things God says about the subject of adversity, but I'm sure we can agree on this one thing the difficulty of adversity is unwelcomed. With this being said, adversity does as evil has always done, pushes us away from what we deem to be good.

Change? That is the outcome of adversity. I can tell you there were thresholds I never would have willingly crossed but for adversity. Unfortunately, I have lived through more than my fair share of hardship. Sadly, in this world in which we all coexist suffering seems a natural, sadly, a rather common occurrence. Hopefully, strength is found to keep putting one foot in front of the other so we can move forward. Yeah, life might push us back a few steps, but perseverance gets us back on track.



It's when we hit those unseen walls that our thinking can become quite befuddled. I hit a wall really hard, and couldn't seem to regain my footing. I was pushed and pulled about by thoughts and feelings that seemed intent on dragging me down. Despair – such unwanted company because it seems to cover all sense of Hope while assuring death would bring such relief.

I looked all around me but there seemed to be no other answer; that is, until I looked up. By asking a friend if I could go with her to church, I soon discovered God's Word had answers that never crossed my mind. Every sermon I heard seemed to be exactly what I needed to hear. I may not have been able to acknowledge at the time, but I was definitely experiencing what co-laboring with God's Word can accomplish within, and all I did was listen. Amazingly, faith comes by hearing what is told, and what is heard comes by the preaching of the message that came from the lips of Christ, the Messiah, Himself (Rom. 10:17 AMP).



Today I can tell you the Lord was helping me to recover Hope. Eph. 1:18 says the eyes of your heart will be enlightened so the Hope God calls you to know can be known through experience. Job 11:18 assures you will feel secure, because there is Hope, you will look around and take your rest in safety.

Yes, God is not only the Giver of Hope, but of everything that is essential to uphold and protect life. What do you need the Lord's help to recover? Surely, we may have received knowledge of Jesus by doing the only thing we could – turn the pages of God's Word.

However, before this knowledge can become integrated and personally known, Understanding must become what we need – impactful. And before Holy Spirit can produce the necessary impact in us we must be willing to accept Truth. We must be willing to admit our wrongdoing!

Why? Because it's Understanding that flips the switch to reveal the most vital and rewarding discovery a person could ever make: The Son of God being raised so the Light of the World can dawn within us. For surely, when the warming rays of Truth reach our very core; then, it will truly be understood: God has given us what is absolutely critical - His Word. For only then can we turn from whatever the doubt, deception or disbelief so we can enter the Lord's welcoming embrace!



My prayer is for each of us to be able to join Paul knowing and proclaiming as he has done: The things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Truth, Christ Jesus, as my Lord, firsthand; everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant (Phil. 3:8 Message).

It took me years to understand and acknowledge certain truths about myself. For instance, my hope was placed in myself and everyone else that mattered to me, which didn't leave a lot for me to place in God or

His Word. I share this with you because Holy Spirit is always taking from God's Word to work Good within us and around us. We need only pay attention and look.

Acts 10:38 tells us that God anointed Jesus with Holy Spirit and with power, and He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him. Today I know there is no one more deserving for me to place my hope in than God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



God's Word continues doing good to save, to deliver and to heal to bring us health so we can enjoy an abundance of peace and security (Jer. 33:6). Yes, that we may prosper in all things and be in health, just as our soul prospers (3 John 2).

God delivered Hope to me so I could learn to lean on, rely on and depend on His Word of Truth and experience the good Holy Spirit was working within me; so I could lie down unafraid, and believe God never wastes a hurt, and that I would one day look to help many (Job 11:19).

I sought knowledge of the Lord, but I didn't realize the strength and new life God's Word was imparting in me. That is until He answered

my prayer. I'm sure you've seen a picture of yourself that was not at all flattering. Well God allowed me to see the soulish part of myself as I was seen by Him.

How to adequately explain an experience that is both gut-wrenching, while also becoming absolutely awe inspiring? So much error was weaved into my thought process and my system of beliefs. BUT GOD, His lovingkindness remained unwavering.



In order for a person to be made wise about God and His Word, His Promise of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus, it must be understood and acknowledged: All Scripture is God-breathed, by Holy Spirit, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in Righteousness so the people of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 2:15-17).

This article posted on the website Bible Tools, "What the Bible says about Bible Interprets Itself," from Forerunner Commentary, may be helpful.

Isa. 28:9-13, "Who is it he is trying to teach? To whom is he explaining his message? To children weaned from their milk, to those just taken

from the breast? For it is: Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule; a little here, a little there...”

This is very similar to Jesus’ explanation of parables. God says He scatters understanding on any given subject throughout the Bible, and our job is to put it all together and see the amazing Truth that results. Therefore, parables cannot be interpreted alone; they rely on the revelation of the rest of Scripture (Richard T. Ritenbaugh, Parables and Prophecy).



Second Pet. 1:19-21, “We have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the Day dawns and the Morning Star rises in your heart. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by Holy Spirit.”

It is from verse 20 in particular that we derive the principle that the Bible interprets itself. This means that somewhere within the pages of Scripture, the timing, the location, the characters, and the symbols



employed in symbolic texts like parables and prophecies are explained or defined. It is our job to search them out.

When we add the following three vital verses to our understanding of this principle, however, we end up with a very significant corollary:

- ❖ For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore, you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob (Mal. 3:6)
- ❖ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8)
- ❖ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation or shadow of turning (James 1:17)



Each of these verses proclaims God as constant, consistent, unchanging. It is this quality of God – that He is faithful to what He is – that allows us to trust Him. We can have confidence in God and In His Word because He never changes!

Could we rely upon a double-minded God? Could we have faith in a Being Who constantly blew hot and cold? Never! With our God we need not fear inconsistency.

Thus, if God is constant and His Word interprets itself, the corollary principle is the Bible's interpretation of its symbols is consistent. This must be true! If the Bible gave us two contradictory interpretations of a symbol, how could we ever feel confident that we understood its meaning?

This corollary underscores second Peter 1:19, where the Apostle informs us "the prophetic word more sure" than even eyewitness accounts! We can have confidence in our understanding of the prophecies and parables if the symbols we interpret match what we understand in other areas of Scripture. Otherwise, we could never be sure!

