

# OUR FINEST HOUR

A LIVING WORD ACADEMY OF LIGHT PUBLICATION





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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I apologise for the late mail out of this issue due to circumstances beyond our control. However I trust that you will be blest by the articles in this production.

The world continues to change in such a way that it is almost impossible to predict what will happen next. However one thing we know is that God is on His throne and He rules over all. The moving of the American embassy to Jerusalem will no doubt trigger the blessing of the Lord to the USA. We have now entered a new era in the purposes of God worldwide. The death of Billy Graham and other events signify change and the end of an era. This shift will bring about changes in the church worldwide as a new day begins to unfold with both blessing and judgement.

It is time to seek the Lord like never before as you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.

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# DISILLUSIONMENT

## THE DEMISE OF A GENERATION

# HOPE

## The Dawning of a Glorious New Day



NEVILLE JOHNSON

Many in the church today have abandoned hope for a better world and are just waiting to be raptured out of it

**The world has changed dramatically over the last two decades. A new millennium generation has been born into a world of disenchantment.**

On so many fronts it would seem that this world is sinking into a mire of the lack of basic decency and morality. The prophet Isaiah said that in these days the darkness would cover this earth. Corruption at all levels of society plagues the nations. Global warmth is beginning to threaten our way of life and the future of our planet. This is fostering a plague of hopeless and disenchantment eating into the very fabric of so many lives, breeding a sense of profound futility. The loss of trust in our government leaders continues to erode confidence in their ability to changed things for the good, adding to the loss of hope for this planet, and mankind cannot survive without hope.

*Where there is no vision, the people perish:*

*Proverbs 29:18*

The Hebrew word for vision here is khaw-zone meaning VISION a sight (mentally) i.e. a dream, revelation, vision.

There are many prophetic passages in the Bible that describe this time in history. The most graphic are the prophecies of Isaiah especially chapter sixty.

*Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*

*Isaiah 60:1-2*

Even many in the church today have abandoned hope for a better world and are just waiting to be raptured out of it. However this mentality is contrary to what God's purposes are for this end time church and the restoration of this world. God is not about to abandon this world. Adam



gave away his authority over planet earth to Lucifer. This of course had far reaching ramifications which would require man - a human being - to take this planet back. Being born again was just the beginning of this plan. This world was lost by a man and can only be redeemed by the corporate man, the true church. Jesus has done what needed to be done to make this possible, now it's up to the church to finish the task

*But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.*

Hebrews 10:12-13

What is the Lord waiting for here? He is waiting for the church to finish the task: that of taking back this planet from the Devil. The prophet Isaiah gave us two sides of the coin to this predicament

*For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*

Isaiah 60:2

### **This world is ripe for harvest**

The true church will become the greatest light in the history of this world. It's time to rise and shine. For you now are the light of the world.

*Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Matthew 5:14-16

### **The greatest harvest the world has ever seen is now ready to be reaped**

Countless millions will be swept into the Kingdom of God. However it is vital that we understand that we are not just making converts we must make disciples out of these new Christians. The first wave of the harvest must be trained to become soldiers in the army of the Lord, not pew sitters.

I'm not saying it will be easy but it will be worth the battle, because we have read the last chapter, WE WIN. We are not fighting for victory we are fighting from victory Jesus said; IT IS FINISHED.

*When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

John 19:30

Now the battle is not against flesh and blood but against a spiritual demonic army. We are called to do good and bless.

*But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

Matthew 5:44-45

*Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Romans 12:20-21

### **The Gospel of the Kingdom**

Jesus clearly stated that before He returns, the gospel of the Kingdom has to be preached to every individual on



this earth. God cannot bring judgment upon those who have not heard the Gospel, the good news of salvation.

*The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

*John 1:7-9*

NOW: In these last days the true gospel of Jesus Christ will be made known to the whole world before Jesus returns.

*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

*Matthew 24:14*

There are still many many tribes around the world that have never even heard the Name of Jesus. In China alone there are millions who know nothing of Christianity and have never heard the name Jesus. But they will, this gospel will be preached to every nation. It will not take a long time to achieve this and it will be totally supernatural.

### **Why is there a seemingly difference between the Gospel and the Gospel of the Kingdom?**

The simple gospel is the good news of salvation. The gospel of the kingdom, is also the good news of salvation, however it is more than that. It is the good news of a kingdom, the kingdom of God. This Kingdom rules overall way out into the vast universe. It is more than the kingdom of heaven. The centre of God's rule is of course in heaven where God rules from His throne, but His kingdom is far reaching and goes on across realms we know little about.

*The LORD hath prepared his throne in*

*the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.*

*Psalms 103:19*

God does not create at random, He creates with purpose. God's purpose in the ages to come for the universe we live in, is shrouded in mystery. Why is the universe there? And what is its purpose? The Kingdom of God rules over the whole of creation.

Adam was given rulership over this one planet in the universe EARTH, Why? What would have happened if Adam had not fallen and sinned? What would this world be like? The fact that Adam failed God's role for him on this planet did not deter or change the purposes of God. It just caused a six thousand year glitch or hiccup. Now we are about to get another shot at it. That six thousand year glitch provided a training ground for sons of God to prove themselves worthy to reign with the Lord in the coming thousand years, the millennium rule of Jesus on this earth. Thus bringing the rule and culture of heaven to earth.

The Gospel of the Kingdom is about preparing sons of God to reign with Him starting in a brand new earth wherein will be a thousand years of peace. This is the hope this generation needs, it is more than just the gospel it is the Gospel of the good news for this planet. A thousand years of peace and wholeness. Planet earth will be changed into a glorious planet where there will be no global warming, no hate, and no injustice. A place where man will become one with nature, under the rule of God who is pure love. This is the message of hope that this generation needs, which will be preached to every nation.

*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall*





the end come.

Mat 24:14

This end is just the end of the first phase in God's purposes and mysteries for this existence of the universe. It is good news for this generation the truth that this generation needs to hear.

The loss of hope is eroding this generation like never before. Hope for this planet, hope for peace, hope for a better world. This gospel of the kingdom needs to be preached bringing hope and optimism for this earth and the people living on it. The Lord will not return until this Gospel of the Kingdom has been preached to the whole world, and this gospel will be authenticated by the greatest miracles of healing and demonstration of the power of God previously unknown to the church and the world.

### **The Bones of Joseph**

When the children of Israel left Egypt they carried the bones of Joseph with them. Why did they not leave the bones of Joseph in Egypt? It was going to be hard enough for them without carrying the mummified bones of Joseph.

*And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence. So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.*

Genesis 50:24-26

Twelve men from each tribe took their turns in carrying this strange Egyptian coffin through the blazing sun and

difficult terrain for 40 years, why?

We then find this recorded in Hebrews chapter 11 verse 22

*By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.*

Hebrews 11:22

Why was this recorded in the scriptures as a great act of faith? There must be a tremendous truth here for it to be recorded in the Bible as a great act of faith.

It is interesting that Abraham's cave at Machpelah was where Abraham and Sarah were buried and also Rebeca, Jacob and Lea. It was very important to them where they were to be buried. Then we find Joseph giving instructions for his bones.

Many years later Pharaoh said that he would destroy the children of Israel, but there was a coffin in Egypt full of bones that says this will not happen.

*And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.*

Exodus 13:19

The question is, why must these bones be taken to a specific place? Egypt had been good to Joseph why not be buried there? And why must Abraham, Isaac, Sarah, Rebeca, Jacob, and Lea, be buried in this specific place? Joseph was a seer a prophet, and he saw something way down more than one thousand seven hundred years in the future that he wanted to be a part of. He saw an event taking place a glorious event that he wanted to participate in. He



made arrangements for his body to be buried in the area that this event would happen. Why was this event in the future so important to Joseph?

**This event is found in Mathew 27:50-53.**

*Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

*Matthew 27:50-53*

Abraham as well as Joseph saw down through the ages to this event. They saw something coming that they wanted to be a part of and they ordered their lives and affairs to be a part of this glorious event.

They were the first of the Old Testament saints to be raised from the dead.

