

THE LIVING GOD MINISTRIES, INC.

PO Box 2784, Eugene, Oregon 97402

Ph: 541-461-3337

WHO ARE WE AND WHY ARE WE?

**by
Bill Glover**

First, I wish to make a comment about what God's Spirit enabled my wife and me to experience last week as we tuned into your services there in Monroeville over our telephone hookup. We felt your zeal and enthusiasm for God and His word over the 3000 miles of telephone lines. God's Spirit was transmitted through those telephone lines loud and clear. We were elated!

But, at this point, before the sermon begins, I want to make it crystal clear that the sermon you are about to hear is going to be totally inadequate. Part of that inadequacy is my own as I am a flawed human being. Like the apostle Paul, I struggle constantly with my human nature and have to constantly cry out to God for forgiveness and his mercy and His love.

Then, another part of the inadequacy is the human language itself. Verbally this sermon is being given and written in the English language. [Note: A copy is being sent to our brethren in Cameroon, Africa and a brother will then translate it into the French language for our brethren there].

All this is merely human efforts to communicate something that is **HUMANLY IMPOSSIBLE TO EITHER COMMUNICATE OR TO GRASP OR TO UNDERSTAND**. What I will be trying to communicate in this message are the words and encouragement of the Almighty Creator God - a spiritual message involving spiritual principles being delivered through weak and frail human instruments. But despite my weak human frailties God has still called and ordained me and commissioned me to deliver this spiritual message to as many of God's called out people as God allows me to reach.

The beauty of this is that God's Holy Spirit will make up the difference in my frail human efforts in conveying this message and the weak human frailties of those hearing this message. The words of this message can only be understood through **SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT**

(1 Corinthians 2:12-14) and **ONLY** by those who have been **CALLED AND CHOSEN BY GOD THE FATHER** (John 6:44). God has promised that the Holy Spirit will enable us to understand these words provided we are truly willing to open our hearts and minds to understand (John 14:15-17 and 26 and vs. 26 and ch. 16:13).

It is imperative that we **BELIEVE AND TRUST** God to enable us to grasp and understand what He is giving us in this message. Now to the message!

WHO ARE WE AND WHY ARE WE?

I have been known for delivering messages that stress who and what we are and the **MAGNITUDE** of our calling and our future in the very family of God as **SONS OF GOD, HEIRS OF GOD AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST** (Romans 8:16-17). So let me share a little humor with you.

A few years ago I delivered this type of message regularly. One Sabbath, as I was being introduced as the speaker, one leading member of the congregation leaned over to the person sitting next to him and whispered "Fasten your seat belt!" [A week or so earlier I had given a sermon on the voyage we are on with God - - it seems this person got the point of that message since I pointed out that the voyage we are on with God involves God's process of transforming us from flawed human beings into spirit beings in the very family of God - - the most thrilling and even dangerous "ride" we humans could possibly imagine!]

Therefore, if God is granting you the priceless privilege of understanding what He is doing in and through us weak and flawed humans then, clearly you will need to fasten your seat belt to take this trip with God. We must make certain we do not fall off or default during this ride.

So, if all of you have your seat belts fastened, let us get started! If so then let us ask and answer the questions "WHO ARE WE AND WHY ARE WE?" Individually and collectively? Even though scattered across this earth in many lands and representing many races.

God has blessed my wife and me with the tremendous opportunity of helping people in eleven different countries on four continents and we hope that keeps expanding. However, my 51 years experience working with God's people has forced me to realize and admit that far too many have not truly known who and what we are with God. True, many get a basic picture but fail to see the depth of this fantastic calling. Jesus Christ Himself said that many would not develop the **SPIRITUAL ROOTS** to withstand the trials that God foretold would befall "all who live Godly in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:12).

Thankfully the Bible shows that many God has called through the ages have truly understood who and what they are with God. That is what we will be dealing with in this message.