This means that every symbol from Genesis to Revelation is consistent in its interpretation. If a rose means something in one part of the Bible, it will mean the same elsewhere, though the context may modify it slightly. If God is consistent, His Word – His revelation of Himself to us – must also therefore be consistent.



The conclusion may raise some questions. How can that be? How can, for instance, a lion represent Satan in first Peter 5:8 and Jesus Christ in Revelation 5:5? Is that not contradictory? Not at all! Our understanding

is correct, but the meaning we give to the symbol is wrong. We have defined it too narrowly.

A study of the symbol of the lion brings out several characteristics the Bible emphasizes: It represents strength, predatory ferocity, majesty and leadership. The lion is the symbol of a ruler, a king, and often a very fierce and powerful one.

These are the general meanings of the symbol based on a lion's traits. They help us to comprehend what God wants us to focus on in the content. Thus, a lion can represent both Satan and Jesus because they both have a lion's characteristics (Richard T. Ritenbaugh, *Parables and Prophecy*).



Revelation 1:1-2, "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John, who testifies to everything he saw - that is, the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ."

The Book of Revelation tells us, right at the beginning, what it is about, but because of the way it is translated into English, we can read right over it and miss the book's own declaration of its contents. We are immediately told that this book contains the revelation of Jesus Christ.

This phrase is the title of the book. But, what does “revelation” mean? It is the Greek noun “apocalypsis,” which is why this book is often called the “Book of the Apocalypse.” This noun comes from the verb “apocalupto,” which literally means “to take away the veil,” such as when a painting or statute has its covering taken away. Even though “apocalypsis” is most often translated, “revelation,” the best equivalent word in English is “unveiling.”



In common usage, when someone refers to the “Apocalypse,” or describes an event as being “apocalyptic,” they are usually talking about widespread devastation or ultimate doom. Mel Gibson produced and directed a movie entitled “Apocalypto,” which portrayed the end of the Mayan civilization – and it was a very bloody end.

Using “apocalypse” this way derives from the content of the Book of Revelation, not from the word’s Greek meaning. Simply, “apocalypsis” and “apocalupto” refer to “taking away a veil” or “unveiling” rather than to cataclysmic events. However, in this specific instance of apocalypse, of a veil being taken away (when Jesus Christ returns), widespread devastation will in fact occur as the present age closes with wars and disasters.



In the Greek New Testament, “apocalypsis” appears in two senses. When used figuratively, it has the sense of “bringing someone to knowledge,” as in the English phrase “remove the veil of ignorance.” For example, when we say that a mystery is unveiled, we mean the veil of ignorance is lifted so the matter can be plainly understood. In terms of the Book of Revelation, this is the sense that most interpreters and readers recognize in it. They see it as the unveiling of prophetic events to understanding.

However, when “apocalypsis” is used in a literal sense, it refers to “the visible appearance of one previously unseen,” as a woman shrouded by a veil is revealed when her covering is removed. In Revelation’s case, as the book of the Unveiling, “apocalypsis” literally refers to the visible appearance of One, Who is now hidden from human sight, and that One is, of course, Jesus Christ.

The New Testament consistently supports the literal sense of “apocalypsis” rather than the figurative, and the “revelation of Jesus Christ” is not limited to His testimony or to His unlocking of prophecy. Instead, the “revelation of Jesus Christ” is, in fact, an advance record of

His visible appearance in glory, to overthrow the spirit and human rulers of this world and to establish His Kingdom on earth.

A key to effective Bible study is to let the Bible interpret itself. Another key is to let the Bible's usage of a word determine its meaning rather than to rely solely on what it means in secular Greek or Hebrew.

“Apocalypsis” appears in eighteen places in the New Testament, and in ten of those places – including Rev. 1:1 – it is used literally, referring to a person or a thing. In every case, it denotes the “visible appearance” or “unveiling” of that person or thing, confirming how it should be understood in Rev. 1:1 (David C. Grabbe).

<https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/topical.show/RTD/cgg/ID/2024/Bible-Interprets-Itself.htm>



You may have received nuggets of revelation, “unveiling of the Truth,” as I have while reading God’s Word that were personally significant. However, after realizing how I used denial to fool myself and others, it was impossible not to acknowledge my behavior was hypocritical.

When the power of Holy Spirit working within me was able to flip the switch so a personal “apocalypsis” could occur, it was as though the breath of Life entered the written word and Jesus rose before me. Only God can make a chastising become so endearing, thoughtful and kind.

Why? He truly wants us to be more dependent on Him and His Word instead of being Codependent.

So I invite you to take new steps or continuing stepping out in faith to seek a deeper relationship with God. When I really began to put into practice the principles for taking steps toward renewal and recovery I was able to learn how to become more God-dependent instead of remaining 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 remembering:
  - God exists and I matter to Him – that God could and would if He were sought
  - Admitting I am powerless – If God is your co-pilot, switch seats
  - Acknowledging in certain areas my life became unmanageable – Sorrow shared is halved; Joy shared is doubled
  - Believing God will restore me with Love, a Sound Mind and Power – Success means getting your BUT out of the way

- Believing God will help me stay committed to this decision to put all of who I am into His possession and safekeeping – There is no magic in this process of renewal and recovery only miracles
- Believing the Word of God will encourage, support and strengthen me as I make a searching and fearless moral inventory of myself – There is pain in this process. Misery is optional
- 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 – The road to resentment is paved with expectation
- With Truth as my solid foundation I have become entirely ready to have God remove all my defects of character – Courage is faith that has said its prayers
- Having received faith and hope and love for the Surety God has given I humbly ask Him to remove my shortcomings – F.A.I.T.H. = Fantastic Adventure In Trusting Him
- Having gained 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 – Just for today I will try to live through this day only, and not tackle my whole life problems at once
- Having gained 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 my amends whenever possible unless to do so



would cause injury to others - Remembering nothing is going to happen today that you and God can't handle

- 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 – We are not human beings having spiritual experiences; we are spiritual beings having human experiences
- 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 – If God seems far away, who moved?
- 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 – Worry is a conversation you have with yourself about things you cannot change. Prayer is conversation you have with God about things He can change