**These were the fore runners of the coming sons of God**

There is a company of people who see something more than just dying and making it to heaven. They see that it is God's high calling for them to become manifested sons of God. Yes there is a high calling that many are beginning to understand and by faith are beginning to reach for this high calling.

*And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and*

*behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

*Revelation 12:1-5*

**If you can see what is coming you can be a part of it**

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

*Romans 8:28-29*

To become like Jesus before you reach heaven was the high calling that the Apostle Paul spoke about.

*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*

*Philippians 3:13-15*

**Even creation is aware of this and longs for us to move into this high calling**

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

For the creature was made subject to



*vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?*

*Romans 8:19-24*

Jesus was the forerunner, for those with understanding and faith would follow in His footsteps. Jesus was baptised in water in the river Jordan, where the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. He then continued on to Transfiguration, which occurred at the end of the 6th Day.

*And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.*

*Matthew 17:1-3*

Baptised in Water, Baptised in the Holy Spirit. But there is more if you believe. Transfiguration. Reaching the fullness of our salvation, being conformed to the image of Jesus, even before the rapture.

Joseph and Abraham saw something coming and prepared for that event. Do you see something coming which is beyond being born again and being spirit filled? The way forward is to press toward this high calling.

*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 3:14*

The word press in this verse is the Geek word *dioko*, meaning to *pursue* or to *run towards*. *Strive for*.

**This is something we must do - Joseph saw something that seemed outlandish, impossible, but by faith took hold of it and became part of the glorious event**

The gospel of the kingdom is a gospel of salvation and hope for a brand new world of peace, justice and God dwelling among mankind. God is about to raise up a people who are like Him - a people who will finish the task that was given to Adam.

*Where there is no vision, the people perish:*

*Proverbs 29:18*

*Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.*

*Isaiah 60:1*

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

*Matthew 5:14*

*For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.*

*Romans 8:19*

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# ASK GOD FOR DIVINE WISDOM AND STRATEGIES!

BOBBY CONNER

Divine Wisdom isn't reserved for the select few  
but is available to all Believers

***If any of you is deficient in wisdom, let him ask of the giving God Who gives to everyone liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproaching or faultfinding, and it will be given him."***

**James 1:5**

This Divine Wisdom isn't reserved for the select few but is available to all Believers who hunger for intimacy with the Lord and sincerely seek to advance His Kingdom. Genuine seekers of Truth will quickly discover that God has opened wide a door of divine revelation for those who are turning away from the carnal, natural mind and choosing to abide in God's holy Presence (see **Psalm 91:1**).

Divine Wisdom, specifically, will lift us up to a higher level in the realm of the Spirit so that the Lord may reveal His divine strategies and powerfully plans (see **Isaiah 55:9**).

The Lord is extending a specific invitation to His Bride to **"come up here"** (see **Revelation 4:1**) to receive His guidance for His Kingdom's advancement on earth. Just as Boaz

promoted Ruth, from the corner of the harvest field to the centre stage, the Bride of Christ is coming to the forefront of human history (see **Ruth 2:15**).

## **Divine Wisdom - The Principal Thing**

Beloved, seeking Divine Wisdom is not an option. Indeed, as Believers, we are commanded to attain Godly Wisdom and prize it as a top priority. Scripture instructs us to obtain Wisdom at all cost.

Consider the warnings of Proverbs 4:5-9

*"Get skillful and godly Wisdom, get understanding (discernment, comprehension, and interpretation); do not forget and do not turn back from the words of My mouth. Forsake not [Wisdom], and she will keep, defend, and protect you; love her, and she will guard you. The beginning of Wisdom is: get Wisdom (skillful and godly Wisdom)! [For skillful and godly Wisdom is the principal thing.] And with all you have gotten, get understanding (discernment, comprehension, and*

interpretation).

*Prize Wisdom highly and exalt her, and she will exalt and promote you; she will bring you to honor when you embrace her. She shall give to your head a wreath of gracefulness; a crown of beauty and glory will she deliver to you.*

*Proverbs 4:5-9*

We are to seek wisdom above all earthly treasures;

*"How much better it is to get skillful and godly Wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver."*

*Proverbs 16:16*

### **Divine Wisdom - Versus Natural Understanding**

Great advice is released in Proverbs 23:4:

*"...cease from your own [human] wisdom."*

*Proverbs 23:4*

Mere human, natural knowledge, and understanding without Divine Wisdom is worthless. Despite our best efforts and intentions, our natural mind and human intelligence, without the guidance and illumination of the Holy Spirit, we cannot understand the Word of God, commune with God the Father or follow the leading of the magnificent Person of the Holy Spirit of God.

*...Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*

*But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to*

*us by God.*

*These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.*

*1 Corinthians 2:1-16*

Our natural mind is not merely insufficient: Following our carnal thoughts and reasoning is hostility toward God, this is a serious matter, beloved.

*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

*Romans 8:6-7*

As disciples of Christ, we dare not continue to rely on our natural minds, but we must renew our minds to become "spiritually minded." If we don't renew our minds, our lack of knowledge of the Holy One will eventually lead to our destruction. The Spirit of God warns us in an exceptionally blunt truth in Hosea 4:6:

*"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."*

*Hosea 4:6*

Scripture is not speaking about mere human knowledge, but instead Divine Enlightenment, Wisdom from above. We face destruction if we fail to appropriate Divine Wisdom – if we continue to live according to our own, human reasoning

This season is not a time to stumble about in the maze of human



philosophy or psychology, vainly speculating about the future or resurrecting past offenses that have already been forgiven. These mental speculations and examinations may seem righteous and even holy, but Scripture warns us that there is a way that appears right unto man. However, it is the way of death and destruction (see **Proverbs 14:12**).

We must allow the Word of God to become “flesh of our flesh.” We must replace the carnal pathways of our worldly reasoning’s and beliefs; with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed to us in Scripture.

*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Romans 12:2

### **Divine Wisdom - Through Holiness and the Fear of the Lord**

No treasure in Heaven or on earth is more precious than this Wisdom from above— Wisdom that is the Person of Christ our Lord! Divine Wisdom is so incredibly essential and indeed priceless. Wisdom, in fact, is Christ Himself. Paul states this fact so clearly in his first letter to the Church at Corinth.

*Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*

1 Corinthians 1:24

*But of Him are you in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom...*

1 Corinthians 1:30

God is offering to each of us much higher wisdom, released by the Spirit of God. Now is the time to embrace real, authentic Wisdom, who is Christ Himself. You might be asking how to obtain this much-desired Divine Wisdom – the passionate quest and resounding question throughout human history. The Holy Scriptures precisely reveal the answer:

*But to man He said, Behold, the reverential and worshipful fear of the Lord – that is Wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.*

Job 28:28

*The reverent fear and worship of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom and skill [the preceding and the first essential, the prerequisite and the alphabet]; a good understanding, wisdom, and meaning have all those who do [the will of the Lord]. Their praise of Him endures forever.*

Psalms 111:10 AMPC

*The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning and the principal and choice part of knowledge [its starting point and its essence]; but fools despise skillful and godly Wisdom, instruction, and discipline.*

Proverbs 1:7

*The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning (the chief and choice part) of Wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight and understanding.*

Proverbs 9:10

What are the first steps to receiving the wisdom from above? This way of the Lord's Divine Wisdom is entered through two gates: **holiness** (as expressed in humility) and **reverence** or fear of the Lord. These are the gates leading to the pathway of Wisdom. God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble (see **Proverbs 3:34** and **1 Peter 5:5**).

What is this grace that He bestows upon the humble? It is the grace or divine ability to know Him and His strategies for bringing His Kingdom to earth – the grace for Divine Wisdom.

### **Divine Wisdom - Through the Holy Spirit**

It is indeed the Holy Spirit alone who imparts Divine Wisdom. Notice the Words of Christ recorded in John.

*“But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will*





*guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future]."*

*John 16:13 AMPC*

The Teacher who will lead us into wisdom is God's Holy Spirit. The Spirit alone – not our natural minds – can guide us into all truth, who is Christ Jesus. Specifically, the Spirit "will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future]."