For example, it seems obvious that Adam and Eve did NOT grasp what was involved in their creation. There is no indication in all the Bible that they did. But, Noah did! Close your eyes and try and imagine what Noah faced and the length of time he faced that test. He was told by God to build a huge boat in the middle of the desert. Obviously Noah SAW what was at stake. But can you and I grasp the task of spending a full 120 YEARS building this boat? And you and I think our calling is daunting - - "just too much for us to handle!" Close your eyes for a moment and try imagining Noah in that hot desert for 120 years building that boat! If our trial lasts a day or two we tend to get discouraged and falter and probably begin to complain and grumble and despair. Yet, for 120 years Noah toiled without seeing any "EVIDENCE" of rain and certainly no evidence of a "flood!" So, the next time you begin to flag and get discouraged over a trial, **REMEMBER NOAH!** Noah's "belief" in God not only saw him and his family through the flood but it also

guaranteed his entry into the very family of God [Keep that thought about Noah's "belief" in mind as we will come back to this thought again and again in this message].

Now, what about Abraham? He was minding his own business and suddenly God showed up on the scene. [ISN'T THIS WHAT HAPPENED TO US INDIVIDUALLY?] God said "Get up and move into a foreign land!" Abraham did NOT ask "How far away is that?" or, "How do I get there?" or "Are you sure about that as I am comfortable here?" or "I can't leave my friends and family!" He merely got up and went where God led.

Later when God told Abraham to take his only legitimate son, Isaac, and sacrifice him by cutting his throat on a stone altar, what was Abraham's argument or reasoning? Did he protest? Did he say "You cannot do this to me - - I love my son!" Did he say, "Now wait a minute, God, let us talk this thing over?" or, "Why would you want me to do a fool thing like that?"

Then, when Isaac asked Abraham, "Father, where is the animal to be used as the sacrifice?" What did Abraham reply? He merely stated "God will provide!" He did not say "Oh, God I just cannot go through with this" or "You are asking too much of me" or "Woe is me - - serving God is more than I can handle!" Rather, he merely did what he was told!

God inspired the apostle Paul to expound on Abraham in this vein. Galatians 3:6 states: "Consider Abraham: HE BELIEVED GOD, and it (THAT BELIEF AND TRUST) was credited to him as RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Let those words burn deep into your mind and consciousness. We will come back to that thought time and time again and again in this message. Remember, Noah BELIEVED GOD and that belief and trust in God saw him through those 120 years before the flood and prepared him for the kingdom of God as a spirit being. We will come back to that thought as we proceed.

So Abraham did what he was told without hesitation and God credited that BELIEF AND TRUST and FAITH as RIGHTEOUSNESS - - the kind of righteousness that God wants to see in each one of us! We will come back to Abraham again in this message, as there is much to be learned from Abraham and his example.

Let us now consider Job. He was a very "righteous" man - - so "righteous" that even God bragged on him [I once heard a minister, in total seriousness, state that he hoped God never singled him out as he did Job. He got a chuckle from the audience and you could hear several agreeing with his comment. At first I also felt that way and then I realized that saying and believing such was the same as saying I did not want God to train me for His kingdom. WHAT ABOUT YOU? Would you rather that God not deal with you as He has dealt with so many brothers and sisters? If that is your attitude and approach then you are telling God "JUST LEAVE ME ALONE AND LET ME PERISH AS A HUMAN BEING AND DON'T BOTHER ME WITH YOUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP YOUR CHARACTER IN ME!]" If we refuse or fail to face and overcome the trials we face then we will lose our chance at being among the firstfruits.

Back to Job. He was extremely obedient. He even offered sacrifices in case someone in his household made a mistake that he did not know of. He eschewed (ran from) evil. He accepted the test that came on him as coming from God. He did not complain that God was testing him even though tried almost to the breaking point. He despaired of life. Satan even used Job's wife at one point as a test. She said, "Why don't you just curse God and die - - just get it over with?" And, "Why are you enduring all this misery?" And, "Obviously God has forsaken you!"