God wants us to resolutely make up our mind not to worry; instead, to cling to faith and hope and the love Jesus has shown to mankind. This is the only way we can be spiritually aware of Holy Spirit “unveiling the Truth” so we

can understand and acknowledge God's purpose and His plan is for everyone to experience a personal "apocalypse:"

- Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. By Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him (Col. 1:15)
- Jesus is before all things, and in Him all things hold together (Col. 1:17)
- Yes, by faith we understand the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible (Heb. 11:3)
- The Kingdom of God does not come with signs to be observed or with visible display (Luke 17:20 AMP)
- The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen and dissolve) the works the devil (has done) (1 John 3:8 AMP)
- So by faith we come to understand, the Kingdom of God does not come with our careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or "There it is,' because the Kingdom of God is within us (Luke 17:20)

- Therefore, consider and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen, for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting (2 Cor. 4:18 AMP)
- For great and important and weighty is the hidden Truth of godliness. God was made visible in human flesh, justified and vindicated by the resurrection power of Holy Spirit, was seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world and taken up in glory (1 Tim. 3:16 AMP)
- Jesus appeared in visible form and became Man to take away (upon Himself) sins, and in Him there is no sin (1 John 3:5 AMP)
- God does not want us to consciously fall behind or be lacking in any special endowment or Christian grace, which is divine power we receive when Holy Spirit is working in our soul, while we wait and watch for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and His being made visible to all (1 Cor. 1:17 AMP)
- God foreordained and also called out to mankind through His Word; and those who not only hear but answer His call, He justifies (acquits, makes righteous, puts them into right standing with Himself). And those whom He justifies, He also glorifies

(raising them to a heavenly dignity and condition or state of being) (Rom. 8:30 AMP)

- So then, if God is for us, who can be against us? He Who did not withhold or spare (even) His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, will He not also with and through Jesus freely and graciously give us all other things (Rom. 8:31-32 AMP)
- By faith in God's Word, Christ Jesus, we can freely and graciously give all honor and glory to God, for He is faithful (reliable, trustworthy, ever true to His Promise; He can be depended on); by Him we are called into companionship and participation with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor. 1:9 AMP)
- And now, dearly beloved, abide (live, remain permanently) in Him, so that when He is made visible, you may have and enjoy perfect confidence, and not be ashamed and shrink from Him at His coming (1 John 2:28 AMP)



There are many things that we encounter in this world that can cause us to shrink back in fear. There is one who God speaks of that did not shrink from fear of the Lord; instead, God gave this account of Job:

“There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”

I often wondered why such a merciful God would allow Job to experience such suffering. Of course, for you and for me! This was Job’s profession, “I came naked from my mother’s womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!” In all the sorrow and suffering and indignities that Job endured He did not sin by foolishly blaming God for doing wrong (Job 1:21-22 NLT).

There is one who greatly rejoices in foolishness and wrongdoing – Satan. He said to the Lord, “Job has good reason to fear God. You have always put a wall of protection around him and his family and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is! But, reach out and take away everything he has and he will surely curse you to your face!” Even his wife told Job to curse God and die. (Job 1:9-12 & Job 2:9 NLT).



Job always honored God with the praise and worship of his voice and his finances and his service. So God shares with us this story of a man who knew, that he knew, that he knew it is God Who blesses. The same

faith David was made famous for proclaiming, “For surely, it is the Lord Who blesses the righteous; He surrounds them with His favor as with a shield,” Ps. 5:12. If we jump from the beginning of the Book of Job to its last chapter, we will discover the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginnings (Job 42:12).

Job was among those beloved by the Lord because Truth and Righteousness and a much different Life of Love reigned on the throne of his heart – not self-interest. Job’s interest was to bring glory to the Lord. If Job had turned from the awe and reverence and respect that is the fear of the Lord to curse God for the wrong that Evil proliferates, then surely he would have died. How many people heard Jesus say:

“Your faith has healed you!”

Mark 10:52



Yes, Job was the same as any other man with a nature that was sinful, and though troubles without number surrounded him; he knew it was not a result of sin overtaking him (Ps. 40:12). Job had faith and trust that God would not withhold His mercy from him. He believed with all his heart God’s love and His Truth would always be protecting him, even though inside his heart was failing him (Ps. 40:11-12).

Job tried to explain himself to those who called themselves his friends, “What strength do I have, that I should still have hope? What prospects, that I should be patient? Do I have the strength of a stone? Is my flesh bronze? Do I have any power to help myself, now that success has been driven from me? That God would loose His hand and cut me off! Then I would still have this consolation – my joy in unrelenting pain – that I had not denied the words of the Holy One (Job 6:9-13).

Job didn’t deny the Word of God. The Prince of this world (John 16:11) was cast down from heaven for trouble is what he causes. No one deserves to endure the affect and effects of trouble, but we do because fairness is not a concern for Evil. How many could testify as Job and David, “Every day I call to You, my God, but you do not answer. Every night You hear My voice, but I find no relief (Ps. 22:2).

We can allow trouble to sway our thoughts and feelings, OR we can remain strong and sturdy in faith. Not weakened by a heart that continually fails us. We can think and proclaim, “Lord You are holy. You are enthroned in the praises of Your people. Our ancestors like Job and David trusted in you, and you rescued them. They cried out to you and were saved. They trusted in you and were never shamed or disgraced (Ps. 22:2-5).



With the same spirit of faith we also believe and trust God; therefore speak, because we know the One Who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us in His presence. All of this within the Word of God, all that Jesus has accomplished is for our benefit so the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving and praise to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore beloved, do not lose heart (2 Cor. 4:13-16).

