

*Are*

*You a*

**Man**

**god**

**or**

**God**

**man?**

Where will you  
spend eternity?

Joas Natan

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## **Author's Note**

When a dear friend of mine went through the first draft of this manuscript, which is wholly Christian, she made the following comment: "Why so much about psychology?" It is fair to try to answer her question and give a reason, without any effort to minimize the truthfulness contained in the question:

I am a registered Psychologist. I practiced for some years in a corporate environment and the last 26 years of my professional career was spent in private practice. I did extensive training in Clinical Hypnotherapy and as such know something about the intricacies of psychotherapy. When I picked up my first Psychology handbook, at the age of 18, I knew this was the field I wanted to work in for the rest of my life. I completed my Honors degree with distinction and managed to qualify as professional psychologist, also with distinction. While I was busy with my M.Ed. (counseling), I encountered a nagging feeling of doubt about what I was studying. I became more critical about many of the things I was studying. As the years went by, my relationship with Jesus became the main focus point in my life and surpassed my love for psychology. Out of my Christian conviction, a growing unease developed with the principles of psychology. Hypnotherapy particularly started to pose a big stumbling block in my relationship with God. A form of hypnotherapy known as Ego State Hypnotherapy, particularly, exposed me to the proximity of the demonic world to the world of psychotherapy. My unease increased to a state of being openly critical about much of what was taught in psychology. My critical attitude went further and grew into aversion for psychological principals and I tended more and more towards biblical counseling. My unease about psychology prompted my conscience about techniques taught to clients during my years as an active psychologist. The books of Christian counselors, opposed to Hypnotherapy and atheistic psychologist's views, interested me more towards the end of my career. The compilation of the ideas in this book, now at the age of 77, has been the outcome.

I wrote *Are you a Man god or a God man* with the sincere prayer that readers' eyes will be opened, hearts will be changed and men under the spell of psychology will return to God as the Sole Solution to mankind`s search for solutions to problems encountered in this life.

Joas Natan

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# **Part 1**

## **Chapter 1**

### **Introduction**

A god is a supreme being, or thing, you rate above all, look up to, depend upon, revere, honor, obey, trust in, praise, spend time with, put first above all other things and people, enjoy most, love best. It could be Money, Sport, Your career, your spouse ... or it could be God Almighty.

Man is a human being, capable of thinking, making decisions, accepting responsibility for choices, deciding what he or she values most and what, or who, he or she would like to have as god. Man is capable of making choices based on a humanistic reasoning.

Man- god for our purpose will be a human being who, by and large, mistakes himself for his god.

God- man will be regarded as man making God Almighty his God.

Most of the book will look at ways the Man-god manifests. These manifestations will be looked at from different viewpoints. The world of the God-man will also be unlocked. The discrepancy between the two perspectives will hopefully lead readers to hunger after the life of the God-man. We then discuss a practical way how this new life as God-man may be appropriated. The structure of the book will cover these main themes:

A self-description of a Man-god.

Manifestations of a Man-god.

The world of the God-man.

How to get from being a Man-god to a God-man – if you want to.

## Chapter 2

### A self-description of a Man god

The Man god is at the end of his life. He started life as an illegitimate child. His parents got married in time to avoid a scandal, for that time. Anyone with a basic knowledge of the period of pregnancy could have discovered his secret easily. The only indication that all was not well was the fact that his parents chose to ignore their wedding anniversary. In fact, no one knew the date of their wedding.

He grew up feeling scared. He had no self-confidence. He stressed easily and was constantly trying to make his parents proud of him. School was a nightmare and he feared the teachers. He dreaded the school work because of his perceived inability to succeed. His fear of school, tests, public speaking, ridicule and poor marks stayed with him his whole school career.

Some days he was so afraid of a specific math's teacher that he physically presented with goose bumps when going to school. One day in Grade 9 a terrible thing happened to him. He forgot to do his homework for this particular teacher he feared so much. The teacher relished an opportunity like this for he enjoyed the fear of his victim. Back then, there was only one way to punish a boy and that was "three of the best" with the cane. The victim had to wait till the time the monster felt like enjoying his victim's agony the most. Then the punishment started in view of the whole class. What this did to the boy's emotional wellbeing is indescribable but he survived, although now emotionally crippled. He hated school but a year earlier, in Grade 8, he discovered a way to survive. He and his brother grew up in a religious home. They went to church on a regular basis, a conservative, dogmatic church. They were taught how to pray, but there was nothing about a personal relationship with Jesus. They believed in God with awe but did not know God as a loving father. They were afraid of God. At the time there was a five-minute devotional on the radio at 5:55 a.m. To the boy's delight he discovered another

Father, namely God, Whom you could depend on to help you solve your problems. This became the boy's religion for the next three decades. He discovered a God you can use to your advantage when the going gets tough.

As I said, the boy hated school but he became a teacher, for financial reasons. Bursaries were available for students who wanted to become teachers. He hated teaching with the same intensity he hated going to school. For nine years he endured this torture. During his studies he got a taste of Psychology. For a mixed up, emotionally crippled person, this sounded like heaven. He discovered ways to alleviate the emotional pain of severe inferiority by using self-help books and the deeper intricacies of psychological therapies. For the next decade or more this became his real religion. He had discovered his own god. He still went to church and used God to help him, but now he was in control of his own life. With this new freedom he discovered the blessing of financial security. New doors started to open and he enjoyed himself in his own small world. The use of Psychology also brought another benefit in that he socialized on a regular basis without becoming too involved in other people's lives and receiving the benefit of them paying him to give them advice about their lives. The god Man gradually grew stronger and more independent of people, circumstances and God. Eventually he retired and entered the blissful period of total surrender to the Man god. He knew he was going to die some time in future, but he believed that the same God who used to help him through the tough times, would meet his needs after death. He was in the center of his own life, enjoying himself and looking out only for I, Me and Myself. Can you identify with this person? Would you like to enjoy the same life he had? Beware, you might also end up in the same way he is going to end up. You might ask how and where will that be? With gnashing of teeth, with crying out in pain in agony forever in Hell, my friend!

## Chapter 3

### Manifestations of the Man god

#### Introduction

#### 3.1 The Soul of the Man god

This section will be divided into the four components of the soul: The mind, the emotions, the will and the conscience.

##### 3.1.1 The mind of the Man god

In paradise Satan said to Eve:

*Can it really be that God has said, you shall not eat from every tree of the garden? And the woman said to the serpent, we may eat the fruit from the trees of the garden, except the fruit from the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God has said, you shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die. But the serpent said to the woman, you shall not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing the difference between good and evil and blessing and calamity. (Gen 3:1)* In the *Expositor Study Bible* the bold print above is explained in the following way: “*You shall be Elohim.*” It was a promise of Divinity.

Some translations translate *knowing the difference between good and evil* as *knowing everything*.

We know what happened next. Eve ate and she gave to Adam and he ate. Their eyes opened, they became aware of their nakedness, they became afraid and they hid from God. God was right and the punishment for their disobedience was death.

Satan seduced the first people by concentrating on their cognitive processes. He lured them into the trap of deception by promising them divinity through knowledge. The whole process of seducing the first people was initiated by asking a question. The moment Eve engaged into thinking and trying to answer the question, she was hooked. Her reasoning led her to self-awareness. Her reasoning might have been something like: *I must be so smart that he, this wonderful creature, is asking me questions.* When she became hooked in arguing with Satan she was lost. This arrogant Satan even tried to reason with Jesus, the Messiah. The whole cognitive process led Eve to a position where she believed she could be her own god by gaining knowledge. Before the downfall of man, knowledge was synonymous with truth.

Satan introduced a new concept with false knowledge. Throughout ages this has been Satan's chief modus operandi – the lie.