Do we sometimes find ourselves thinking such? [The lessons God had for Job will need to be covered elsewhere in another sermon or article]. For now I will merely point out that Job desperately needed to get rid of self-righteousness. He knew that he was obedient. He had great understanding of God and God's ways. He had glib answers for just about everything.

But once God converted him, Job said, "I spoke of things too marvelous for me to understand of myself!" As God used Paul to explain, as found in Galatians 2:16, "KEEPING THE LAW ALONE DOES NOT JUSTIFY ANYONE BEFORE GOD."

In my 51 years in God's church I have seen a lot of this type attitude - - **obedience for the sake of obedience**. I have been guilty of this - have you? Can you be honest with yourself as Job was? But let us go on to other examples.

What about Joseph? He was sold into slavery by his own brothers. Despite this he worked his way into a prominent position in Potiphar's house. Then he had the rug pulled out from under him. He was falsely accused and sent to prison - - two rather serious events had now transpired in his life. In prison he seemed to be forgotten as he languished there. Yet he was learning extremely valuable lessons. God was working in his life through these circumstances as He is working in your life and my life. God had given him insight into the role that he was playing with God. God revealed His purpose to Joseph. Keep that thought in mind as we proceed as God is revealing His purpose to you in your life.

Let us now see how you and I stack up before God. Once Joseph's character had been tempered as God wanted it tempered then God intervened and brought about his release from prison. He was given great authority in Egypt - - second only to the Pharaoh. But that was only part of the story. The real point here is that Joseph was being used to save the entire Israelite family from that terrible drought. Like Abraham, Joseph had no idea why events occurred in his life as they did. But did he give up hope and roll over and die? No, he stayed the course! He kept looking to and trusting God. [Remember it is that TRUST and FAITH in God that God uses to justify us.]

What about Daniel? Daniel could have reasoned, "Why would God want me cast into a lion's den?" Once again close your eyes for a moment and imagine yourself in Daniel's place. In your mind's eye take a candid look at your **faith** and **trust** in God at this very moment in light of the examples that we have already studied. How would you and I stack up? Oh, brethren, these events were recorded in the Bible for our good - - our admonition upon whom the ends of the world have come (1 Corinthians 10:10-13). Please take the time to study these four verses very carefully and note that, "God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted He will also provide a way out SO THAT YOU CAN STAND UP UNDER IT."

Please study that passage carefully and drink in its meaning. But above all ask God to give you the spiritual insight that you need to see and understand what He is telling each one of us in this passage and in this message.

Now let us go on to other examples. Let us consider the three Jewish lads mentioned in the book of Daniel – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They served God faithfully in a foreign land. They worshipped God and God alone! Yet they were commanded to bow down and worship before an idol. Did they say, "Oh, why me, Lord?"

As we just read in 1 Corinthians 10, God provided the faith needed for them to stand! Once again, close your eyes and imagine yourself there. Would you and I protest, "Wait just a minute, God, I don't remember bargaining for this kind of trial!" Or, "This was not in the contract I signed with you, God!"

But, brethren, it really is in our contract with God. We have been called to actually present our bodies to God as a LIVING SACRIFICE – NOT A DEAD ONE (Romans 12:1). God did not want Daniel to be eaten by lions or the three Jewish lads burned in a fiery furnace or Joseph to die in a prison, etc. What God wanted and, thankfully, what He got was the development of Godly character in these individuals. That is what He wants in us.

To be called and chosen by God during this age is not an easy situation. It can be and often is extremely difficult because the POTENTIAL involved here is so great. We have been called and set apart by God to go where God leads no matter where we live on the face of this earth. This includes all of you reading this in 11 different countries on 4 different continents. This is your calling! This is your purpose in life! And God tells us, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous!"

What do you suppose God is thinking during our greatest hour of trial in this flesh? Let us read some verses in the 11th chapter of Hebrews. Let's start with verse 39 which reads, "These (mentioned in this chapter) were all commended for their FAITH, yet none of them received what had been promised (ultimate salvation). God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they (the patriarchs) be made perfect." As verse 38 says, "The world was not worthy of them."