Why is this truth so vital for today? As world economies implode, retirement savings dwindle, and earthquakes, tsunamis, famines, and floods devastate communities, it would seem that the entire world is seeking to know what will happen in the future. Without a real relationship with Christ Jesus, humanity cannot find true wisdom. These are days of intense and profound deception. Most of humanity is deluded, blind to the truth, stumbling toward death and destruction (see **Matthew 7:13**). As men and women continue to reject Christ, spirits of fear, accusation, bitterness, anger, occultism, envy, jealousy and rejection divide and destroy families, neighbourhoods, and nations. These days that we are facing demand that we all move and speak in a revelatory – not natural – understanding of the times and seasons, receiving Godly guidance as we embrace the promise of **Nehemiah 9:20**, which assures us that God will release to us the Spirit of God to guide us.

As faithful followers of Christ, we walk as light-bearers in a dark age. Through us, the Spirit of God will release Divine Wisdom to set men and women free from the captivity of Satan's lies (see **John 8:12**). God's

children will shine with Divine Wisdom, Christ Himself. We must rely on the revelatory light and illumination of Christ and share His Wisdom with those whose minds are shrouded by lies and deceptions.

### **Divine Wisdom - Through the Word of God**

A good, practical exercise for gaining Divine Wisdom is to study a chapter in the book of Proverbs every day. You will be surprised at the sound wisdom that will be imparted to you by the Spirit of God. The greatest textbook on life is the Holy Bible; within its pages are the insights that will transform your entire outlook on life (see **Psalms 119:9-11**).

### **Take time each day to feed your soul with Heaven's manna!**

Approach the Lord with reverence and awe, humbling yourself before His majesty. We must come not in our holiness and righteousness but clothed in Christ! Approach His throne of grace boldly and ask our Father God with a sincere heart for the wisdom of Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten the eyes of your understanding.

*that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened*

*Ephesians 1:17-18*

If we ask in childlike faith, believing His Word, God will liberally bestow this much-needed wisdom.

*If any of you is deficient in wisdom, let him ask of the giving God [who gives] to everyone liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproaching or faultfinding, and it will be given him.*

*James 1:5*

The benefits and blessings of Divine Wisdom are enormous. Wisdom produces understanding, which brings prosperity and favor.

*He who keeps understanding shall*



*prosper and find good.*

*Proverbs 19:8*

Christ Jesus states that it is as we seek first His Kingdom that everything else will be put into proper place (see **Matthew 6:33**).

### **Divine Wisdom - To Preach Christ in Power**

As we humble ourselves and seek God **“with clean hands and a pure heart”** (see **Psalms 24:4**), the Spirit of Council will release to us the much-needed Divine Wisdom for our day. God desires to release revelation and discernment on a higher level, bringing us out of the world's confusion and chaos. As we renew our minds with the Word of God, we will know God and **“will shine ever brighter and do great exploits”** (see **Daniel 11:32**). What are those great exploits? Preaching Christ in the “power” of the Spirit. Our witness of the Gospel is not to be with **“persuasive words of human wisdom”** (see **1 Corinthians 2:4-5**). But, as Paul continues: **“...in demonstration**

**of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”**

To experience the power of God, Paul knew that he required the Divine Wisdom of God – not mere human reasoning. Paul writes that he does not speak **“the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age,” but rather he speaks “the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory”** (see **1 Corinthians 2:6-7**).

Beloved, let's all contend for the prize possession of Christ, the Wisdom of God! Earnestly desire this Divine Wisdom, always seeking Him above all else. Prepare to witness the mighty power of the Lord to love the addicted and lost; minister to the poor, heal the sick, raise the dead, prophesy to nations and advance the Kingdom of God on earth – through your own hands and heart! Walk in the wisdom of Christ.



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# A MAJOR SHIFT

Jce Sweet

If there is not a genuine awakening and a soon turning,  
we are in danger of becoming "Ichabod"

**A** paradigm shift has been and is now occurring across the church. A transition is taking place from mere "maintenance meetings" (designed to accommodate believers who mostly just "attend church") to mobilizing and deploying an army that invades darkness, reaps the last great harvest (with power) and makes true disciples who are becoming like Christ.

Churches, ministries and believers who do not make this transition are becoming more and more disconnected from the heart and will of God. If there is not a genuine awakening and a soon turning, we are in danger of becoming "Ichabod" in God's eyes. We must apprehend a fresh and renewed emphasis on the "great commission" to "go" and "make disciples of all nations".

*"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted."*

*"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen."*

*Matthew 28:16-20*

I once heard a preacher say that he looked up the word "go" in the Greek and he found out that it means "go"! We are not to stay in church. We are to be about our Father's business. We are to carry His burden as we go forth, laboring to reap a harvest for Him.

Some have erroneously thought that the "Great Commission" is fulfilled through evangelism. It is not. Evangelism is only the first step. After conversion the work of equipping, training and deploying begins. The church must give her self to prevailing prayer, evangelism and disciple-





making.

A disciple does much more than come forward in an altar call, and then attend Sunday services. A true disciple has a lifestyle of regularly feeding on and the Word of God and *practices doing it*, with the goal of becoming like Jesus.

*"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you continue in My word, you are My disciples indeed."*

*John 8:31*

A true disciple seeks to abide in Christ so they are ultimately walking like Jesus walked.

*"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher."*

*Luke 6:40*

*"He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."*

*1 John 2:6*

When Jesus came into this world, He made it clear that He came not to do His own will, but His Father's.

*"Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—  
In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'"*

*Hebrews 10:7*

*"And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him"*

*John 8:29*

Jesus's mission on earth was to finish the work His Father gave Him to do. Shortly before He was crucified, He prayed:

*"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do."*

*John 17:4*

Like our Master, we, too, are to be about our Father's business. It's way past time to get rid of the "maintain the believers" mindset and transition to "go" and "make disciples of all nations". We have work to do!

God is looking for those who will labor for Him. The Lord compared the kingdom of heaven to laborers working in His Vineyard.

*"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard."*

*Matthew 20:1*

*"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first."*

*Matthew 21:28-31*

Much of the church, perhaps without realizing it, has fallen into a "maintain the believer" mindset. Programs, conferences and ministries focus more and more on "fellowship" and "teaching". For who? For the believers (of whom many are *not* becoming disciples and *not* making disciples). Of course there is a necessary place for training Christians to walk with God. But in the overall picture, something is seriously missing. What is it? It is the burden of the Lord for the lost; holy living coupled with laboring in prayer meetings (with groaning, travail and tears); saints striving together to see true conversions to Christ; believers working tirelessly to train and equip new converts. These things must be recovered. How foolish it is to expect



a "revival" while continuing to ignore the work that is clearly commanded by our Master.

### Houses of Prayer

If we are to fulfill the "Great Commission" we must first become Houses of Prayer.

*"And He said to them, 'It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"*

*Matthew 21:13*

Without a foundation of prayer, there will be little or no power to evangelize. There won't be much prayer at all until believers regain the burden of the Lord. To carry the burden of the Lord we can no longer afford to focus on maintaining those who are "low-impact church attendees". We must focus on becoming the army we are called to be. When we get back to carrying the burden of the Lord, prayer and holy living, the manifest presence and power of God will return. Then we can do something about reaping the harvest with God's power.

### The Burden of the Lord

In 2002 I had been reading John Wesley's writings. John Wesley ordained hundreds of preachers in his lifetime. He said something like this "If I could, I would suspend preachers over hell for 24 hours and let it make an impression on them before ordaining them to preach the Gospel". I pondered John's statement and agreed. I began to pray over the next couple of weeks that God would show me hell. I really didn't want to see hell, but I did want my heart to be impacted. I didn't know if God would even answer my prayer, but I prayed anyway. About two weeks later I had a prophetic dream in which I saw hell that shook me to the core.

In the dream I was taken in the Spirit

to a movie theater. There were 35 people in the theatre. Some I recognized but most of them I didn't. No movie was playing, but people were either standing around or sitting in small groups of two to four people chatting. For some reason I was agitated because the movie was not playing and I knew that it should be. I was also bothered because the people in the theater didn't seem to care if the movie was playing or not. I took it upon myself to look for the power switch to turn on the projector. I found it on the wall in the theatre. I was about to flip the switch on when I thought to myself "Do you have a right to turn on the power? Shouldn't you look for a manager and ask permission first?" With my hand on the power switch my eyes scanned the room for a theater manager. I was surprised to see the late prophet, Bob Jones, sitting in one of the seats next to a couple of his minister friends. He was wearing a theater uniform that said "manager" on it. Bob and I looked at each other as I asked him "Bob, shouldn't I turn this on?" "Yep" he replied as he nodded for me to go ahead.