### DON'T LOSE HEART

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

Don't lose heart

Don't lose heart

Another sleepless night

Prayin' hope comes with the morning light

Right now you're feeling like you've lost this fight

And fear is screamin' out your name

When you say "God, help me"

You wonder if He's even listening

Truth is, I've wondered the very same thing

So you don't have to feel ashamed



Let me walk with you through this valley  
And tell you all that I've learned to be true

Don't lose heart, don't you dare let go  
I've been where you are, you are not alone  
I know it gets dark, I know it gets hard  
But we're gonna make it home

So don't lose heart

Don't lose heart

Don't lose heart

Take my hand

And I'll show you all the scars from where I've been  
Remind you how we both know this story ends  
And I know you'll do the same for me

These afflictions that are only temporary  
Are gonna turn to glory beyond compare

So don't lose heart, don't you dare let go  
I've been where you are, you are not alone  
I know it gets dark, I know it gets hard

But we're gonna make it home

So don't lose heart

Don't lose hope, and don't lose faith

Just hold on tight to every promise God has made

You can lose the fear in the light of grace

Just lift your eyes to your Father's face

Hear the song He's singin' over you

"Don't lose heart

I won't ever let you go

I'm right where you are, you're safe in My arms"

So don't lose heart, don't you dare let go

I've been where you are, you're never gonna be alone

I know it gets dark, I know it gets hard

But we're gonna make it home

So don't lose heart

Song by Steven Curtis Chapman



Why should we lose heart or fear when evil days come? When wicked deceivers surround us – those who trust in their wealth and boast of

their great riches? No one can redeem the life of another! No one can give to God a ransom for another. The ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough – that they should live on forever and not see decay (Ps. 48:5-9).

When faith is misdirected then so too will they be directed far from their princely mansions, from the riches in which they boast! But God, He will redeem those from the grave, whose faith and praise and thanksgiving for God are the riches in which they boast. He will surely take them to Himself (Ps. 48:14-15).

So share your riches and proclaim the name of Jesus to your brothers and sisters. Praise and worship Him among the assembly of His people. Praise the Lord, all you who fear Him! Honor Him! Show Him reverence! For He has not ignored or belittled the suffering of the needy! He has not turned His back, but has listened to their cries for help (Ps. 22:22-24 NLT).



We have all experienced hardship, shed tears and prayed for help. Remember, we each possess the knowledge of Good and Evil. A choice, a determination must always be made, and there are only ever two directions in which to proceed. Evil tests our faith to see where it is

placed – in self, in fear, in hatred, in revenge... - for this is when a fault finding heart will be followed.

When trouble comes God can test our faith for surely our words, our choices will give proof in Whom we've placed our faith and trust. Just remember God hears and He answers us. The pages of God's Book reveal the lives of those who misdirected their faith. But, God's Word also provides testimonies of those who set the desires of their heart aside so faith could be placed in God and in His Word. God answered our prayers to be saved, to be rescued, to be delivered from evil. Surely we will discover He grants the desire of our heart (Ps. 21:2).

So when the sincerity of your faith and love for God and his Word are tested, and they will be, whether by fear and trouble and violent people; Remember, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, so that through His poverty we might become rich (2 Cor. 8:8-9) in faith and hope and love and kindness and patience and faithfulness...



Jesus was poured out like water, and all His bones were out of joint. His heart was like wax, it had melted within Him. His strength was

dried up like a potsherd, while His tongue clung to His jaws. God brought Him to the dust of death (Ps. 22:14-15 NKJV).

He was made to feel like a worm, unrecognizable as a man. A reproach of men, and despised by the people. All those who saw Him ridiculed Him. They shot out the lip, and they shook the head, saying, 'He trusts in God, let Him rescue Him. Let God deliver Him, since He so delights in Him!' Ps. 22:6-8 NKJV.

Though trouble tried its best to profess differently, God did not withhold His mercy from the Lord. His love and His Truth always protected His Christ. Yes, troubles without number surrounded Jesus, but sin had no power to influence or overtake Him; instead, He saw (Ps. 40:11-12) Love and Goodness always before Him.



Jesus knew the Father had put all things under His power. Jesus knew He had come from God and was returning to God (John 13:3). Jesus understood God would make Him the Author and Perfecter of our faith, and for this joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame (Heb. 12:2)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses: prophets, priests, kings, apostles, martyrs, believers...let us throw off

everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance this race of faith marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus!

Consider Him Who endured such opposition from sinful people, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggles against sin, against fear, against pleasing people; Remember, you have not yet resisted as Jesus did, to the sweating of blood. Don't forget or refuse to heed the Word, for Christ Jesus, offers great encouragement God addresses those who turn to Him in faith as sons:

“My beloved son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you; because, the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son.”



So endure hardship as discipline, God is treating you as a son (Heb.12:1-7). No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Faith and trust in God and in His Word will strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees (Heb. 12:11-12). When it is believed God will do

whatever He sees needs doing (1 Chron. 19:13 Message), then faith in Jesus will captivate your heart so you can be certain there's more to come.

So continue to shout your praise even when you're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered still of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next.

In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling short-changed. Quite the contrary - we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:3-5 Message).



So do as God's Word instructs:

“Abstain from evil (shrink from it and keep aloof from it) in whatever form or whatever kind it may be.”

1 Thess. 5:22

Heb. 4:12 assures us, the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power (making it active, operative, energizing and effective AMP).

How you make ask? Jesus is alive (Rev. 1:18). The Amplified Version of Isa. 55:11 records God as saying:

“My Word that goes out from My mouth will not return to Me void, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You shall go out (from spiritual exile caused by sin and evil’s deception into the homeland where Truth resides) with joy, and be led forth (by your Leader, the Lord Himself, God’s Word) with peace.



For years the Psalms have been my book of prayers: Search me O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting (Ps. 139:23-24). No matter where we are in our journey with the Lord, know God continues to send His Word so Holy Spirit can help us abide in Jesus. With the Word abiding in us the purpose God has for His beloved ones would be fulfilled: We shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace.

However, it isn’t just a matter of resisting willful desire, although these are sacrifices most definitely pleasing to God; what really matters is to experience Good - to experience God’s kindness and goodness, to



experience His faithfulness and His love. Jesus faced the most grueling of circumstances so we could.

The worst we may face to glorify God would be death; but, if our thoughts and choices and behaviors exhibit the faith and trust it requires to die to self, which is definitely not an easy matter, then we will experience the Angel of the Lord, Christ Jesus, God's Word strengthening our resolve to bring all glory to our heavenly Father.