In conclusion, one might say man's sin of trying to be his own god through acquiring knowledge led to his self-awareness, then to self-esteem, high self-esteem, fear and, eventually, to acting on fear. The way he thought influenced the way he felt emotionally. The stage was set for the age of the psychologist, to introduce cognitive-behavior therapy, the main therapy since inception of Psychology. Since the earliest of times man's preoccupation with himself, his longing to be somebody or something, his pride in acquiring knowledge, and the high value he placed on knowledge as a means of becoming independent of God and to fulfill his own destiny (as he saw it) all influenced his emotions, mostly in a negative way. So the initial plan of God that man should depend on Him and trust in Him became void and was supplanted by man's trust in himself and his dependency on his own abilities.

### **3.1.2. The emotional life of the Man god**

The emotional life of the Man god started out in paradise with security, love, peace, harmony, trust, gladness, stability and lack of self-awareness, until he chose to sin.

But he lost his feeling of security when he was kicked out of paradise. He learned to hate God and other people, He lost his peace as he had to fight to make a living. Disharmony came into his love when he learned to blame both his wife and Satan for his misfortunes. His trust shifted from God to himself and his own abilities. His gladness turned to fear and worry about providing for himself. He became so aware of himself that he got pre-occupied with himself, his own importance, his own needs and his wish to be his own god. His life was no longer stable but became confused and uncertain.

### **3.1.3 The will of the Man god**

Before man`s fall into sin, his only wish was to do God`s will. His self-centeredness after the fall led him to be self-willed. His aim in life shifted from pleasing God to pleasing himself. Apart from willing to please himself he willed to do evil to please his new gods: himself and Satan. Everything that was to his own benefit influenced what he longed for and wished for. The main aims of the god Man became pleasure, enjoyment, advantage, power and importance of the self.

### **3.1.4 Conscience of the Man god**

This aspect of the soul of man is often discarded when the soul of man is examined. It is in this regard included.

Conscience is the faculty that distinguishes between right and wrong. As such, it can be included in the aspects of soul. The god Man`s conscience is seared. As the god Man progresses on his developmental journey, his conscience becomes progressively non-functional. Good and bad blend together and the influence of the conscience on actions, words and thinking processes loses its power. He can do what he likes when he likes and how he likes without being corrected by any innate ability to distinguish between right and wrong. When you examine the aspects of soul given here, where do you fit in? Seeing yourself in the mirror

of the soul, who looks back, Man god or God man?

### **3.2. The role of Christian religion as a manifestation of the Man god**

The basis of this section will be built on the excellent work of Frank Viola and George Barna: *Pagan Christianity*. The question is: How does the god Man manifest himself as his own god in his religious rites?

#### **3.2.1 Place of worship**

Jesus preferred the open spaces for His sermons when He walked this earth. The people of the first congregations gathered in the homes of believers. When the numbers increased, the walls in a house were knocked down to make room for more people. It was in the time of Constantine, about 300 A.D., when elaborate church buildings were first introduced.

Constantine did much to free the Christian religion and to give it a place in the world of worship. However, there is serious doubt about the Christian convictions of Constantine. He remained doggedly enmeshed in the pagan convictions of his time. Constantine's church buildings were so splendid that his pagan contemporaries observed that these huge buildings imitated the structure of pagan temples. The buildings were designed after Greek pagan temples and were decorated with pagan art. In these temples, an elevated platform separated the clergy from the rest of the congregation. There were steps leading up to it and it was screened or railed off. The bishop's chair or throne on this platform was the biggest and most elaborate seat in the building. Two rows of chairs were reserved for the elders on one side of the bishop's throne and two other rows for the deacons on the other side. The sermon was preached from the throne. Viola gives the following comment:

*Interestingly, most present day church buildings have special chairs for the pastor and his staff situated on the platform behind the pulpit. (Like the bishop's throne the pastor's chair is usually the largest of them all.) All of this is a clear carryover from the pagan basilica)*

The Man god usually prefers this type of place for worship.

### **3.2.2 Worship**

Christianity during the fourth century was shaped along the lines of the Roman imperialism and Greek paganism as found in the special garments worn by the clergy, processional music before the sermon started, choirs, liturgy and hierarchical leadership structure. Conversely, the church in the time of Jesus was non-hierarchical, non-ritualistic and non-liturgical. Again, there is a difference in the way the God man and the Man god prefer to worship.

### **3.2.3 The Steeple**

The steeple or tower was the brainchild of the inhabitants of Babel when they tried to build a structure to reach to the heavens. Later steeples were a symbolic way to illustrate contact between heaven and earth.

Christians do not have to reach into heaven to find God. He is here. He is with us. If you are a Man god you might prefer building your own tower to heaven with stones of self **achievement**.

### **3.2.4 The pew and balcony**

Viola comments as follows on this aspect:

*The pew is perhaps the greatest inhibitor of face-to-face fellowship. It is a symbol of lethargy and passivity in the contemporary church and has made corporate worship a spectator sport.*

The Man god prefers lethargic, passive worship. He hates to show emotions. He has one mantra:” Never trust a person with a Bible under his arm.” To him, the pastor must stay on the balcony while he himself indulges in his own things.

### **3.2.5 The high cost of a Man god religion**

Today, ‘overheads’ may be eating away up to 90% of the income of a church.



Tithes may be used to a great extent for salaries, building upkeep and maintenance, transport, insurance and conveniences for church members. Nowadays, little or no money is available for missions and helping the poor. This is in direct contrast with the early church's priorities. As long as the Man god is comfortable and well- looked after, then the needs of others fade away.

### **3.2.6 Pragmatism of the Man god**

Pragmatism is the philosophy of: *If it works, let's do it*. Pragmatism is unspiritual because it encourages ethical considerations to be secondary. Further, it leads to dependency on man's own efforts instead of trust in God. It leads to situational morality where practical considerations are placed above what God's word teaches us. Misuse of pragmatism leads to acceptance of abortion, same-sex marriages, condoning homosexuality and other evils. All things the Man god feels comfortable with.

### **3.2.7 The pastor/ Sermon**

Viola writes the following about the pastors of today's church;

*He is the fundamental figure of the Protestant faith. So prevailing is the pastor in the minds of most Christians that he is better known, more highly praised and more heavily relied upon than Jesus Christ Himself. There is not a single verse in the entire New Testament that supports the existence of the modern day pastor. He simply did not exist in the early church.*

Protestant churches today put a lot of emphasis on the intellectual training of pastors. Most pastors have to complete a three-year academic degree with Greek and Hebrew as subjects to pass the entrance qualification for a further three years of theology training. The entrance qualification is academic and has nothing to do with spirituality, a calling by God for service or a deep inner relationship with Jesus. The Man god identifies easily with a pastor thus trained because of his high regard for knowledge.

For many pastors the calling to serve God is supplanted by a career with generous fringe benefits. But even so, of the 500 000 paid pastors in the United States 80% are discouraged or deal with depression (Viola). As the Man god aspires to the same things as many of today's pastors do, they are quite acceptable to him.

The modern sermon in a church, in structure and background theory, differs not much from the way the Sophists conducted their business around 500B.C. These wandering teachers are credited with inventing rhetoric – the art of persuasive speaking. The basic principles of then and now are much the same. *For example the sophists were expert debaters. They were masters at using emotional appeal, physical appearance and clever language to sell their arguments (Viola).* The Sophists identified themselves by the special clothing they wore.

Some of them had fixed residences where they gave regular sermons to the same audiences. They made a good deal of money. When Jesus came He did the exact opposite of the Sophists.

Many preachers today study a course in Philosophy. So they are quite familiar with the techniques of rhetoric. Therefore, it is not strange to discover that the modern sermon is filled with rhetoric. Techniques including the following may be recognized (Wikipedia):

*Ethos: The building of trust with the audience by establishing and building your own credibility and authority through tone, style and grammar.*

*Logos: That is the logical appeal which can be reinforced by data, research and statistics.*

*Pathos: Appealing to emotions by connecting to your audience through their values and interests. Emotions move people. The good preacher will learn about his audience, share stories and personal experiences, ask questions and try to get his audience thinking.*

Aristotle developed these concepts four centuries before Christ.