As I flipped on the power switch everyone's attention was immediately arrested and we all quickly scrambled to find a seat, eager to see what was on the screen. I was horrified as a very real scene of about 60 people falling into hell appeared. It was graphic and detailed as I saw the shock and terror on their faces. Those falling into hell were realizing that they were eternally doomed with absolutely no hope to ever escape. They were sliding down a slimy and slippery slope somewhere near the center of the earth into a dark, cavernous, boiling cesspool. I was only seeing a small portion of hell. In the cesspool, which was a boiling lake filled with urine and feces, I watched people bobbing up and down, shrieking in agony. It was



traumatizing to see. This went on for a while and then I woke up.

Immediately I heard the still small voice of the Holy Spirit say to me "I want my church to see hell so they will do something about it, but they don't want to look at it".

About two week later, Paul Keith Davis came to minister at our church for the first time. Minutes before the Sunday morning service started, in my office, he said "The Holy Spirit told me to ask you if you had a dream?"

"Yes" I responded as I told him the dream. After listening he then told me that Bob Jones had had the same exact prophetic experience a couple of weeks before when he went into a trance vision. Upon inquiry I found out that Bob's trance and my dream happened on the *same day* at the same time. Paul Keith asked me to write down my experience so he could share it with Bob. Later, I saw Bob at a conference and we talked about it.

In Bob's experience, the Lord was standing next to him and explaining what the encounter meant. The Lord told Bob "The reason the projector was not running is because it is made to run on 220v but the church currently only has 110v. Two twenty represents Galatians 2:20."

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

*Galatians 2:20*

The Lord went on to say "When the church walks in Galatians 2:20 I will turn on the power and the church

will have the power needed to stop people from going to hell. It will be the greatest show on earth."

The church must abandon the mindset of seeking to attract and cater to "high-maintenance, low impact church attendees" who will never pursue walking in Galatians 2:20. We don't have time and resources to waste. Many ministries already have made the necessary changes. Some are in process now. All of the body of Christ must now have an awakening and a paradigm shift. It is time to carry the burden of the Lord. When the church starts giving herself to the will of God, to prevailing prayer, to evangelism and discipleship, whole cities will come to Christ.

### **Entire Cities will come to Christ**

On March 10, 1986 I had an encounter with the Lord in which I was shown what is coming on the earth: a city-shaking move of God that will cause entire communities to come to Christ in a very short time. I had never heard of or seen anything as powerful as what He showed me that day. I saw a specific region where an entire city was coming to Christ. I watched as police directed traffic seven days a week outside a revival center. People were continually lined up outside the doors. The whole city was buzzing like a beehive. I saw people in every restaurant talking about Jesus. They were saying things like "My nephew was saved last night. He is no longer addicted". Another would say "My mom was blind, she can see now." "I got healed". I saw people in stores, in the post office and everywhere talking non-stop about Jesus until it seemed the entire city was saved. The creative miracle-working power of Jesus was manifesting along with the presence of God and His living Word.

As the church shifts to align





with the heart and will of God, this is what we can expect.

*"At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door."*

Mark 1:32-33

*When Philip went down to Samaria "multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city."*

Acts 8:6-8

*Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and*

turned to the Lord.

Acts 9:32-35

The greatest harvest in history is now ripe! We must be about our Father's business. This will require all true saints to be involved in praying, loving, giving, serving and helping in a variety of ways. We must work together with this goal: to see the lost converted to Christ and then trained as disciples who will continue in His Word and become like Him.

*"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"*

John 4:35

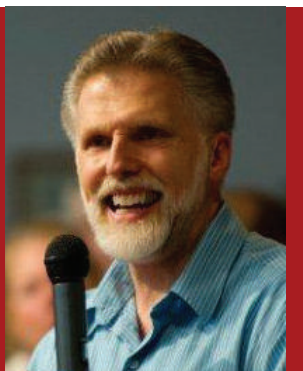
*"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work."*

John 9:4

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."*

1 Corinthians 15:58

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# FREEDOM RIDERS

*Kent Mattox*

*"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."*

**The prevailing foundational truth that Word Alive International Outreach has been built upon is the tenet that we are all born to be free. Galatians 5:1 is very clear.**

*"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."*

*Galatians 5:1*

At Word Alive, we are a multicultural, ethnically diverse, interdenominational work where everyone is invited to worship and connect. As our church and others like us have embraced our brothers and sisters of different faiths and races, we have almost forgotten the battles that were fought and that are still being fought for freedom to vote, ride public transportation, eat in restaurants and sit anywhere of one's choosing. Hard battles were fought and lives were lost. The Freedom Riders Association honors this group of white and black civil rights activists who protested segregated bus stations.

This is an excerpt from a published article of what happened that Mother's Day, May 14, 1961.

"On May 14, Mother's Day, in Anniston, a mob of Klansmen, some still in church attire, attacked the first of the two buses (the Greyhound). The driver tried to leave the station, but was blocked until KKK members slashed its tires. The mob forced the crippled bus to stop several miles outside of town and then firebombed it. As the bus burned, the mob held the doors shut, intending to burn the riders to death. Sources disagree, but either an exploding fuel tank or an undercover state investigator brandishing a revolver caused the mob to retreat, and the riders escaped the bus. The mob beat the riders after they got out. Only warning shots fired into the air by highway patrolmen prevented the riders from being lynched. The roadside site in Anniston and the downtown Greyhound station were preserved as part of the Freedom Riders National Monument in 2017. That night, the hospitalized Freedom

Riders, most of whom had been refused care, were removed from the hospital at 2am because the staff feared the mob outside the hospital. The local civil rights leader Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth organized several cars of black citizens to rescue the injured Freedom Riders in defiance of the white supremacists. The black people were under the leadership of Colonel Stone Johnson and were openly armed as they arrived at the hospital, protecting the Freedom Riders from the mob. When the Trailways bus reached Anniston and pulled in at the terminal an hour after the Greyhound bus was burned, it was boarded by eight Klansmen. They beat the Freedom Riders and left them semi-conscious in the back of the bus."

As a church, we started the journey of preparing to celebrate the Freedom Riders about a year ago. We met the Freedom Riders Association's Pete Conroy, Alabama's Representative Barbara Boyd, and their committees and recognized all the hard work they have done over the years to commemorate the bravery of the Freedom Riders. I was then educated about the Freedom Riders and, as you read this article, it is my prayer that you are educated about this brutal time in the history of the American south and what really transpired fifty-seven years ago as the fight for civil rights erupted. Even though this happened in my city years ago, there are still battles to be won for global citizens and humanitarian rights around the world. When we learn and understand history, mistakes and egregious misjudgments do not have to be repeated.

As we marched to remember the Freedom Riders, we were inspired and empowered. The story of Janie Forsyth McKinney who at thirteen

years of age was the only person who helped as the bus burned and young men and women poured out of that instrument of death encouraged us to pray that other young men and women are being raised up to be the light in the dark places where lives are being lost or displaced every day because of the inequality that still impacts global citizens. This idea moved from a thought to a burden for our community. As we looked at our own community, it was a time for honest introspection.

We have 400 churches in Calhoun County and many great agencies, but there are still large pockets of poverty, social injustice, and racial inequality in our judicial system and religious, political, racial and socio-economic walls that divide us. An ancient Hebrew text by the prophet Isaiah written thousands of years ago speaks to where we are: "Shout! A full-throated shout! Hold nothing back—a trumpet-blast shout! Tell my people what's wrong with their lives; face my family Jacob with their sins! They're busy, busy, busy at worship, and love studying all about me. To all appearances they're a nation of right-living people—law-abiding, God-honoring. They ask me, 'What's the right thing to do?' and love having me on their side. But they also complain, 'Why do we fast and you don't look our way? Why do we humble ourselves and you don't even notice?' "Well, here's why: "The bottom line on your 'fast days' is profit. You drive your employees much too hard. You fast, but at the same time you bicker and fight. You fast, but you swing a mean fist. The kind of fasting you do won't get your prayers off the ground. Do you think this is the kind of fast day I'm after: a day to show off humility, to put on a pious long face and parade around solemnly in black? Do you call that fasting, a





fast day that I, God, would like? "This is the kind of fast day I'm after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. What I'm interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families. Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage. Then when you pray, God will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am.' "If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims; quit gossiping about other people's sins, If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—firm muscles, strong bones. You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build a new, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again (Isaiah 58:1-12, MSG).