Now let's go to verses 13-16 which read, "All these people were still LIVING BY FAITH when they died. They did not receive the things promised (ultimate salvation); they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead they were longing for A BETTER COUNTRY – A HEAVENLY ONE. Therefore, ***God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.***"

Now let us read Hebrews 12:1-7. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our FAITH, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame,

and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not resisted to the point of shedding your blood (as many have done), and you have forgotten that word of encouragement THAT ADDRESSES YOU AS SONS: 'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as sons.' Endure (consider) **HARDSHIP AS DISCIPLINE**; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?"

Brethren, do you truly understand spiritually what God is inspiring me to bring to your attention here? You and I are in this great company of witnesses of whom the peoples of this world are not worthy to even consider. These are words straight from God as recorded in the Bible. These words represent the very purpose of our existence - - the very purpose of human life on earth. If you personally understand the words represented here and if you act on these words then you are enlightened and are being given the chance to fulfill the very purpose of your human life. And if you fulfill that purpose you will be brought forth either by a resurrection from the dead or be changed instantaneously at the return of Jesus Christ to this earth (Study 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

In my sermons and articles I regularly refer to Romans the 8th chapter. Paul points out in verses 19-27 that the entire human race is anxiously awaiting on those of us whom God is calling and training during this present lifetime to get our act together and enter the Kingdom of God so that they too can eventually be given that same opportunity. We have an awesome responsibility **NOT TO FAIL**. God is counting on us! So is the rest of mankind. That is how important you are to God.

We are that **firstfruits** that will enter the Kingdom of God first. The firstfruits are made up of all those listed in the 11th chapter of Hebrews as well as many others listed elsewhere in the Bible as well as the countless thousands who have lived and died for Christ during the last 2000 years. We are clearly in that category.

Please listen carefully and pay attention to what God is about to say to you through me. To God you and I, (as weak and flawed as we are) are in the same category as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Daniel, Elijah, Isaiah, yes, and even Rahab, the harlot, David and so many others too numerous to mention here (Review Hebrews 11). Remember that when you face trials.

As you allow God's Spirit to guide you as you study this sermon keep in mind that this present evil world is rapidly coming to an end. No matter where you are at this moment in those 11 different countries you will be profoundly affected by the events just ahead of us. Those of us called now have two roads set before us at this very moment. One leads to a life and a future that we cannot even begin to imagine. That of immortality in the very family of God; a son of God; an heir of God and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ. This represents beauty, challenges and opportunities that defy human description and also defy comprehension by mere humans. The other road leads to death and cessation from life.

As stated at the outset, this has been a flawed sermon because the human delivering it is a flawed human being using flawed human languages. The English language (or any other human language) is totally inadequate to convey what I have tried to convey in this sermon. I recognize the fact that no one can grasp and understand these words unless and until God the Father reveals it to him or her (John 6:44). All I can do is deliver the words in a human language and then **trust the Holy Spirit** to do its work in revealing the spiritual intent involved. These things are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14). Each one of us must go to God personally and ask for this spiritual discernment. I have been instrumental in humanly delivering this message to God's people for over 50 years. Throughout those years I have learned to love many people seeking God's way. With my whole heart I have expounded these spiritual truths but, sad to say, it has become evident over the years that in many cases many just did not really understand even though they heard the physical words. That is why Christ said, in Revelation 2 and 3, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear, and he who has eyes to see, let him see!" I have known for all these many years that I personally cannot give this understanding to anyone else. I have come to grasp and understand what Jesus meant when He said, "Oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, (representing God's people) how often would I have gathered you as a mother hen gathers her chicks but you would not allow me to do so!"

Many of you have experienced this also as you have tried to pass on this spiritual knowledge to members of your family and to friends only to see it rejected.

Now to the nitty gritty! If God has granted you this understanding then you are blessed above all other humans alive on earth today. You are in a special category! You are the apple of God's eye! Yes, the Almighty God of the universe has His eyes on you and me! He has taken a hand in your life as He did with so many others as we have seen.