The Man god loves these techniques because, through them, he can manipulate people. Conversely, the God man would like to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and not man`s manipulation.

### **3.2.8 Dressing up**

The Man god likes to “dress up”, especially when going to church. The reason may be one or more of the following:

It may distinguish the division between secular and the sacred. However, the God man knows he has access to God`s presence at all times and in all circumstances.

The Man god thinks he can hide his real self and dress it up to look nice. He does not care that *the house of God shows all the elements of a stage show: costumes, makeup, props, lighting, ushers, special music, master of ceremonies, performance and the featured programme* (Viola).

*The Man god does not care that dressing up conceals his basic underlying problem illusion – that he is somehow made good because he is dressing up for God. The Man god likes to appear as he not really is. He relies on his performance or dress to give people an impression of what he likes them to believe he is.*

*The Man god does not like all social and racial distinctions to be erased by wearing ordinary clothes worn by less well-off people.*

### **3.2.9 Man god and his Bible**

The **God man** loves his Bible. He reads it regularly, meditates on what he reads and applies the word in his life. He seeks to know God better by spending time listening to God speaking to him through the words of the Bible. He knows the Bible in its present form is not perfect.

For example, the insertion of chapters and verses force certain interpretations onto the Bible. He is also aware that the letters of Paul were put into the Bible starting with the longest and ending with the shortest, with no regard to preserving the context of the letters according to place and time written. Men translated, men wrote the Bible numerous times over and discrepancies may have crept in. However the word speaks about the perfect God and when the reader is willing to submit to the leading of the Holy Ghost when reading and meditating the word, He will reveal what is necessary to the reader.

However, the **Man god** usually finds the Bible boring and uninspiring. He seldom reads the Bible. He is very critical when he reads the Bible and tries to find discrepancies in the Bible. He is unwilling to trust the word and is constantly looking for empirical proofs for what is written in the Bible. He prefers self-help books and is willing to apply principles from other sources over those revealed in the Bible. Often, he prefers his own “bible”, which may be the newspaper, secular books, periodicals to his liking and materials that support his interest in his hobbies. The Bible is not the leading force in his life. He prefers to develop his own life principles and does not trust the Bible for leading him through life. The God man and Man god each have their own way of looking at religion. Perhaps you can identify yourself in some of the outlooks given above?

### **3.3. Manifestation of the Man god in his communication**

The dominant creed in the Man God’s life is knowledge. His communication is built on information acquired from media. He diligently reads his newspaper every day. Some read more than one paper per day. He watches TV when he gets the chance. Generally, he prefers documentaries to stories. He knows what’s going on in the world. You can discuss everyday affairs with him and he can give you advice about how to conduct your business – which shares to buy, where to get what deals, where to go for your vacation, business opportunities, who to ask for what, etc.

He prefers to stay on the most basic levels of communication, swapping facts and sometimes giving opinions, thus revealing his thinking processes. The deeper levels of communication, such as showing and discussing your feelings, are seldom utilized. He is greatly influenced by the media and usually echoes the liberal thinking of the liberal press, condoning homosexuality, abortion and same-sex marriages. The gutter morality of the newspapers is most often his preferred choice. Pragmatism is his norm; *If something works, then it must be morally justifiable.*

Conversely, the God man applies the norms of Phil.4:8 when judging his communication. He will ask: *Is this true? is it worthy of reverence, honorable and seemly? Is it just, pure, lovely and lovable, kind, winsome and gracious? Is there any virtue and excellence? Is there anything worthy of praise?*

By applying these norms, the outcome of the Man God's communication will be vastly different from that of the God man.

### **3.4. The Man god: His sport and recreation**

Sport and recreation are the next most important gods in the Man God's life.

Sport is like a god if you examine sport against the criteria of "something becoming a god". It is to the Man god a supreme being or thing rated above all else, looked up to, depended on, revered, honored, obeyed, trusted in, praised, spent time with, put first above other things and people, enjoyed most, loved best.

Next time you get the opportunity at an international rugby match, watch how the spectators react. They will plan long in advance for the occasion. They will buy expensive seats for the match. They will look forward to the event, speak much about it, discuss the players, make bets on the outcome and travel long distances to watch their team.

During the match you will find our Man god helping the spirit of the game along with his own innate spirits. He will go wild with joy when his team seems to be winning. He will cry and swear when his team seems to be losing. He will put his hands into the air to revere his god – his team – while he is shouting, standing and dancing for joy when his team scores a goal.

The God man, when he sees this spectacle, will be sad because the same Man god he sees at the sport match going wild will ,most of the time, shows much less enthusiasm during the weekly religious meeting.

Above all, God must be bitterly disappointed when he sees His so-called children, showing so much enthusiasm, love, reverence, interest and joy for people playing a game. If they would show the same to Him when attending a church meeting one might think such excitement is the natural expression of joy. But is it the case?

The Man god also loves his recreation. God expects the God man to rest. But God must be the main focus, for example, on a Sunday. Instead, the Man god makes himself the focus point when he recreates and rests. Usually he will go for light entertainment like watching sport or other programs on TV, reading a newspaper or secular book, visiting friends, going for a braai (and drinks) and eating too much, fantasizing about ladies on the beach, watching pornography, listening to music (preferably not gospel), loafing around or serving his hobby god. Anything, as long as God is not the main focus of his indulgences. Recreation will be the Man God's main ambition. A lot of his savings will go into a pension plan so that he can one day retire in comfort, not having to depend on anyone or anything, doing what he likes, independent, self-secure, enjoying himself, fulfilling his life-long ambitions to serve himself without any accountability.

The God man also rests and also enjoys himself, but the source of his enjoyment is Jesus and the service he renders to others. Therefore, he will go to church rather than watch a rugby match.

He will listen to music exalting God and bringing peace to his soul. He prefers socializing with his family to going to parties at his friend's abode. He enjoys reading his Bible and other religious periodicals. When he socializes with other people, he will choose people he can witness to about what God did for him. Very easily he and his friends will, in a natural way, speak about God and religious matters. God will be the center of all his activities because God's Spirit is living in him.

The Man god is primarily a sensual being. He lives mainly from his senses and the pleasure he can get out of the use of his senses. Therefore, he likes the culinary delights and often partakes in excessive eating orgies. His body is very important and everything he can enjoy physically is of great importance. Not so with the God man; his spiritual being is of the utmost importance to him and he welcomes God's Spirit in him. His joy is in God and God in him.

### **3.5. Of politics and communism**

You will find the Man god in all political affiliations. He can be conservative or liberal and may even favor communism. However, there is a tendency for the Man god to be more liberal minded.

The reason may be in the greater freedom of thought and choice the liberal orientation opens to the Man god. The main reason may be the open choices in ethics and morality, which are found in the more liberal political streams. As we have said, the Man god is likely to be pragmatic in his attitude towards homosexuality, abortion and same-sex marriages. The test of pragmatism is the following: *Is it working for you?* If it is working for you, then it is morally acceptable. The more conservative political parties tend to shy away from these lifestyles. Communism loves evolution as a means of writing God out of creation as Creator and ascribing creation to a "Big Bang Theory". Since the communist's main goal is to negate Jesus and elevate man and mankind to a god-like status, the Man god often feels very comfortable in the thinking processes of the communist.

The Man god is always looking for ways to make himself a god and there is ample room for just that in the framework of communism. The fact that communism never ever worked in any place and has never furthered a better life style or increased productivity, seems not to bother the Man god.

You will usually find more people with a God man orientation in political parties with a broad Christian base and in fundamentalist and conservative parties.