I believe this is the kind of spirituality that God wants. Not the religious or political kind we have all been subjected to and have had to endure in the past, but a real, spiritual, loving, living community of believers of all races, all cultures, all faiths, who are coming together for a common good and purpose which is we ALL desperately need God to bless our communities and give us life and liberty and freedom in this area in Jesus' all powerful Name.

When I started this journey I was asked, "Well, Kent, why do you want to dredge up the past." I had to think about that because that is a real question. But then I realized the God I serve dredges up the past every year. He calls it Passover. Every year, God commands us to remember when we were an oppressed people under bondage and God stepped in and delivered us and moved us out. He calls us to remember and celebrate the past of what has happened and wants us to do it looking forward to the future because there is always somebody who needs to leave oppression and find their way to Freedom. It is my great hope that we, along with the Freedom Riders Association in our community, could do something each and every year to celebrate this momentous occasion and continue to move forward as a community. We are hoping to have the same courage and faith of the Freedom Riders as we celebrate their accomplishments, continue to deal with our past and move into the future.

We marched under a flag that many of you may not know. It is an Appeal to Heaven flag. I have only learned recently of the history of this flag and believe that it bears sharing here. The Appeal to Heaven flag is the flag that George Washington flew over the first six ships of the Revolutionary War. He funded those first six ships out of his own pocket. There were no Stars and Stripes on the flag and there was no government, so he sailed his ships under an Appeal to Heaven flag. This flag flew over the first six ships that fought for our freedom and were the forerunners of what would become our nation's navy.

Washington flew this flag because he knew what he was undertaking was against all odds of winning. There was no way in the natural realm he



could accomplish the task of leading the Patriots in the Revolutionary War without God's help. By sailing under this flag, Washington acknowledged that he needed Heaven's help to even begin the Revolution. I believe that is the spirit we invoked as we united and marched, acknowledging not only our need for one another but also that we need Heaven's help and intervention.

It is interesting there is a green pine tree on the flag. At that time on the Eastern coast there were enormous pine trees that were 200 to 300 feet tall. The King of England had marked those specific trees for his ships to take the trees but the colonists revolted and claimed them as the Liberty Tree. The pine tree is also known as the Tree of Peace because the Iroquois Indian tribe was fighting all of the other tribes instead of the tribes uniting with one another. The chiefs met and decided their best course of action was to unite because if they kept fighting they would destroy each other. Legend tells us that they gathered around a great pine tree, dug around it, and buried their war hatchets. That is where the term "It is time to bury the hatchet" comes from.

Philosopher/preacher John Locke preached to the colonists that if you appeal to each other and do not get justice, and you appeal to the local government and do not get justice,

and even if you appeal to the King of England you probably will not get justice, so what you need to do is appeal to Heaven because Heaven rules with justice and righteousness.

We gathered and marched under this flag, telling God we desperately needed him in our endeavors and as we continue to move forward. We believe there are age old spiritual principalities and powers who try to dominate our geographical terrain keeping our community oppressed and downtrodden. They may still be in residence but they have already been defeated. Just like the Freedom Riders who rode buses, not to win a battle, but to proclaim and secure a battle that had already been won, we have certainly won this battle because Ephesians 6:12 reminds us where the battle ground lies, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Corporately, we have released a prophetic act in accordance with the will and plan of God. "It is for freedom that Christ has made us free (Galatians 5:1)." Just like the Jericho wall fell as the children of Israel marched, we dare to believe that walls of racial injustice, religious bondage, and walls of socioeconomic inequality have fallen, and we appeal to Heaven simply saying, "Let Thy kingdom come, let Thy will be done, in our community today as it is being done in heaven," and we believe it and declare it and say it to be so in His Holy Name.

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# THE END OF ALL THINGS

*But the end of all things is at hand;  
therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.*

**O**n January 23, 2018, while I was praying in the afternoon, the Lord Jesus visited me. He gave me a note on which was written **1 Peter 4:7**. When I receive the word, I asked, "What is this word for, Lord?" The Lord Jesus graciously said, "This is the Word that you should tell My people."

*But the end of all things is at hand;  
therefore be serious and watchful in  
your prayers.*

*1 Peter 4:7*

Read the Scripture again, "But the end of all things is at hand" that's the first part. "Therefore be serious," that's the second part, "and watchful in your prayers" that's the third part.

## **End of all Things**

*"And you, son of man, thus says the Lord God to the land of Israel: 'An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land. Now the end has come upon you, And I will send My anger against you; I will judge you*

*according to your ways, And I will repay you for all your abominations.*

*Ezekiel 7:2-3*

An end is coming. At the end of every movie when the climax is finished, you will see two words on a black screen: The End. When you see those two words, you know too well that the movie has ended. Similarly, God is saying to us through this Scripture, the end has come. The end of what?

The times of the gentile are going to end: "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (Lk 21:24). The Gentiles referred in this Scripture is the Church. The Bible says that blindness came in part upon Israel so that the gospel can be fully preached to the gentiles (Rom 11:25). History bears record how through every available means the Gospel of Jesus Christ has





been preached to all people – more so powerfully in the 20th century. Now, that time is soon coming to an end.

When the times of the gentiles come to an end, then the time for the Jews to hear the Gospel will be opened. Then, from one end of Israel to the other end, the Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached with great power and glory. That I believe is the work of the Two Witnesses (Rev 11:3-11).

They will do a very powerful ministry all over Israel for 3 ½ years that will remind all Israel of the demonstratively explosive ministries of the prophets Moses and Elijah. Not only all the Jewish people living in Israel, but also all the Jewish people living all over the world, through modern technological mediums will watch the ministries of these Two Witnesses.

The Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached there. The Kingdom of God will be prophesied to that nation and multitudes of Jewish people will come into the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ as their Messiah. At the end of the ministry of the Two Witnesses the time for the Jewish people will come to an end.

Be warned people of God, the end is coming. The prophet Ezekiel cried like this: "An end has come, the end has come; It has dawned for you; Behold, it has come!" (Ezek 7:6).

By this we understand one thing: when the end comes, the judgements of God are going to manifest. God has been very gracefully patient till now. But, when the end of His grace comes, when the end of His mercy comes, when the end of His compassion comes, next His judgements will

manifest all over the world.

Let us consider a Scripture. "And He said, "Amos, what do you see?" So I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me: "The end has come upon My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore" (Amos 8:2).

The prophet Amos was shown a vision. The vision he saw a basket full of summer fruits. These fruits were harvested when they became ripe in the summer. When you see a basket full of ripen fruits, you know that the time for the fruit to be on the tree has come to an end. And since the end has come it must now be plucked and kept away in a safe place.

Similarly, when your life becomes ripe, not just ripe old age, but when your spirit becomes ripe, God will take you home. You don't have to wait for the corporate time for rapture to come. If you walk with God and live a life close to God, then God will draw close to you (Jas 4:8).

So, when you take one step forward to God, He will take one step forward nearer to you. If you take two steps closer to God, He will take two steps closer to you. Eventually both of you will come to meet face to face with each other. When that happens, God will put His arms around you and say, "Come let's go home with Me." This is what happened to the prophet Enoch (Gen 5:22,24). This is a blessed experience anyone can have.

### At Hand

The word 'at hand' in Greek is *eggizó* meaning *to make near*. The word *eggizó* comes from another Greek word called *eggus* meaning *to squeeze or to throttle*. Allow me to give



a common example to understand this word.