Acts 13:22 tells us: After removing Saul, God made David king. This is the testimony God gave concerning him:

“I have found David son of Jesse a man after My own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.”

David wrote of his experiences with the One Who is Good. David told of God's love, of His mercy and goodness, of His kindness and of His faithfulness. This is what a person will not only learn but experience along life's journey when faith and trust are in God and His Word, so our lives will not be void of His joy and His peace.

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved! You and your household! Do not grieve or be fearful, for the joy of the Lord is your strength; and, the peace of God will guard

your heart and mind in Christ Jesus, for God's peace transcends all your understanding."

Acts 16:31, Neh. 8:10, Phil. 4:7



Don't just keep your eyes on Jesus, keep God's Word securely in your heart, if you desire the Lord to be your Leader and Instructor (Heb. 12:2a). Follow Him! Be committed to do as He says:

"If anyone would come after Me, they must deny themselves, and take up their cross and follow Me. They must apply their heart to My instruction, and their eyes to words of knowledge. Then it can truly be known – their Defender is strong. He will take up your case against the one who accuses the brethren before God."

Matt. 16:24, Prov. 23:11-12, Rev. 12:10

So God's love and goodness, His faithfulness and His Word could truly be known Jesus underwent a very physically traumatic few hours. Please consider the following verses placed in order of His ordeal and pay attention to the physical trauma He received before He ever arrived at that cross.

- **Sweat like blood:** Luke 22:44, “And being in agony of soul He was praying very fervently, and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.”
- **Jesus was struck:** John 18:22-23, “And when the Lord said, ‘Why question Me? Ask those who heard Me. Surely they know what I said.’ One of the officers standing by gave Him a blow, saying, ‘Is that the way You answer the high priest?’ Jesus answered him, ‘If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me.’”
- **Jesus was beaten with fists:** Mark 14:65, “And some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him with their fists, and to say to Him, ‘Prophecy!’ And the officers received Him with slaps in the face.”
- **Jesus was scourged:** Matt. 27:26, “Then Pilate released Barabbas for the people, but after having Jesus scourged, he delivered Him to be crucified.”
- **Crowns of thorns on His head and was beaten:** Matt. 27:29-31, “And after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand, and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ They spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head. And after

they had mocked Him, they took His robe off and put His garments on Him, and lead Him away to crucify Him.”

The accused would carry the cross beam to the place of crucifixion. Jesus started to carry it but simply couldn't bear it very far after all the physical trauma He had just gone through. He collapsed. That is when the Romans drafted Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross the rest of the way.

The above information was taken from the website CARM where this article, “Did Jesus or Simon of Cyrene Carry the Cross?” and posted by Matt Slick.

<https://carm.org/bible-difficulties/did-jesus-or-simon-of-cyrene-carry-the-cross/>



In order for a person to be committed to keeping their eyes on Jesus, among the essentials is Holy Spirit Who God bestows within us to help us apply God's Word so that through these experiences Christ would become personally known.

Jesus both began and finished this race we're in. Study how He did it. Because He never lost sight of where He was headed – that exhilarating finish in and with God – He could put up with anything along the way:

Cross, shame, whatever. And now He's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God.

So when you find yourself flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility He plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your soul! (Heb. 12:2-3 Message).



At the cross all our sins were laid upon Christ; and therefore, divine judgment fell upon Him. There was no way of transferring sin without also transferring its penalty. Both sin and its punishment were transferred to the Lord Jesus.

On the cross Christ was making propitiation, and propitiation is solely God-wards. It was a question of meeting the claims of God's holiness; it was a matter of satisfying the demands of His justice. Not only was Christ's blood shed for us, but it was also shed for God.

Jesus "gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God," Eph. 5:2. Thus, it was foreshadowed on the memorable night of the Passover in Egypt: the lamb's blood must be where God's eye could see it - "When I see the blood, I will pass over you!"

The death of Christ on the cross was a death of curse: “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: For it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangs on a tree,” Gal. 3:13.

The “curse” is alienation from God. This is apparent from the words which Christ will speak to those that shall stand on His left hand in the day of His power - “Depart from Me, you cursed,” Matt. 25:41. The curse is exile from the presence and glory of God.

The above information was taken from the website Christianity.Com where this article “How did Jesus become a Curse on the Cross,” was posted by A.W.Pink.

<https://www.christianity.com/jesus/death-and-resurrection/the-crucifixion/how-did-jesus-become-a-curse-on-the-cross.html>

God has given us and will always give us His all, the question is: Are we willing to give all that we can to follow Him?



Are we willing to believe His ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts (Isa. 55:9)? Let me offer this thought, maybe for some personal reason we didn't do something we

thought God was asking us to do. It is only natural to allow regret to enter our thinking - we lost our opportunity.

We mustn't let regret or anger...enter our heart, because a lie should never be believed. God sees this as an opportunity for our trust in Him to grow, while slowly but surely doubt, fear even disbelief will be what becomes alienated from us, not our heavenly Father.

God has a plan in mind for each one of us, but it may take some time of coaxing until confidence is gained. But, when we become aware, and we will, of someone else doing the very thing God asked us to do, the Light of God's Word will dawn before us.

How? The words God speaks and the plans He shares will accomplish whatever it is He desires, and will achieve the purpose for which He intends, if not by one person then by another. It's a matter of us both knowing and understanding God's Word is right and true; the Lord is faithful in all He does (Ps. 33:4). God says what He means and will do what He says.



Yes, Isaiah 55 tells us in verse 9 that God's ways and His thoughts are higher than ours, but in verse 11 we're assured God's Word that goes forth from His mouth will not return to Him empty, but will

accomplish what He desires, and will achieve the purpose for which He sent it in the world and in us; that is IF, we are willing to adhere to the Fear of the Lord instead of fear of man.

We can't stop negative experiences from occurring, but with faith in God's Word we can prevent negativity to be victorious by impeding us with our own thoughts and feelings. From the very first day that we chose to join in a partnership with God's Word, Holy Spirit Who God bestows in us so we can grow strong in faith and confidence and trust; Know, that God Who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Phil. 1:4-5).