With liberalization, new religious orientations also came into being. In South Africa we now even have an Alcohol Church. They use beer for communion and conduct their so-called services in bars and drinking places, not to reach the drinker but to further the use of alcohol. The mainstream churches have a continuous battle with liberal thought taking over. In 2015, the biggest church denomination in South Africa voted at one of their gatherings in favor of appointing homosexual preachers and decided that homosexuality is in line with biblical principles. Most people with a God man outlook decided to leave the denomination. This brought the church to her senses.

### **3.6. The Man god and post-humanism**

The Man god eagerly waits for the era of the post-humanism. What is post-humanism? It can be described as *beyond human*. God made man but the Man god finds the work of God insufficient. He thinks he can improve on God`s work by going beyond what God created.

The following is an excerpt from an article that appeared in *Joy Magazine* in the August 2018 edition:

*The aims of the trans humanist movement are summed up by Mark O`Connell in his book : To be a Machine. "It is their belief that we can and should eradicate aging as a cause of death; that we can and should use technology to augment our bodies and our minds; that we can and should merge with machines, remaking ourselves, finally in the image of our higher ideals. In*



*future, we might use implants to augment our senses so we can detect infrared or ultraviolet radiation directly or boost our cognitive processes by connecting ourselves to memory chips. Ultimately, by merging man and machine, science will produce humans who will have vastly increased intelligence, strength and lifespans; a near embodiment of gods*

*One of the core concepts of trans humanist thinking is life extension: Through genetic engineering, nanotech, cloning and other emerging technologies, eternal life may soon be possible. Likewise, trans humanists are interested in the ever-increasing number of technologies that can boost our physical, intellectual and psychological capabilities beyond what humans are natural capable of (thus the term trans human). On the more extreme side, trans humanism deals with the concept of mind uploading (to a computer) and what happens when we finally craft a computer with greater-than-human intelligence.*

*Prominent trans humanist Ray Kurzweil believes that we will become essentially god-like in our powers.*

Going hand in hand with the post-humanism movement is micro chipping of a person's hand. By 2018, more than 3 500 people in Sweden had had microchips implanted. They function as contactless credit cards, key cards and even rail cards directly within their bodies. These chips are placed somewhere between the thumb and the index finger. These are the same microchips that have been used for decades to track animals and packages.

The God man, in contrast, is wary about these new technologies. He reads about this mark on the hand in Revelation in the Bible. Without the mark of the Satan, it will be impossible to buy or sell in the end times. People receiving this mark on their bodies will be excluded from heaven as they are marked by Satan as his property ( Revelation 13:17).

### **3.7. The Man god and Positive Mental Attitude**

The following information regarding Positive Mental Attitude (PMA) comes mainly from an

article posted under the same name on *Wikipedia*. 18 August 2018.

PMA is a concept first developed and introduced in 1937 by Napoleon Hill in the book *Think and Grow Rich*. Therein Hill develops the idea of the importance of positive thinking as a principle to success. PMA is defined as comprising the 'plus' characteristics symbolized by such words as faith, integrity, hope, optimism, courage, initiative, generosity, tolerance, tact, kindness and good common sense. It is the philosophy that having an optimistic disposition in every situation in one's life thereby attracts positive changes and increases achievement.

Adherents employ a state of mind that continues to seek, find and execute ways to win, or find desirable outcomes, regardless of the circumstances. It opposes negativity, defeatism and hopelessness. Optimism and hope are vital to the development of PMA.

Many studies have been done on PMA and its effects on health, specifically with people with serious illnesses such as cancer. People with PMA have a significantly higher chance of survival and recovery.

The Man god is a strong supporter of this Philosophy. To them it is not worrisome that the first proponent of PMA, Napoleon Hill, explained in some detail that he learned the mind-power techniques contained in his book from disembodied spirit entities. Demons masquerading as Ascended Masters used Hill to deceive millions who have adopted the success techniques they gave him.

To the God man, PMA is an offspring of occultism. Most Christians are so uninformed about occultism that they would not recognize it except in its most blatant forms. One word that is used to encompass all pagan/ occult practices is *sorcery*. Sorcery is an attempt to manipulate reality (internal, external, past present or future) by various mind-over-matter techniques including the influence of PMA on cancer. The ability to exert *mind over matter* is to the God man something weird or occult.

To the Man god it is part of the normal potential that can be experienced by anyone who follows certain alleged laws of success (Dave Hunt and T.A McMahon: *The Seduction of Christianity*).

### **3.8 The Man god and Fake News.**

The Man god shows a special affinity for Fake News

According to Tony Watkins (*Joy Magazine*. November 2017) we now live in a post-truth society. Post truth can be circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than emotional appeals. The term post-truth has had such a big impact that it was Oxford Dictionaries' word of the year in 2016. The reason for the astronomical rise in the influence of post-truth can be attributed to several factors of which the following needs mentioning:

The rise of the social media. In our time, social media has become a major source of information for people all over the world. Together with the rise of social media there has been a growing distrust of facts presented by the traditional sources of information like the newspapers. Post-truth can be closely connected to fake news.

The power of fake news can be attributed to the emotional exhilaration of lies, which has dire consequences in the soul of the human being. Again we see people's preference for emotional appeals rather than objective facts. This serves as a powerful tool in the hands of the unscrupulous politician playing up to the emotions and ever more sophisticated ways. Yet we have always had unscrupulous politicians. Why is the lie becoming such a strong tool today to mislead common man? The answer is partially that social media allows anybody to communicate anything at any time to a vast audience.

Social media has become the main way people access news. Catharine Viner, editor-in-chief of UK media outlet The Guardian "*laments that the new measure of value for too many news organisations is virility rather than truth or quality*". (Tony Watkins *Joy Magazine*. Nov. 2017)

Fake news can make a great deal of money for the willing liar. Kids in Macedonia discovered the financial rewards in distributing false news. Hence they became the main distribution point for false news. They become rich out of advertisements accompanying their fake news. In Jer. 6: 13, 8:10 we find the following words describing our time, written almost 3 000 years ago: *All are greedy for gain.....all practice deceit.* Fake news relies heavily on social media to spread Satan's lies.

The question arises, why are people persuaded to share unverified content so easily? The answer can be found in social proof. The more 'likes' or 'shares' a post gets, the more likely it is to be shared. It becomes increasingly difficult to disregard a 'truth' shared by so many people. Then the lie develops an energy of its own. When someone stands up against such a 'truth' and challenges it on biblical ground then biblical truths can easily be regarded as ancient fake news.

If something has an emotional appeal such as making you cry, getting you angry or making you laugh, it is highly probable that you experience an urge to share it with someone else. The pleasure center in the brain wants to be stimulated. By sharing information, such a response may be affected.

We all have a strong psychological tendency to latch on to information that confirms ideas we already have. In a corrupt society inundated with lies a new lie finds an easy rest.

When you click on items in Facebook's news feed, its algorithm delivers us more of those subjects and less with the content with which we do not engage. Lies grow exuberant in the soil of lies.

One thing is certain: It is becoming more difficult in the time we are living in to stay in biblical truth as *post-truth* is becoming the norm of the day. Post-truth is becoming a powerful weapon in Satan's arsenal.

## Chapter 4

### Satan's deception of the Man god

Long ago before God created man, satan existed. He is described in Ezek. 28:14, 15 and 17:

*Your heart was proud and lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.*

Satan believed he can be god himself. He said to himself:

*I will ascend to heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit upon the mount of assembly in the uttermost north; I will make myself like the Most High (Isaiah 14: 13 and 14).*

The original sin of Satan was his own self exultation. He tried to be his own god and was not willing to accept God as God. Since then, up to the present time, this original sin remained the one core sin around which all other sin was created.

Let's explore this cardinal sin through history up to the present time.