Consider the toothpaste which you use daily. You press the toothpaste from the bottom and over time there is very little paste in it. Some people, I for one, will keep on squeezing whatever little bit more toothpaste is still left in it. When we finally reach the end of whatever little is left in the toothpaste we will throw it away. That is the meaning of the word 'at hand,' – near the end. The end of all things is coming near.

The Bible specifically speaks of three things that are near the end.

1. Kingdom of Heaven is very near (Matt 3:2)
2. Therefore, repent and be converted (Matt 4:17; Mk 1:15).
3. Coming of the Lord is at hand (Jas 5:8).

People all over the world are asked to repent because the kingdom of heaven has come and the judgements of God are being made manifest. Behold the judge is standing near your door (Jas 5:9). Everything that is hidden will be brought to light – nothing can be hidden. The light will make manifest all the hidden things (Eph 5:13). Therefore, repent and be converted.

### Be Sober

The word "sober" in Greek is *sóphroneó* meaning *to be of a sound mind – sane, moderate, to be in the right mind*. Your thinking is straight and steady. It also means to be self-controlled.

The Greek word conveys a picture like this, I am sure you have seen people who are fully drunk. They will not be able to walk straight, but stagger

to the left and to the right; their speeches are slurred. It is not cohesive to make their sentences right; they keep mumbling. They would just talk nonsense in a confused state of mind.

A drunkard's mind is not alert, is unstable and does not know what's happening. If somebody were to strip them naked and throw them on the streets they wouldn't know either. Even when they are beaten they are not able to sense or feel it. The Scripture warns us not to be like that. Be sober:

*Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

*1 Peter 1:13*

Please observe the phrase, "gird up the loins of your mind." The picture is like this: just like we wear clothes, the apostle Peter asks us to have a cloth over our mind. "Gird up" means to tighten, so that your clothes won't drop off. Therefore, to "gird up the loins of your mind" means to have the mind renewed.

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

*Romans 12:2*

The word "renew" means *be changed, be transformed*. It means our thinking must change. Our thinking must no more be like how we thought in the past. That is why the Bible tells us to put on the new man who is now renewed and changed (Eph 4:23-25). It is to put on the mind of Christ in us (1 Pe 2:5). When your thinking is changed, your life will change. When your thinking is changed, your speech will change.



The Bible further admonishes us to be alert and put on the armour of God: "But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation" (1 Thes 5:8).

Among the six parts of the armour which we find in Ephesians 6:14-17), two are mentioned here: *breastplate of faith* and *the helmet of salvation*. This Scripture gives another meaning to the breastplate. It is not only a breastplate of faith, but it is a breastplate of love. Our hearts must be full of faith and be full of the love of God. We should learn to walk in love (Eph 5:2).

The greatest quality, character, that any Christian should possess is the quality and the character of love. Many times, the Scriptures admonish us to "put on love." And love, the Bible says, is the bond of perfection (Col 3:14). The Lord Jesus Himself said "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind. And then love your neighbour like yourself" (Mk 12:30-31). The two greatest commandments are: loving God and loving man.

Love, is the key. That is why the Scriptures say that love is the total fulfilment of the entire Law of Moses (Rom 13:10). God is love (1 Jn 4:8,16)

When love is manifest in your life, then, the power—the glory of God will also manifest. Most Christians run after the gifts rather than catch hold of the Giver. The Giver – the Lord Jesus, is the embodiment of love. So, if you pattern your life like the Giver of love, then all the power of God will be available for you.

There lived a wonderful man of God in South India called D. John Rabindranath. Early in his ministry he prayed earnestly for the power of God – the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. One day as he was praying, his spirit was caught up to heaven and he stood before the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord asked him, "What do you want?" The man of God answered, "Lord, I want Your nine gifts." The Lord asked him again, "What do you want?" To which the man of God answered again, "Lord, I want Your gifts."

Then the Lord asked him for the third time the same question: "What do you want? Do you want My love or do you want my gifts?" The man of God pondered for a while and then answered, "Lord, I want Your love." When the Lord heard that, He stood up from His throne with a great smile on His face, stretched His hand and blessed that man of God saying, "My dear son, you have asked very wisely for the most precious of all gifts. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit are hidden in love."

Cast away every work of darkness and put on the armour of light (Rom 13:12). The prophet Ezekiel was once praying when the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and pulled his spirit out of his body when he was in Babylon and transported him to Jerusalem (Ezek 11:1). 25 choice princes and elders of Israel were in the Temple. They were like church or ministry leaders like today.

The Spirit of the Lord told the prophet Ezekiel to see what they are doing in the secret. The prophet who was there in the spirit was shocked to witness them doing abominable things. Externally they looked like wonderful, respected and honourable ministers





of God. But, the they were doing all manner works of unrighteousness and works of darkness in the secret.

Obviously, they had been doing such works of darkness for a long time. But when the time of the end came, God brought a prophet and told him to prophesy against these people, and their works of darkness. When the prophet Ezekiel prophesied the chief among them called Pelatiah, dropped dead in the natural (Ezek 11:13).

The end of all things is at hand. When that time comes, the judgements of God will manifest. God is a God of long suffering, He waits very patiently. He's a God of great goodness, slow to anger, abundant in goodness and in truth. But He will not forgive iniquity. He will visit the iniquity of the people after the third and fourth generations (Ex 34:6-7). Let us repent from all our wicked ways. Let us wash our hands today of all the works of darkness. Let's turn away from all our wicked ways and do the works of righteousness.

Today if you hear the voice of God speaking to you, harden not your heart my sons and daughters. Today if you see the sword of the Lord before you, harden not your hearts my dear fellow ministers of God. Behold the horse of the Lord, behold the sword of the Lord, they are there for you. They are there to witness against you. We read in the Bible that when the Lord Jesus Christ comes again, He comes out of heaven riding on a white horse to judge the earth (Rev 19:11). The sword of the Lord is to execute judgment and the galloping horse of the Lord brings the judgement (Rev 11:15). Let us repent right now. Put away all your wicked works. Turn away from your wicked ways today.

Repent of every hard speeches that you have spoken.

### Watch Unto Prayer

To *watch* is like a soldier who stands guard at his duty. When the soldier stands guard watching, his eyes are very sharp and alert. He's looking around for intruders who may sneak in.

In the olden days when the castles are built, at each end of the castle and at strategic places along the walls of the castle, there are high towers called *watch towers*. Soldiers are appointed to stand on the top of the watchtowers. Every four hours a soldier is changed. What is the duty of the soldier? He is called a *watchman*. A watchman stands at the top of the watchtower and leans forward to see what's happening.

Today we have binoculars, and all kinds of modern surveillance technologies. You don't have to send any man to any watchtower. You can mount security cameras everywhere. A few days ago, one of our staff's son got married and he threw a grand reception.

I was seated together with another pastor. I noticed the pastor had a brand new mobile phone. So, I asked, "So, you got a new mobile phone?" He said, "Yeah, you know I got this new phone so that I could monitor all the security cameras in my church." Wherever he is in any part of the world, he could monitor the happenings in his church. That is the marvel of today's technology.

But in the olden days there were no such thing. You need to personally climb up to the top of the high tower



to look far to see who's coming and to look down into the castle to see what's going on.

Watchmen need two very important qualities: very good eyesight and very good ears. His duty is to stand on the watchtower and lean forward to see what's happening. When a person is coming from afar he should be able to see very clearly who is coming whether friend or foe. And his ears must be very sharp to hear people's conversations.

This truth is beautifully enshrined in Habakkuk 2:1:

*"I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected."*

*Habakkuk 2:1*

The prophet Habakkuk climbs up the watchtower and stands in the presence of God. He prays unto God, and watches in prayer. During the times of prayer, God shows him things to come to pass; he sees visions and hears the voice of God.

When you watch in prayer, God will show you things to come and of the dangers that are going to come. The Lord Jesus once told the apostle Peter to watch in prayer so that he will not fall into temptation (Matt 26:41; Mk 14:38). To "watch in prayer" means to come and stand before God in prayer. Spend the time – the watch time – in prayer.

Every soldier is assigned to guard on his watch. A clock is divided into 4 watches: first watch (6–9 PM), second watch (9 PM – 12 AM), third watch (12 AM – 3 AM) and fourth watch (3

– 6 AM). Each watch is a three-hour duration.