God's love for us is eternal! We don't have to prove our love for Him by doing. However, a time will come when serving Him becomes our joy. When it's realized it is God's great pleasure to bestow His love and truth and grace. He does not hamper or burden us with shame or guilt or condemnation. As a matter of fact, Rom. 8:1 tells us: There is now NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!

Is it even possible for God to be upset or disappointed with anyone who is doing the work He requires of us: Believe in the One He has sent (John 6:29).





Acts 13:22 tell us that after Saul was removed, God made David king. The meaning of the name Saul is: Passive participle of asked. When his story is known, it will become apparent Saul was passive in reference to the work God asks of us. He lacked the faith, the energy and the will to allow God and His Word to take an active or dominant role in his life.

God set Saul in a position of honor; however, this king may have tried to honor God; however, trying is simply not doing! Saul did not set God in the highest position of honor: Before his eyes, before his heart and soul. As a result, his fears, his pride, his doubts and worries not only led to his downfall, but also his death.

However, it is only God's business to determine if this death was merely physical or the everlasting loss of Love and Mercy and Goodness.

God has given us His Word, His Promise, we already have the victory to overcome the world of negativity within us – our faith. Believing, trusting, standing firm in our faith in God's Word, and obeying His commands - this is love for God. And His commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. Who is it

that overcomes the world? Only those who believe, Jesus is the Son of God (1 John 5:3-5).



God has given us His Word, His Promise, to provide us His power so we can be filled with the strength of conviction – knowing, believing, trusting: We can overcome sin and fear, error and deception because God has given us His Word and His Spirit of Grace.

God's Word and His Promise were made tangible and can be seen as Christ Jesus. When our faith is placed in the Lord, it will be determined we can trust God and give His Word an active and dominate role in our lives to do what He says.

In our fellowship and union with Christ Jesus our Lord, we will daily die (face death every day and die to self). What can we gain from a mere human point of view? If God's Message is not believed: The dead are raised, then eat and drink, for tomorrow we will be dead.

Don't be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character. Awake from your stupor and return to sober sense and your right mind, and sin no more. For there are some people, that have not the knowledge of God. They are utterly, possibly willfully but definitely disgracefully ignorant and

continue to be so, lacking the sense of God's presence and all true knowledge of Him (1 Cor. 15:29-34 AMP).



For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. If you possess these qualities in ever-increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of God and His Word, Christ Jesus our Lord.

But, if anyone does not have them, they are near-sighted and blind, and have forgotten or need to acknowledge the blood Jesus shed on that cross cleanses us of our sins (2 Peter 1:5-9). When God's Word is applied so God is set in the position He so richly and rightly deserves – the place of honor – then Scriptures such as Isa. 55:9-11 will be personally experienced as Holy Spirit imparts the power of Truth we will indeed go out with joy and be led forth in peace.

When we aren't exalting what we think and how we feel; instead, exalting God's Word, then God will be found dwelling in the place of greatest honor – before our eyes, before our heart and soul.



I can't explain adequately how the hardship of adversity, which brought me to my knees, and kept me there until I came to the end of everything that I could think to say and do before I simply asked Jesus what we can do. I was powerless; that is until the Lord revealed what led to such unmanageability in my life - Codependency, people pleasing, PTSD...

Life enrolls us in the School of Hard Knocks and there is much to be UN-learned. And though adversity comes in many ways and with many different faces, there are always 3 Who take every step through the fire and the storms to bring us through so that silver lining can be seen - Father, Son and Holy Spirit working together in one accord: For Good to be known. When Good is exalted then what is Evil will simply be ignored.



It was difficult for me to realize friends, family, spouses are not the only ones who forsake us, we forsake ourselves. Ps. 23 tells us God sets a table for us before our enemies; however, I was responsible for not only stuffing myself with a seven course meal of negativity. I allowed

myself to so over indulge; that as a result, my heart and mind and soul filled with such darkness that faith and hope and love were not just difficult to perceive but feel.

When we consume negativity we give evil time and opportunity to subdue to upend faith in self and others. What faith is there to place in God? Negativity gives evil time and opportunity to overpower the hope we have in ourselves and others. Why? We have not placed hope in what will last throughout eternity: God and His Word. Negativity gives evil time and opportunity to diligently work not only to crush our feelings of love, but to crush our sense of Love.

For me the final scene was left unwritten, thank God, one depicting me pulling the trigger, stepping on the gas or jumping off a cliff the choice doesn't matter – the intent of evil is to kill, to steal and to destroy (John 10:10a). And sadly, I was allowing my way of thinking to come in agreement with the Liar. Why? Though I proclaimed to have faith and hope and trust in God, they were actually placed in me, myself and others instead of God, His Word and Holy Spirit.



When I learned to believe, to trust and acknowledge God's Word is Lord, then I was able to understand love can't be determined by a

feeling, for that is a worldly point of view. God is love (1 John 4:8). We love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). Love is as strong as Death (SS 8:5); however, Love does not lead to Death as our sins do (James 1:15). Amazingly, Love leads us just as we are into knowledge and experience of all of what and how and why and Who is Good.

Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, Love does not boast. Love is not proud. Love is not rude. Love is not self-seeking. Love is not easily angered. Love keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the Truth. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails (1 Cor. 13:4-8),

This can be the point of view we share in the world when God's Word is dwelling richly within us (Col. 3:16).



So no matter the circumstance please don't be deceived Hope can always be found. Don't simply rely on or lean on or depend on the hope you've placed in yourself or others or in the things in which you esteem; instead, challenge yourself and seek the hand and the heart of God. Perceptions, attitudes, opinions and mindsets even our beliefs change as our view of the world does. However, God's Word remains

constant, for Christ Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8).

Adversity can cause life to be overwhelming, but don't allow anger or hatred or bigotry...cause you to react or over-react; instead, speak to your soul, "Be still." Take the next breath and the next step and the one after that knowing, believing the Word of God leaves His peace with you (John 14:27). So decree what the Lord has done and is doing in you and for you!