Now let us turn to Galatians 3:6 which reads, "Consider Abraham: He BELIEVED GOD AND THAT BELIEF WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS . . . those who BELIEVE ARE children of Abraham." Now verse 9 reads, "So those who have FAITH are blessed along with Abraham." *God places us in company with Abraham and others.*

Paul makes it clear in Galatians 3:8 that the gospel was preached to Abraham. Now let us go to John 8:56 which reads, "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day (the day of salvation); HE SAW IT (from a distance – Hebrews 11:13) and was glad." Therefore, it is clear that the gospel of salvation was preached to Abraham and all the holy people of old even before Jesus Christ came. This is the same gospel that I am preaching to you in this sermon. This gospel is the fact that human beings are destined to become sons of God; heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. That our potential destiny is far greater than any trial we might face during this physical lifetime. All the holy people of old were given an understanding of this message. That is why they did not allow the human trials they faced defeat them. They knew that the reward being offered them was far greater than any human trial or test. Do we grasp this in our lives?

This same opportunity to enter the Kingdom of God has been granted to **you** regardless of your race or country of origin. Do you grasp that? That's how high your calling is. That is your potential destiny! I say "potential destiny" for a reason. The reason is we can individually fall

short and miss out on the opportunity of being among the firstfruits, changed into a spirit being and live forever as a very member of the family of God.

David clearly understood this calling. That is why he could write the prayer he prayed with so much emotion as recorded in Psalm 51 [Please study that prayer carefully].

I could have read several passages written by the Apostle Paul showing how diligently he fought his own human nature so as to achieve this high calling. As you will recall, when he considered his human frailties, he cried out to God, "Oh, wretched man that I am!" as he sought God's mercy in the same manner that David prayed. He did not allow his human frailties and shortcomings to defeat him but kept returning to God for forgiveness and mercy.

Now let's consider Paul's remarks in 2 Timothy 4:6-8 which reads, "For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time is come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day: AND NOT ONLY TO ME, BUT ALSO TO ALL WHO HAVE LONGED FOR HIS APPEARING."

I ask that all of you carefully study the words God inspired Paul to write in Romans 8:37-39. We need to ask God to help us BELIEVE God as did Abraham, Daniel, Job, Paul and all the others so that our BELIEF AND TRUST IN GOD can be counted as righteousness for us. We can and we should have that same kind of faith and confidence. But we must learn how to go to God for that kind of faith; that kind of trust. Oh, brethren, eternity as spirit beings awaits each one of us. Do we really see this? Do we really grasp this?

Do we envision the Almighty Creator God of the universe dealing with us in such a personal manner as He did David, Daniel, Job, etc.? If we do not envision this let us diligently go to God and earnestly ask Him to give us this insight.

Though I am thousands of miles away from most of you hearing or reading this sermon, God's Spirit is right now with you IF YOUR MIND IS RECEPTIVE! God's Spirit is right there if you can but reach out and ask God for it. God says, "To this person I will look and heed – the one who has a broken and contrite heart and spirit and trembles at my word" (Isaiah 66:2).

Brethren, your flawed human servant, inspired by the Spirit of God, is right now beseeching you to heed and begin trusting the Almighty Creator God to open your minds and hearts to grasp this message.

With that in mind let us have the Apostle Paul pray with and for us as recorded in Ephesians 3:14-21: "For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth [we are that family on earth] derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts THROUGH FAITH. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, TO GRASP HOW WIDE AND LONG AND HIGH AND DEEP IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him (God) who is able

to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church [we are that church] and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen!"

Now, brethren, you may remove your seat belts for you should be riding safely in the arms of the Almighty Creator God. Have a safe, joyous and profitable journey with our great God is my earnest prayer! And, again I say "Amen!"

[Note: If you know any who could benefit from this sermon, have them request a free copy. We do not charge for any service we provide. My wife and I still work so as to have the funds to conduct this ministry without charge to any. Our purpose is to help you see your calling and how important you are personally to God. - Bill]

"These were more noble . . . , in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11 KJV