So, to "watch in prayer" means to *come and stand before God at set times*. Set a regular discipline time of meeting with God. Have a consistent prayer life. This is very important. Come personally to stand before God to spend time in prayer.

The Bible admonishes us not to forsake the assembling of the saints (Heb 10:25). That means don't avoid going to church gatherings. Church gatherings edifies our spiritual life and growth. When you keep on praying in a very disciplined manner it will give you the inner strength to endure till the end (Matt 24:13).

Great trying and difficult times will come in the end times. At the Garden of Gethsemane, the Lord Jesus Christ counselled the apostle Peter to pray so that he will not fall into temptation (Matt 26:40-41). Likewise, keep on praying, and fellowshiping with the saints of God in the church. When you keep on walking with God, and fellowshiping with God through the Word of God, then you will endure till the end. Till the end of your life you will not backslide. Till the end time comes, you will not fall away.

Furthermore, the Lord Jesus Christ counsels in Luke 21:36:

*"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."*

*Luke 21:36*

Please observe that Scripture very

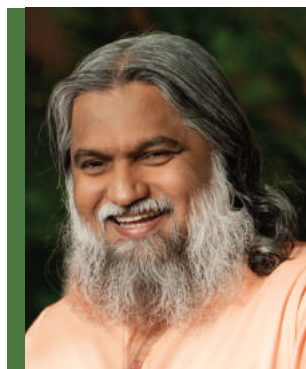


carefully. First, it says: *watch*. Second, it says: *pray always*. If you do these two, you will be counted worthy to escape from the wrath that's going to come upon the whole earth. Great and terrible evil days are going to come upon the face of the whole earth. The Lord Jesus will stretch out His hands and pluck you away from all the evil things that will come upon this earth. And also pray that you will stand before the Son of Man blameless and with a clean heart.

When the end of the Lord's earthly life drew to an end after His 3 ½ years

ministry, the Bible tells that He kept His eyes and mind determined on going towards Jerusalem (Lk 9:51). Because His end was going to end there. He came to die for sin in Jerusalem. So, His eyes and mind were set and focused on going towards Jerusalem.

Likewise, all those of you who are looking forward for the blessed hope of the second coming of dear Lord Jesus Christ, keep your eyes on the Lord Jesus alone. He is the author and finisher of our faith (Heb 12:2). So, keep your eyes on the finishing line and run the race set before you very faithfully



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# Lord of All, or not Lord at all part 2

Bruce Allen

All of creation needs a ruling force.  
The body is useless without a head to direct its movements.

**I want to look further at my previous study of the "Lordship factor" necessary for believers to understand a foundational truth in our progress towards maturity in this hour.**

As a review, let's look at the two points we shared previously:

## 1. Lordship Means Surrender to His Sovereignty

The most perfect expression of the Lordship of Jesus is found in the letter to the Romans.

*"For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living."*

Romans 14:7-9

No words could express more plainly than these that the purpose of Christ's death and resurrection was to win

undisputed Lordship over man. "To this end" or "For this purpose" He died on the cross.

## 2. Lordship Means Surrender to His Ownership

There is a place in your heart called a throne. Someone always occupies that place. The three rival claimants are Christ, Self and the Devil.

Which of these is on the throne even now as you read this? Heaven will yield to no rival. Jesus will accept no divided allegiance. Spirit soul and body alike belong to Him!

We will continue with point number 3:

## 3. Lordship Means Surrender to His Protection

The Apostle Peter wrote in his first epistle to a group of Christians who were exposed to bitter persecution for Christ's sake; hence the Apostle has much to say about fidelity in suffering: "And who," he asks, "will be able to harm you, if you show



yourselves zealous for that which is good? . . . So do not be alarmed by their threats, nor troubled; but in your hearts consecrate Christ as Lord, being always ready to make your defense to anyone who asks from you a reason for the hope which you cherish." (1 Peter 3:13-15 Weymouth.)

The Wiesinger translation says it like this; "Care only for this, that your hearts may be a temple of Christ, in which becoming honor may be given to Him as Lord; then will nothing further disturb you."

The Passion Translation is even more clear: "Why would anyone harm you if you're passionate and devoted to pleasing God? But even if you happen to suffer for doing what is right, you will have the joyful experience of the blessing of God. And don't be intimidated or terrified by those who would terrify you. But give reverent honor in your hearts to the Anointed One and treat him as the holy Master of your lives. And if anyone asks about the hope living within you, always be ready to explain your faith."

In other words, make Jesus Lord and King of your life, and you have nothing to fear from devils or from men. The worst the world can do to you is threaten you with heaven!

The very purpose of government is the welfare of the governed. Nothing stirs a nation to indignation and action quicker than an indignity done to one of its citizens. If you can put your hand on your heart and say, without compromise or reservation, "Thine is the Kingdom!" who shall harm you? He that touches you touches the apple of His eye!

The kingdom is the dominion over which the king reigns. The question is: "Who is King?" If in answer to that question you can unhesitatingly say: "Jesus is King!": then you may confidently depend upon Him to protect His Kingdom.

I would like to quote Psalm 91 from the Passion Translation for you to emphasize the true significance of His protection

*"When you sit enthroned under the shadow of Shaddai, you are hidden in the strength of God Most High.*

*He's the hope that holds me and the Stronghold to shelter me, the only God for me, and my great confidence.*

*He will rescue you from every hidden trap of the enemy, and he will protect you from false accusation and any deadly curse.*

*His massive arms are wrapped around you, protecting you.*

*You can run under his covering of majesty and hide.*

*His arms of faithfulness are a shield keeping you from harm.*

*You will never worry about an attack of demonic forces at night nor have to fear a spirit of darkness coming against you.*

*Don't fear a thing!*

*Whether by night or by day, demonic danger will not trouble you, nor will the powers of evil launched against you.*

*Even in a time of disaster, with thousands and thousands being killed, you will remain unscathed and unharmed.*

*you will be a spectator as the wicked perish in judgment, for they will be paid back for what they have done!*

*When we live our lives within the shadow of God Most High, our secret hiding place, we will always be shielded from harm.*

*How then could evil prevail against us or disease infect us?*

*God sends angels with special orders to protect you wherever you go, defending you from all harm.*

*If you walk into a trap, they'll be there for you and keep you from stumbling.*

*You'll even walk unharmed among the fiercest powers of darkness, trampling every one of them beneath your feet!*

*For here is what the Lord has spoken to me: "Because you have delighted in me as my great lover, I will greatly*



protect you.

*I will set you in a high place, safe and secure before my face.*

*I will answer your cry for help every time you pray, and you will find and feel my presence even in your time of pressure and trouble.*

*I will be your glorious hero and give you a feast.*

*You will be satisfied with a full life and with all that I do for you.*

*For you will enjoy the fullness of my salvation!"*

*Psalms 91*

#### 4. Lordship Means Surrender to His Enabling

*"No man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Spirit"*

*1 Corinthians 12:3*

You can say it easily with the lips, but the passage means something far deeper; it means saying it with your life! It is the Holy Spirit alone who can present and enforce the claims of Jesus to the Lordship of your life. Only He can put this blessed ideal into a sinful and divided soul. Only He can show the dishonesty of compromise and reservation. Only He can detach you from the things you once loved and spoil you forever for "the vain things that charmed you most." Only He can enthrone Jesus in the yielded heart and enable you to sanctify Christ as Lord.

His activities do not cease when Jesus has been enthroned. He will constantly discover new territory which He covets for the King. He will enable you to apply the principle of absolute surrender as you yield more and more completely to His guidance.

During my days in the Army I recall a Field Manual that stated that all the time allowed for a soldier to respond in obedience to a command was one-sixth of a second – just long enough for the brain to telegraph instructions to the hand or foot the necessary response – to prove their obedience and compliance.

Why is it then that the Great Commander has to say so often to so many: "Why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say?"

Even Jesus Himself admitted His total reliance on His Father during His earthly life and ministry.

*"Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.'"*

*John 5:19*

We have such promises as Philippians 4:13.

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

*Philippians 4:13*

Some would say they do not know the voice of God as well as they should and therefore are uncertain of when He speaks. But true surrender to His Lordship will be modeled in a giving of oneself diligently and earnestly to Him – especially in your ability to hear what He is saying. We are without excuse!