Jesus comes to us, and God's Word will continue to come overflowing with grace, with truth, with faith and hope and love so we may have life, and have it and enjoy it to the full (John 10:10b). So take steps daily to ensure you receive everything God wants you to have.

- Believe God exists and you matter to Him very much
- Admit your powerlessness
- Acknowledge the unmanageable areas of your life
- Trust God to restore you with Love and Power, with Discipline and Self-Control
- Be willing to admit your wrongs, to listen, to learn, to grow confident and strong as God removes all error in thought, in word, in deed, in character and belief

- Invest in your relationship with God, His Word and Holy Spirit, and receive all the accrued interest our heavenly Father has in you



- Eph. 4:31 encourages us to, “Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice”
- Taking this next step requires us to make a list of those whom we resent or fear, going back as far as we can remember
- Resentment is mostly unexpressed anger and fear
- By doing so we will ultimately see our resentments fade as the light of our faith in Jesus Christ is allowed to shine on them
- Working this step from the vantage point of the wrongs others have done to us will help us get it all out
- List all victimizations from day one
- List the people, institutions, places and beliefs that have victimized or hurt us; how or why
- List how this affected our lives
- Describe how this makes us feel; did we have any part in this; i.e. did we say yes to someone when we could have said no



- Why didn't we -- what did we fear might happen if we took care of ourselves
- Why didn't we own our power with that person
- What was the belief stopping us from taking care of ourselves
  
- The hardest part of working this step may be identifying our good qualities, our talents, our values and what's right about us; it seems almost second nature to see what's wrong about ourselves
  
- No matter how hard we try, perfection will escape us this is why it is so important for us to journal so we keep track of the progress we are making
  
- Those of us who are walking through the valley of trauma are dreamers
- We yearn for a life that is much better than the one that served us a platter of emotional turmoil
- When we hunger for perfection, we become famished for the unattainable
- Our suffering pushes us to seek extreme solutions, and perfection is an extreme

- It's an attempt by our soul to purge itself from its close encounter with evil
- The problem is the search for perfection results in shame
- Perfectionism will leave you full of toxic shame
- Shame is an emotion that says you are defective
- People who are shame-based teeter toward either perfectionism on the one hand or inferiority on the other
- When you don't do everything just right, the voice of trauma barks out criticism: "I don't believe you messed up again"
- Ordinary mistakes can evoke a shame attack -- the target is you
- The tragedy of shame is that it is harsh and often unforgiving
- Shame turns you against yourself
- It either sets the bar so high that no human could reach the goal, or sets it so low that it strips your humanity
- Invariably, the culprit behind a diminished self-esteem is the earnest desire to get everything right
- The tragedy of shame is that it is harsh and often unforgiving
- So I will repeat:

- Shame turns you against yourself
- It either sets the bar so high that no human could reach the goal, or sets it so low that it strips your humanity
- Invariably, the culprit behind a diminished self-esteem is the earnest desire to get everything right
  
- The tendency toward perfectionism is a set up for endless disappointment because no one can achieve perfection
- The people God chooses are different from the ones He uses -- He fixes us -- He changes us -- He gives us a story that He personally edits
- He cuts out perfection and shame, and He pastes in excellence and grace
- We begin a whole new journey with Him -- one that is gentle, balanced, fruitful and driven by the life-transforming power of His love
  
- REMEMBER:
  1. Perfectionism leaves you with a life full of shame
  2. When you are feeling fear and shame, a wonderful verse of Scripture to recite is Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my Light and my

Salvation – so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?”

The Lord is the source of your strength -- be encouraged --  
God has the final say

3. Don't let your shame button work -- when the voice of trauma gives you the drill about how you messed up, just relax and tell yourself “I might be imperfect, but so are the other six billion people who populate the globe.” Make sure you don't take yourself too seriously. Laugh at yourself daily -- in a loving, not ridiculing, way.

Dear Lord, I admit that I have my shame buttons. Give me the strength today to face my failures with patience and disappointments with grace. Help me always to remember that I am not a mistake, but that I am Your child. Thank You for preparing me to do Your work. Amen.

- Write a list of everyone you're mad at, everything you're afraid of, and everything you hate about yourself
- Make a list of who or what, past and present, bothers you, which means causes you to feel upset, afraid, angry, helpless, outraged,

indignant, hurt, ashamed, guilty, worried or disturbed -- or triggers any type of reaction in you, including caretaking or controlling

- Include things about yourself and your lives that bothers you
- Write your feelings and beliefs about each incident or person
- Taking this step means the more self-responsibility we take with each incident, the better; this does not mean we blame ourselves; it means we attempt to get to the root of the problem – so we can let go of old beliefs, and change them to better ones
- Moving forward step-by-step will help you identify the old beliefs you need to let go of and change – if you believe you’re unlovable, you won’t let anyone love you; if you believe people will hurt you and take advantage of you, they probably will
- Taking this step will mean including childhood incidents the more, the greater the healing
- This is not a step to shame or to blame others and ourselves – we need to get angry for a while – to feel as hurt and angry as we need to so we can be done with those feelings – so we can get them out of our minds, bodies and souls, and be freed from their control and influence

- This step will allow us to grieve our losses fully – unresolved emotions may be motivating our behaviors today – unfinished business does not go away – it keeps repeating itself until we are ready to deal with it – often, acceptance is all that is required
- Working this step means we look for denied addictions and problems from our past – was there sexual addiction, alcoholism, unresolved behaviors, or other problems in our family, we need to bring it into the open, identify it, and be honest about its impact on our lives
- Working this step means we look for messages from our pasts that may be controlling our lives today:
  - Don't feel
  - Don't think
  - Don't be who you are
  - Don't feel good about yourself
  - Be perfect
  - Don't have fun
  - Take care of other people
  - Don't take care of yourself