In Gen. 3 we find the account of Eve's seduction by Satan when he persuaded her to taste the fruit of the *tree of all knowledge* in order to become like God, by knowing everything. Eve fell for Satan's persuasion and ate from the forbidden fruit, thus condemning herself and all her descendants for all time. In future man will continue to try to be his own god. For this very reason God gave the First Commandment (Exodus 20:3):

*You shall have no other gods before or beside Me.*

Man`s need to be his own god is manifested in the following ways:

*Pride, the need for recognition, selfishness, love for self, the need for independence, to be rich, to have power over others, to serve his own needs, to benefit himself, to do his own thing independent of other people, to serve himself and to build his own kingdom.*

In short, to become his own god – to be master of his own fate. As such, he was trying to fulfill Satan`s ambition to push God from His throne.

Perhaps Cain perceived Abel as a threat to his status as first-born son. His own importance was threatened. He wiped this perceived threat to his own godhood away by killing his brother. Today, many people are still doing the same although in a less obvious manner, including hating other people, gossiping about people, actively harming others, unwillingness to forgive, lying, discrediting others and refraining from loving others. In Gen. 11:4 we find the typical way people thought about their own importance:

*And they said, come, let us built us a city and a tower whose top reaches into the sky, and let us make a name for ourselves.*

Man was still busy fulfilling his wish to be a god himself, to be independent from God, to make a name for himself.

Solomon was specially blessed by God, who allowed him build the temple. God blessed him with wisdom, wealth and prosperity. All because he was humble and acknowledged his own inability to govern Israel. Instead, Solomon asked for wisdom for this big task. However, the seed of self-importance gradually grew in Solomon as his wealth, wisdom and importance increased. Then, this wise man succumbed to the lure of Satan`s promise that he would be his own god. He stepped away from God and started praying and honoring the heathen gods of his 700 wives. In 1 Kings 11:9 we find the result of this folly:

*Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, Because you are doing this and have not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely rend the kingdom from you and give it to your servant.*

In this way God dethroned Solomon and his self-importance.

King Hezekiah was a model king. He did nothing wrong. Till one day (2 Kings 20) when Hezekiah became terminally ill. The prophet Isaiah was sent by God to Hezekiah to tell him that he was going to die and that he must set his house in order. Hezekiah pleaded with God and God decided to grant his wish and to prolong his life by 15 years. During this 15 years Hezekiah became arrogant and started thinking about himself as untouchable. He developed a high self-esteem and thought about his possessions as something he himself accumulated and took the honour for himself. During this time he also fathered a son by the name of Menasha. Menasha was one of the worst kings Israel ever had. He led many of the children of Israel into idolatry and was a disgrace to his father. He would never have been born if Hezekiah had died on his appointed time. So even this model king, Hezekiah, became to a certain extent his own god.

Today we are pre-eminently living in a time of self-exultation and self-deification. Satan is in a subtle way misleading most of humankind into self-deification. Everyone is trying to be his own god. The driving force of most people is *I, Me and Myself*. Examples of this phenomenon include the following:

#### **4.1 Overly critical**

Being overly critical of other people. This may mainly be an endeavor to divert attention away from the imperfections of self which might be embarrassing to the fragile self ego of the Man god.

## **4.2 The prayer**

The prayer taught by Jesus to His disciples put emphasis on God our Father; to exult His name, to endeavor for the best for His Kingdom, to seek after His will above everything else. In contrast to this prayer, the Man God's prayer might sound something like:

*Help me to become more renowned so that other people may regard me as something special.*

*Let everything work out for my own good, prosperity, wealth and health. In short, build my kingdom so that I may become strong and independent. Thereby I will be able to do as I choose and do my own will.*

## **4.3 Self love**

Self-love is the highest form of self-deification. In contrast to regarding the self as the ultimate goal in life, we find the words of Jesus in Mat. 16:24:

*If anyone desires to be My disciple, let him deny himself (disregard, lose sight of and forget himself and his own interests) and take up his cross and follow Me.*

These beautiful words of wisdom coming from the Creator of man is in direct contrast to what Satan is trying to imprint on man's mind. Satan is trying to convince man that he must always be looking out for the best interest of No 1, the self; that man is inherently good and therefore god; that man must only realize the good in himself; and, that he is an unlimited possibility. Man, therefore, does not need God because he can be his own god. The New Age Movement, Evolution religion, Humanism and Modern Psychology are tools Satan uses to further his cause with mankind, that is, to help man to become his own god, independent of God.

## **4.4 Knowledge**

Since the fall of Eve in paradise man started believing that knowledge is the magic wand through which he can become his own god. The result was that dogma, as formulated by man, gained more credibility than the Bible.



In this regard, the Bible warns us in 1 Tim. 6:20:

*Turn away from the irreverent babble and godless chatter, with the vain and empty and worldly phrases, and the subtleties and the contradictions in what is falsely called knowledge and spiritual illumination.*

Satan`s promise that man can become like God by knowing continues to deceive many people today. As man increases knowledge he feels more and more in control and independent from god, feeling more like a god himself. This problem is becoming worse as man`s knowledge increases. it has been estimated that after World War Two it took 25 years for existing knowledge to double. Recently it was calculated that knowledge doubles every 13 months. According to the Buckminster-Fuller Curve, very soon knowledge will double every 12 hours. To him who tries to be god in his own eyes, self-made heaven is on the horizon.

#### **4.5 Attitude.**

The superior attitude of modern man includes feelings of superiority regarding spiritual matters. This is especially the case when this Man god comes into contact with a person with less Bible knowledge than himself, or a person he feels is not morally up to his standard, not as holy as he is, or not performing as well as he does. Such a person is happy with his own achievement, as if his own efforts can earn him a place in heaven. The grace of God, the works of Jesus unto salvation is not really of importance to these people. The humble attitude of God himself when he visited earth for 33 years is totally lacking with these persons.

#### **4.6 Self-evaluation**

Critical self-evaluation as far as own imperfections are concerned, does not figure in the life of the Man god. Moral relativity is the name of the game; *if it works for you, it is morally justifiable*. No regard to the law of God or how it affects other people are taken in consideration. The social gospel is very accommodating and serves the humanistic causes of

the Man god. Constantly, he is seeking for new ways of thinking, new knowledge that will build up his feelings of superiority, independence and self-importance. The humanistic ideologies were created especially for this purpose. In this frame of mind there is no room for concepts like sin, hell and accountability. It is all about love, grace, forgiveness, prosperity and health. There are no problems. Everything is a challenge and by the co-operative effort of mankind every challenge can be overcome (without help from God). When last did you hear a sermon on hell and sin and condemnation?

#### **4.7 Humanism**

Humanism teaches that man is his own god and he can do everything. His brain is an endless possibility and can achieve anything. It is morally right to adore, worship and idolise self. Nothing must stand in the way of self-actualization. The Man god uses various theories and paradigms to further these lies. Some of the most common are teachings of the New Age movement, psychology, hypnosis, positive confession, visualizing techniques, hypnotic meditation, occultism, prosperity teaching, positive thinking and many occult practices to supposedly improve health.

#### **4.8 Self-god**

The central core of the gospel of Jesus was torn out by man's urge to be his own god. At the center of this urge is the deification of self, in trying to save self, focusing on self, trying to enter into heaven by deserving it on his own merits. In contrast, the God man knows he is undeserving and it is only in what Jesus did, when He died on the cross for the sin of mankind, that entry into heaven was deserved. How is it possible that a mere man can think so highly of his own efforts that it becomes deserving in his own eyes to enter into heaven?