If He is not Lord of All, He is not Lord at all!

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# The Simple Profound Secret

Hudson Taylor

To let my loving Saviour work in me His will, my sanctification,  
is what I would live for by His grace

THIS IS EXCERPTED FROM the chapter on "The Exchanged Life" in Hudson Taylor's *Spiritual Secret* by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor. J. Hudson Taylor, M.D. was a missionary to China, and the founder of the China Inland Mission. Here is the inward joy and power that Hudson Taylor found in Christ. What was the secret? The simple, profound secret of drawing for every need, temporal or spiritual, upon "the fathomless wealth of Christ."

## THE EXCHANGED LIFE

Yes, in me, in me He dwelleth.  
I in Him and He in me! And my  
empty soul He filleth. Now and  
through eternity. -Horatius Bonar

"God made me a new man!  
Wonderful was the experience that  
had come in answer to prayer, yet so  
simple as almost to baffle description.  
Do you know, I now think that this  
striving, longing, hoping for better  
days to come is not the true way to  
holiness, happiness or usefulness It  
is better, no doubt, far better than  
being satisfied with poor attainments,  
but not the best way after all.

"The Lord Jesus received is holiness  
begun; the Lord Jesus cherished is  
holiness advancing; the Lord Jesus  
counted upon as never absent would

be holiness complete. He is most holy  
who has most of Christ within, and joys  
most fully in the finished work. To let my  
loving Saviour work in me His will, my  
sanctification, is what I would live for  
by His grace. Abiding, not striving nor  
struggling; looking off unto Him; trusting  
Him for present power; resting in the  
love of an almighty Saviour, in the joy  
of a complete salvation, "from all sin"  
this is not new, and yet 'tis new to me .  
. . . Christ literally all seems to me, now,  
the power, the only power for service,  
the only ground for unchanging joy.

How then to have our faith increased?  
Only by thinking of all that Jesus is  
and all He is for us: His life, His death,  
His work, He Himself as revealed to  
us in the Word, to be the subject of  
our constant thoughts. Not a striving  
to have faith . . . but a looking off to

the Faithful One seems all we need; a resting in the Loved One entirely, for time and eternity. I looked to Jesus, and when I saw oh, how joy flowed!

### **Resting In Jesus**

It was resting in Jesus now, and letting Him do the work which makes all the difference. Whenever he spoke in meetings after that, a new power seemed to flow from him, and in the practical things of life a new peace possessed him. Troubles did not worry him as before. He cast everything on God in a new way, and gave more time to prayer.

It was the exchanged life that had come to him the life that is indeed "No longer I." It was a blessed reality "Christ liveth in me." And how great the difference! Instead of bondage, liberty; instead of failure, quiet victories within; instead of fear and weakness, a restful sense of sufficiency in Another.

### **Agonized, Fasted, Strove...**

Perhaps I may make myself clearer if I go back a little. I prayed, agonized, fasted, strove, made resolutions, read the Word more diligently, sought more time for meditation but all without avail. Every day, almost every hour, the consciousness sin oppressed me.

### **Abide In Christ**

I knew that if only I could abide in Christ all would be well, but I could not. I would begin the day with prayer, determined not to take my eye off Him for a moment, but pressure of duties, sometimes very trying, and constant interruptions apt to be so wearing, caused me to forget Him. Then one's nerves get so fretted in this climate that temptations to irritability, bad thoughts and sometimes unkind words are all the more difficult to control. Each day brought its register of sin and failure, of lack of power. To will was indeed "present with me," but how to perform I found not.

Then came the questions, is there

no rescue? Must it be thus to the end constant conflict, and too often defeat? Instead of growing stronger, I seemed to be getting weaker and to have less power against sin; and no longer, for faith and even hope were getting low. I hated myself, I hated my sin, yet gained no strength against it. I felt I was a child of God. His Spirit in my heart would cry, in spite of all, "Abba, Father." But to rise to my privileges as a child, I was utterly powerless.

### **I Knew I Was Powerless**

I knew I was powerless. I told the Lord so, and asked Him to give me help and strength. Sometimes I almost believed that He would keep and uphold me; but on looking back in the evening alas! There was but sin and failure to confess and mourn before God. And yet, never did Christ seem more precious; a Saviour who could and would save such a sinner! And sometimes there were seasons not only of peace but of joy in the Lord; but they were transitory, and at best there was a sad lack of power. All the time I felt assured that there was in Christ all I needed, but the practical question was how to get it out. He was rich truly, but I was poor; He was strong, but I weak. I knew full well that there was in the root, the stem, abundant fatness, but how to get it into my puny little branch was the question. As gradually light dawned, I saw that faith was the only requisite was the hand to lay hold on His fullness and make it mine. But I had not this faith.

I strove for faith, but it would not come; I tried to exercise it, but in vain. Seeing more and more the wondrous supply of grace laid up in Jesus, the fullness of our precious Saviour, my guilt and helplessness seemed to increase. Sins committed appeared but as trifles compared with the sin of unbelief which was their cause, which could not or would not take God at His word. I prayed for faith, but it came not. What was I to do? When my agony of soul was at its height, a sentence



in a letter from dear McCarthy was used to remove the scales from my eyes, and the Spirit of God revealed to me the truth of our oneness with Jesus as I had never known it before.

### **How To Get Faith**

"But how to get faith strengthened? Not by striving after faith, but by resting on the Faithful One." As I read, I saw it all! "If we believe not, he abideth faithful." I looked to Jesus and saw (and when I saw, oh, how joy flowed)! That He had said, "I will never leave thee." "Ah, there is rest!" I thought. "I have striven in vain to rest in Him. I'll strive no more. For has not He promised to abide with me never to leave me, never to fail me?" And, He never will.

As I thought of the Vine and the branches, what light the blessed Spirit poured direct into my soul! How great seemed my mistake in wishing to get the sap, the fullness out of Him! I saw not only that Jesus will never leave me, but that I am a member of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. The vine is not the root merely, but all root, stem, branches, twigs, leaves, flowers, fruit. And Jesus is not that alone. He is soil and sunshine, air and showers, and ten thousand times more than we have ever dreamed, wished for or needed. Oh, the joy of seeing this truth! I do pray that the eyes of your understanding too may be enlightened, that you may know and enjoy the riches freely given us in Christ.

### **To Be A Member Of Christ!**

It is a wonderful thing to be really one with a risen and exalted Saviour, to be a member of Christ! Think what it involves. Can Christ be rich and I poor? Can your right hand be rich and your left poor? Or your head be well fed while your body starves? No more can your prayers or mine be discredited if offered in the name of Jesus (i.e., not for the sake of Jesus merely, but on the ground that we are His, His members)

so long as we keep within the limits of Christ's credit a tolerably wide limit!

The sweetest part, is the rest which full identification with Christ brings. I am no longer anxious about anything, as I realize this; for He, I know, is able to carry out His will, and His will is mine. It makes no matter where He places me, or how. That is rather for Him to consider than for me; for in the easiest position He must give me His grace, and in the most difficult His grace is sufficient. So, if God should place me in serious perplexity, must He not give me much guidance; in positions of great difficulty, much grace; in circumstances of great pressure and trials, much strength? No fear that His resources will prove unequal to the emergency! And His resources are mine, for He is mine, and is with me and dwells in me. And since Christ has thus dwelt in my heart by faith, how happy I have been! . . . I am no better than before. In a sense, I do not wish to be, nor am I striving to be. But I am dead and buried with Christ, and risen too! And now Christ lives in me, and "the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

### **God Has Made Us One With Him**

Do not let us consider Him as far off, when God has made us one with Him, members of His very body. Nor should we look upon this experience, these truths, as for the few. They are the birthright of every child of God, and no one can dispense with them without dishonouring our Lord. The only power for deliverance from sin or for true service is Christ. And it is all so simple and practical! "But are you always conscious of this abiding in Christ?" Mr. Taylor was asked many years later. "While sleeping last night," he replied, "did I cease to abide in your home because I was unconscious of the fact? We should never be conscious of not abiding in Christ."