- Working this step means we look for messages that may be interfering with the quality of our lives and relationships:
  - I'm stupid
  - I don't deserve to succeed
  - I'll never amount to anything
  - People always reject me
  - I'm better off alone
- Working this Step means learning about the renewal and recovery concept called family-of-origin work – we look at what happened in our past, particularly when we were children, to see how that's affecting us today – we look at the pain, the incidents, and often the abuse we suffered as children, so we can heal and be freed from them
- Working this Step means we acknowledge that these messages are powerful, driving forces in our life
- If a person believes they are stupid, that message can gain control over their life – we may constantly be doing things to prove the message is true, or we may constantly be pressuring ourselves to prove the message isn't true

- Interactions with people may be driven by a conscious or subconscious need to prove we aren't stupid, and our fear that we are
- Believing we are unlovable can affect the quality of our relationships, including the most important ones
- If a person believes it is not okay to feel they may spend most of their time resisting, fighting off, not listening to, and repressing their feelings
- Most of us are attached to the people and problems in our environments
- The problems with Attachment are many:
  - Over involvement can keep us in a state of chaos – it can keep the people around us in a state of chaos
  - Focusing our energies on people and problems leaves little time for the business of living our own lives
  - There is so much worry and responsibility on us, and none left for the people around us
  - It overworks us, and underworks us
  - Worrying about people and problems is a waste of energy – it doesn't help or solve problems, or help us or others



- Worrying and obsessing keeps us tangled in our heads so we can't solve our problems
- Being attached to someone or something causes us to become detached from ourselves
- We lose control because we forfeit our power and ability to think, feel, act and take care of ourselves
- There is a problem or concern that is not only bothering - it controls
  
- Some will often talk about the other person's feelings when asked how they are feeling
- For many of us, our focus is not on ourselves, which makes us uncomfortable even unsure as to how or what to say about our feelings and thoughts
  
- Many of us are struggling with some of these harm-filled tendencies:
  - Don't feel happy, content, or peaceful with ourselves
  - Need to look for happiness outside ourselves
  - Feel the need, and are willing to latch onto whoever or whatever we think can provide happiness

- Feel terribly threatened by the loss of anything or person we think provides our happiness
- Didn't feel love and approval from our parents
- Don't respect ourselves
- Believe other people can't or don't love us
- Desperately seek love and approval
- Often seek love from people incapable of loving
- Believe other people are never there for us
- Equate love with pain
- Feel we need people more than we want them
- Try to prove we're good enough to be loved
- Don't take time to see if other people are good for us
- Worry whether other people love or like us
- Don't take time to figure out if we love or like people
- Center our lives around other people
- Look to relationships to provide all our good feelings
- Lose interest in our own lives when we love
- Worry other people will leave us
- Don't believe we can take care of ourselves
- Stay in relationships that don't work
- Tolerate abuse to keep people loving us

- Feel trapped in relationships
  - Leave bad relationships, and form new ones that don't work either
  - Wonder if we will ever find love
- 
- Some of us may have a sense that something bad – maybe something terrible – has happened, is happening or is about to happen
  - Obsession and worry are fed by fear – the gut-wrenching, hand-twisting anxiety many of us are far too familiar with, and causes much of what hurts us
  - Fear will come and go, but anxiety hangs in there gripping the mind, paralyzing it for all but its own purposes – the endless rehashing of the same useless thoughts
  - Anxiety is the fuel that propels us into controlling behaviors of all sorts – with thoughts of keeping a lid on things, controlling the problem and making it go away – the stuff our self-defeating behaviors consist of
  - Worrying, obsessing and controlling are illusions: tricks we play on ourselves; we want to do something to solve our problems, but we're not; these attitudes may be justifiable – not sure what to do, but know something needs to be done

- An attitude of attachment – worrying, reacting and obsessively trying to control - may have developed out of habit
- It feels safer to stay attached because reacting, obsessing and controlling has become a lifestyle of living through the lives of others – attaching to problems and people even though the things being done won't help – we may not even be aware of how tightly we are holding on
- There is a belief that there is simply no other choice, but to react to the problem or person in an obsessive manner – believing the problem or person are so important
- Detachment may be scary, but it will ultimately work better for everyone involved
- Detachment is not a cold, hostile withdrawal – a shirking of true responsibilities to self and others – a severing of relationships (though at times this may be best)
- Detachment is a releasing or detaching from a person or problem in love
- It is disengaging mentally, emotionally and sometimes physically from unhealthy; and frequently, painful entanglements with another person's life and responsibilities, and from problems we cannot solve

- Detachment is based on the premise that each person is responsible for themselves – that we can't solve problems that aren't ours to solve, and that worrying doesn't help
- It has been said that "Hurting People Hurt People"
- Make a list of the specific actions that someone did to hurt you
- What did they do to cause you resentment and/or fear
- This can be very painful, but that's why having someone you trust is essential
- They can help walk you through the pain
- Jesus is, and has been with you
- In Isa. 41:10 God promises, "Fear not, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed. I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with My victorious right hand"
- Write down how that specific hurtful action affected your life both in the past and in the present
- Which of your basic needs were injured
- Social – have you suffered from a broken relationship, slander or gossip

- Security – has your physical safety been threatened – have you faced financial loss
- Sexual – have you been a victim in abusive relationships – has intimacy or trust been damaged or broken
- God wants to comfort you and restore you
- Remember Ezek. 34:16, “I will look for those that are lost, I will bring back those that wander off, bandage those that are hurt, and heal those that are sick.”
- Lam. 3:40 states, “Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord”
- Now you need to honestly determine the part of the resentment (or any other sin or injury) that you are responsible for
- Ask God to show you your part in a broken or damaged marriage or relationship, with people or even possibly a lost job
- List the people that you have hurt, and how you hurt them
- Psalm 139:23 tells us, “Examine me, O God and know my mind; test me, and discover if there is any evil in me, and guide me in the everlasting way”

- If you have been in an abusive relationship, especially as a small child, you can find great freedom in this part of the inventory
- You will see that you had NO part, NO responsibility for the cause of the resentment
- By simply writing the words “NONE” or “NOT GUILTY” - you can begin to be free from the misplaced shame and guilt you have carried with you
- Make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves, realizing all wrongs can be forgiven
- Renounce the lie the abuse was our fault

This is my prayer that you, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident To all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, But in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, Present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which Transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and Your minds in Christ Jesus,” Philippians 4:4-7