## **4.9 Independence**

In his quest to become independent, modern man shrugs off the leading, control and help of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit there can be no fruit of the Holy Spirit in a person's life. True love, peace and joy will never be part of the Man God's life. Without God-inspired love, it is impossible to fulfill God's command to love God and your neighbor as yourself. The Law of God, written on the heart of the new-born Christian, will not be present. The Man god will have to carry on trying to achieve entry into heaven by way of his own accomplishments, which will never be sufficient.4.10

## **4.10 Secular Knowledge**

Secular knowledge in our time became so popular that it was elevated to a religion. To a certain extent Satan achieved his goal, to take as many people possible with him to hell by deceiving them to believe that they can be their own gods by knowing it all. The media supplying the knowledge and the particularly deceptive half-truths of Satan, became the main instigators towards furthering Satan's goals. Modern man is at present spending six to nine hours a day sitting in front of a computer or television. That is apart from time spent reading newspapers and other secular periodicals. Man feels in control when he saturates himself with knowledge. The truth is that man gets more and more depressed as his knowledge of catastrophes over the world increases. He also finds it harder to trust in God when he is trying to control his circumstances by increasing his knowledge of what is going on in the world.

The outcome of Satan's lies is noticeable in the increasing sales of books and information about self-help techniques and an interest in psychology and occultism. The people trained to help other people to help themselves are progressively becoming despondent themselves, as is evident in the rising rates of suicide among the helpers themselves.

#### **4.11 The Rapture**

Judged by the success Satan achieved with his misleading of mankind and with the tempo of his misdeeds increasing, one can expect the rapture to be very near. In 2 Thes.2:3 we find these words:

*Let no one deceive or beguile you in any way, for that day will not come except the apostasy comes first (unless the predicted great falling away of those who have professed to be Christians has come), and the man of lawlessness (sin) is revealed, who is the son of doom. Who opposes and exalts himself so proudly and insolently against and over all that is called God or that is worshipped, (even to his actual ) taking his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming that he himself is God.*

That day will be the proudest day of the Man god for he will be identifying with Satan as if he himself had been crowned king of his own kingdom.

## Chapter 5

### Prosperity teaching, signs and wonders and the Man god

As we are nearing the end times and man is progressively becoming more focused on himself, a natural consequence will be his increasingly hedonistic outlook on life. He will not only try to become his own god but will be serious in his endeavors to enjoy it. Paul writes about these people in 2 Tim. 3: 4:

*They will be treacherous (betrayers), rash and inflated with self-conceit. They will be lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God.*

Satan saw his chance to delude people when people became more focused on enjoying themselves. Hedonism and prosperity are a large part of the Man god's downfall into becoming his own god. To many people self-enjoyment became a religion and many were seduced into so-called 'Christianity' by the allurements of becoming rich and prosperous. Many denominations nowadays have prosperity teaching at the core of their doctrines.

Usually it is camouflaged in biblical truths. This focus on being rich, independent and enjoying yourself has elevated man above God. The Bible teaches us that God must be God above all else, but man and his interests have become the main focus point. Deception is easy if it is done in the daily life of man's preoccupation with himself instead of with God. Take for instance as an example the "positive confession movement". In Proverbs, much wisdom is preached around the use of words and the wise use of words. Satan distorts these truths to mislead people. Out of the deception arose a new doctrine known as "name it and claim it". Apart from this deception many people now quote from scripture as if *what you say will be what you will receive*. A new religion was born out of this, the positive confession movement. It is disturbing to see how Christians and non-Christians alike are united in this movement.

The problem with believing that positive confession will benefit you is the cultic background to this philosophy. Propagandists of this paradigm believe:

*God`s word is spiritual law. It functions just as surely as any natural law. Words governed by spiritual law become spiritual forces working for you.*

*The belief in laws that control spiritual forces, which in turn control the physical world through the power inherent in spoken words, is the essence of sorcery. Occultists promote exactly the same concepts as positive confession leaders (Dave Hunt, *Seduction of Christianity*)*

*In contrast to the biblical doctrine of grace, this insistence that God Himself must work even His own miracles within a framework of laws that enables us to tap into and dispense spiritual power by what we think, speak or do, is the basis for all ritualism and occultism (ibid).*

## Chapter 6

### Power

One of the main quests for man in his endeavors to become his own god is seeking after power. If man wants to be his own god he must have power because God is Almighty, with unlimited power. The more power you have, the less you have to succumb to authority because your power gives you authority. In this regard, we find interesting verses in the Bible such as 2 Thess. 2:7:

*For the mystery of lawlessness (that hidden principle of rebellion against constituted authority) is already at work in the world, (but it is) restrained only until he who restrains is taken out of the way.*

*2:9 The coming of the lawless one, the antichrist is through the activity and working of Satan and will be attended by great power and with all sorts of pretended miracles and signs and delusive marvels (all of them lying wonders).*

*2:11 Therefore God sends upon them a misleading influence, a working of error and a strong delusion to make them believe what is false.*

The buzzwords in 2018 are holograms, signs and wonders. Most people know the word “hologram” but very few know the meaning of the word. Wikipedia opens it comments on holography with these words:

*This article may be too technical for most readers to understand.*

These words give an indication of how easy deception is becoming. If we cannot understand, then we are at the mercy of those who wish to manipulate us.

The easy version of how a holography works is found in an article referenced by Wikipedia:

*Holography is a technique that enables a light (which is generally the product of a light source scattered off objects) to be recorded and later reconstructed when the original light field is no longer present, due to the absence of the original objects. Holography can be thought of as somewhat similar to sound recording, whereby a sound field created by vibrating matter like musical instruments or vocal cords, is encoded in such a way that it can be reproduced later, without the presence of the original vibrating matter.*

Something interesting about a hologram is that the smallest parts into which the original object is broken down are like the cells in a human body, containing all the DNA of the original structure. So with the smallest part of the hologram it will be possible to duplicate the whole original structure as it is theoretically possible to clone a human body from a single cell.

The possibilities for deception are numerous in the field of holograms. What is real and what is hologram? It is now possible to make a whole stage performance appear like real when it is in fact a hologram. The hologram can even be set up as a reality that can be touched and interacted with. The hologram may even leave the stage and form part of the audience. This brings us back to the words in 2 Thess. 2:11:

*Therefore God sends upon them a misleading influence, a working of error and a strong delusion to make them believe what is false.*

Can you imagine what power this technique becomes in the hands of an immoral Man god? When there are no moral restrictions, only the hunger for power, this becomes a frightening possibility.

The next logical step is to suggest that each of us is a little holographic image of the entire universe, a God that contains within itself everything that is.



Much popular teaching in the church today, instead of refuting Eastern mysticism, seems to support it. One example is Yonggi Cho`s teaching about the fourth dimension. (Dave Hunt: *Seduction of Christianity*)

Closely connected to the dangers of the hologram are the newest developments in science. No more is the physical reality of science an undisputed fact. Prominent scientists are now making provision for the possibility that the mind creates a false reality in the form of physical objects. The real reality of the non-material, atheistic mysticism may have been discarded but now many physicists believe that the mind is the ultimate reality and the universe is more like a thought. According to these thought patterns there are new non-physical energies connected to the human consciousness. In the realm of the spirit, old instruments and methodologies are becoming irrelevant. In the quest for power it does not matter to Man god that in the reasoning of his troubled mind he might be creating confusion and insecurities in many people. The accompanying fear is one of the favourable playgrounds of Satan – creating more delusion and more fear. If you don`t understand, you must trust. By creating so much confusion Satan is setting himself up as the one who will be able to sort out the mess and, in so doing, proving himself to be the one and only true ruler of the world, the only one to trust in. Confusion, delusion, misunderstanding, complexities, uncertainty, fear, despondency and despair will eventually lead to the acceptance of Satan as the ultimate one to bring hope to the nations by directing them with his knowledge, insight and understanding about how to survive.

The Man god is in serious trouble. As we move to the end times, lies and uncertainty are going to increase. It is going to become more and more difficult to find peace in the web of lies that Satan is building. If you are depending on yourself and your own intellect to create your own security you will find that Satan will eventually be your only hope to untangle the mess you created for yourself.

However, to the **God man** everything is now under control. He sees God`s plan, according to scriptures, going into fulfillment. He does not need to understand. He needs only to trust God to perform His will and His perfect plan for the end times. He can rest assured that all is not about this world but about God. He knows his Savior is alive, he knows he is on his way for all eternity to be with God and nothing Satan can do can deter him, a God man, from tasting God`s everlasting promises.

## Chapter 7

### Truth and Reality

All in this life can be divided between two entities: Truth and lies. God created all the truth in the beginning. He manifested his truth in the reality of His creation. All was perfect. Then Satan, the father of lies, stepped in. To get entrance to man`s reality of truth, created by God, Satan had to stay as close as possible to the reality of truth. He started out with his lies and deception by concentrating on Eve in paradise. To engage her in conversation he set himself up as stupid and so started his first lie of misrepresentation. His first question reveals his evil, lying nature:

*Is it true....? (Gen. 3:1).*

He, the father of lies, is asking: *Is it true....?* What does he care about truth? Everything in the garden was at Eve`s disposal to use and to eat as she wished. She did not need to long for anything. She could have her fill of the most delicious perfect fruit imaginable. But Satan created another reality and presented it to Eve – a false reality through lies. He helped her to imagine that the fruit of the one tree she could not eat of was as desirable. She could picture in her mind how nice the fruit would taste. He loaded her imagination of the fruit with another lie, that she could be like God and know everything, if only she would eat the forbidden fruit. She could visualize herself as a god, a person of importance, someone who knows stuff. (Thousands of years later Paul would warn women against being stupid and always trying to know more, thereby setting themselves up for deception by unscrupulous teachers (2 Timothy 3:7).) The occult ways of imagination and visualization were evident in Satan`s methodologies from the very beginning. Thus Eve was drawn into Satan`s reality and he captured her will by devious lying techniques. Imagination and visualization in and of itself is not good or bad but how and why it is used become the problem.

Satan managed to deceive Eve to use these techniques to become her own god. Satan created a false reality for mankind with his lies. Instead of becoming all-knowing gods that he promised, man became a dying, cursed outcast. God`s reality of truth became tainted with Satan`s reality of lies. The new cursed reality of the world became so corrupted that God had to make explicit provision for clear truths to help mankind distinguish between Satan`s deceptions and His truths. Thus the first of the Ten Commandments given by God was:

*You shall have no other gods before or beside Me. ( Exodus 20:3 )* This commandment was given to deal with man`s aim to become his own god.

The second commandment has do deal with the false reality Satan was creating with his lies:

*You shall not make yourself any graven image (to worship it) or any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; (Exodus 20:4).*

According to the Oxford Dictionary we have the following explanations of words in this regard:

*Graven:* Fix indelibly in one`s memory

*Likeness:* Resemblance, semblance, portrait, especially in respect of its truth, painted, photographed.

By knowing more about Satan`s modus operandi it is easy to see how God counteracted Satan`s endeavors to create a false world order. God does so with the explicit order not to allow anything or any person, not even man himself, to become a god. By confirming that there is no other God than God Himself, God is exposing Satan`s evil plans. The methods of *guided imagery*, so popular today in psychology and *visualization*, the heart of clinical hypnosis, are the cornerstones of occult practice. The basic meaning of the word occult is *to hide, to cover up, to mislead*. The deviousness of Satan is evident in the meaning of the word.

The techniques mentioned, namely *guided imagery* and *visualization* have been used in Hindu religion for thousands of years. The false reality of the occult world of Satan is in direct contrast to the truth of God created reality. The activity of Satan will create the anti- christ (2 Thess. 2: 9). He will do Satan`s work in the end time. Some of his doings can already be clearly seen in everyday life. This is going to get worse. Let`s look at how misleading Satan will be in the end times as mentioned in 2 Thess. 2: 9 to 12:

*The coming of the lawless one, the antichrist, is through the activity and working of satan and will be attended by great power and with all sorts of pretended miracles and signs and delusive marvels – all of them lying wonders.*

*And by unlimited seduction to evil and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing going to perdition) because they did not welcome the Truth but refused to love it that they might be saved.*

*Therefore God sends upon them a misleading influence, a working of error and a strong delusion to make them believe what is false.*

*In order that all may be judged and condemned who did not believe in (who refused to adhere to, trust in, and rely on) the Truth, but instead took pleasure in unrighteousness.*

Truth and lies are again the two entities of importance. The great I AM against the IS IT TRUE? The realities of God are: *God, Jeshua, Holy Spirit, sin, hell, satan, love, forgiveness, peace, everlasting life, heaven, trust, redemption, joy, suffering.* These realities stand in direct contrast to the shady, false, covered, distorted, deceiving reality of Satan manifesting in: *Lies, ideas such as you are your own god, you are unlimited potential, there is no hell, man can live forever, Satan is sufficient for this life, you can use God for your own benefit, you can master what God knows and you can employ God`s techniques yourself, for your own benefit, all can be rich and prosperous, healthy and masters of their own fate, the last battle against God has*

*already been won by satan, have no fear satan will look after you, just watch his incredible power, you may trust him for this life and for evermore.*

Man god is living in a superficial world of lies created by Satan with an ending too bad to contemplate. God man is living in the true reality of the Truth of God, the only enduring place of love and peace, hope and redemption. Thank you, Jesus!

## Chapter 8

### The ultimate Man god

In the beginning God created man. Man was made for God's pleasure, a perfect creature, man and wife he made them. They were good and walked with and talked to God. God visited with them and cared about them. Man was not really aware of himself. Therefore, he did not care that he was naked. He had no evil thoughts, no evil lusts, and no evil ambitions. His self-consciousness was zero. All he cared about was God and the creation as God entrusted it to him. He did not care about himself. All he cared about was God, trusting God and obeying God. All was perfect as God intended it to be.

In one second it all changed. All changed when man decided to listen to devil's lies and started trusting devil more than God. The devil succeeded in making man aware of himself. With self-consciousness up an droning, the focus was on the self. Eve became aware of herself as a cognitive being. Satan fuelled this awareness with the one question:

*Did God say you may not eat from the trees in the garden? (Gen. 3)*

In order to answer this question she had to start thinking about herself, her position in the Garden of Eden and what God said. She became aware of herself as an important person, one to whom Satan came for answers. She was set up to self-awareness, to self-importance and to gender superiority because Satan asked her and not Adam. Satan's misleading of was a masterpiece in planning man's destruction. The moment Eve engaged in conversation with Satan and was drawn into arguments with Satan, she lost the battle. She was not up to all Satan's tricks, his cunningness, his evil intentions and his hatred for God. She knew only trust and truth.

Eve not only lost the battle against Satan as far as intellect was concerned. She also lost the battle emotionally. She felt the exhilaration of being important, to be somebody, to be independent, to have influence, to be her own god. The selfish god was formed. She lost her peace and experienced shame and fear in her self-awareness.

By deciding to listen to Satan instead of God Eve exercised her own free will. She became obedient to Satan and to herself. She now was on her own and she lost the permanent blessing of God. She had to fend for herself, make her own decisions, carry the consequences of bad decisions and suffer the consequences of sin.

She was destined to live forever as God intended her to be. After the fall, she experienced pain, sickness and eventually death.

Self-awareness would be man's curse in future. His belief that he could be God's equal by knowing all, elevated him to a position of pride. He thought so much about himself that he became his own god capable of everything, inherently good, master of his own fate.

### **8.1 What a Man god says about God man's religion**

A Man god is according to our definition a human being who elevates himself to a god status. He becomes his own god.

*The seduction of Christianity is definitely not confined to fringe elements. The Freudian/Jungian myths of psychic determinism and the unconscious have been so universally accepted that these unfounded assumptions now exert a major influence upon Christian thinking throughout the church. The practice of shamanic visualization runs the spectrum from inner healing to self-improvement techniques, and the latter in various forms of self-hypnosis, from positive affirmations and positive confession to subliminal persuasion tapes. This seduction now touches every aspect of Christian life, and infects the church from charismatics to anti-charismatics,*



*from liberals to evangelicals, from Catholics to Protestants, from clergy to laymen. As a major vehicle of the seduction that unites most of its elements, Psychology is a Trojan horse par excellence that has slipped past every barrier. (Hunt, Seduction of Christianity)*

Let us now look at psychological deception in more detail:

Psychology is a pseudo-science riddled with contradiction and confusion. (*Paul D. Meier et. al. Introduction to Psychology and Counselling. Baker Book House 1982*)

### **8.1.1 All truth is God`s truth**

A basic concept underlying much of the deceit of Satan as it infiltrated the present-day church is found in the concept that *all truth is God`s truth*, no matter where one finds it.

### **8.1.2 Man`s innate goodness**

The idea of man`s innate goodness – of the innocent child that resides within us all – is the cornerstone of psychology. This is also basic in the philosophy of Humanism. The sinful, corrupt man, the man for whom Christ came to earth for, to save from hell, is now portrayed as innately good, only suffering from a bad self-image. The bad self-esteem, can according to this philosophy, be blamed for almost all man`s problems. Thus, whenever the keys to self-esteem are seemingly out of reach for a large percentage of the people, as in twentieth-century America for example, then widespread mental illness, neuroticism, hatred, alcoholism, drug abuse, violence and social disorder will certainly occur.”

### **8.1.3 Self-esteem**

The paramount need of mankind is the building of their self-esteem. Zig Ziglar in his book *See you at the top*. (Pelican 1975) puts it as follows:

*“As you accept yourself you will see yourself as a person who truly deserves the good things in life. Once you accept yourself for your true worth, then the symptoms of vulgarity, profanity, sloppiness, promiscuity, etc. disappear. There, my friend, goes your problem.”*

#### **8.1.4 Titles**

Many pastors these days are obtaining advanced degrees in Psychology. Those without these degrees feel compelled to accept the seemingly insightful pronouncements of the professionals. Titles indicating academic capabilities are universally preferred, for example doctor, above indications of servant hood such as pastor.

#### **8.1.5 Psychology**

*“Once Psychology is presumed to contain parts of God’s truth, that are missing from the Bible, its pronouncement must be accepted as equally authoritative. The practical effect is to give Psychology the final word, for those who understand only the Bible but not Psychology are unqualified to judge this new truth. Those who have degrees in Psychology can therefore make pronouncements that cannot be challenged on any other basis inside or outside the church. This secular priesthood claims the authority to dictate new ‘scientific standards’ of everything from our thought life to our sex life to raising our children. These ‘sound psychological principles’ become the new grid through which the Bible is interpreted.” (Hunt Seduction of Christianity)*

#### **8.1.6 Defenses of self**

Nathaniel Branden in *Rise to the Defence of Self* (Brain / Mind Bulletin. Sept. 10, 1984) gives an indication of how wrong man can become in his vulgar elevation of himself to godhood:

*“Sin, even criminal violence is viewed a psychological problem. No one is willfully doing evil; we are all innocent victims of a disease for which we cannot be held accountable. A plague of*

*poor self-concept is sweeping our world and that is the cause of all that has gone wrong. I cannot think of a single psychological problem from depression to fear of intimacy to criminal violence—that is not traceable to poor self-concept.)*

### **8.1.7 Psychiatry**

Jacob Needleman: *Consciousness: Brain states of Awareness and Mysticism*) has the following to say about modern psychiatry:

*“Modern psychiatry arose out of the vision that man must change himself and not depend for help on an imaginary God. Over half a century ago the human psyche was wrestled from the faltering hands of organized religion and was situated in the world of nature as a subject of scientific study... The era of psychology was born. By the end of the Second World War many of the best minds of the new generation were magnetized by a belief in this new science of the psyche. Under the conviction that a way was now open to assuage the confusion and suffering of mankind, the study of the mind became a standard course of work in American universities.*

*“Against this juggernaut of new hope, organized religion was helpless. The concept of human nature which had guided the Judeo-Christian tradition for two thousand years had now to be altered.*

*“New insights, even amongst the protagonists of psychology, are gradually moving away from Psychology to Eastern Religions, especially Hinduism. Anyone who did recent courses in hypnotherapy can attest to this phenomenon. Concepts thousands of years old in these religions are treated as the new insights in modern Psychology.*

## **8.2 What God man says about the psychological religion of Man god.**

*The basic problem with the “All truth is God’s truth” approach lies in the fact that psychology pretends to offer answers which, even if it were a science, it could never give. We have no quarrel with chemistry, medicine, or physics, but with psychology’s pretense to scientifically understand and deal with the heart of man, who is a spiritual being made in the image of God. To attempt to deal with human behavior “scientifically” denies man’s free will and spiritual nature. (Hunt, *Seduction of Christianity*)*

It seems as if psychology is in the fullest sense is a rival religion that can never be wedded to Christianity. Furthermore, psychotherapy involves the danger that is implicit in all false religions: *Those who practice it open themselves to all manner of demonic delusion.*

The idea of man’s innate goodness—of the innocent child that still resides within us – is the idea of a sick humanistic mind disregarding the truth found in the Bible.

A lack of self-esteem as the cause of all mankind’s emotional problems is not supported by the Bible. Instead, mankind’s arrogance, high self-esteem, thinking of himself as God and believing in his own ability to save himself is the cause of mankind’s problems.

The seductive gospel of selfish is now preached by prominent pastors and proclaimed by well-known conference speakers. In an effort not to offend those in the pews, nice pep talks and myriad self-help techniques are replacing the solid Bible teachings of man’s innate corruption. Paul warns that self-love in the end times will be at the root of the problems: *But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revelers, disobedient to parents. Ungrateful. Unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. (2 Timothy 3: 1-4)*

*Once psychology is presumed to contain parts of God's truth that are missing from the Bible, its pronouncements must be accepted as equally authoritative. The practical effect is to give psychology the final word, for those who understand only Bible and not psychology are unqualified to judge this new truth. Those who have degrees in psychology can therefore make pronouncements that cannot be challenged on any other basis inside or outside the church. This secular priesthood claims the authority to dictate new 'scientific' standards of everything from our thought-life to our sex-life to raising our children. These "sound psychological principles" become the new grid through which the Bible is interpreted (Hunt, *Seduction of Christianity*)*

The Bible never urges self-acceptance, self-love, self-assertion, self-confidence, self-esteem, self-forgiveness, or any other selfism that are so popular today.

The sincere Christian's interests have shifted from Christ to self. What Our Lord is or is not no longer concerns him. He believes that he has been crucified with Christ.

By now it should be more than clear to the reader that psychology is playing a major role in an ongoing and staggering seduction of Christianity. (Hunt, *Seduction of Christianity*)

*It is true that many voices are being raised to protest the sham and shame of psychotherapy; but still the dangerous delusion increases.. There are now so many millions of psychologists, psychiatrists, sociologists, psychiatric social workers, university professors, and government agencies ad infinitum whose livelihood depends upon keeping up the pretense that it is no longer realistic to hope this trend could be reversed (Hunt: *Seduction of Christianity*). Now, in South Africa, there are double-trained psychologists, also boasting training as witch doctors.*

## Part 2

### Living the life of the God man

This part of the book contains ideas on the following:

*Summary of what the **Man god** looks like*

*Summary of what the **God man** looks like*

*Motivation for change*

*The “how” of change*

*Obstacles on the way to change*

*Now that you are new*

*The rest of your life*

*Pitfalls*

*Tasks*

*Run the race*

*Bring in the harvest*

*What the end will be like*

*The prayer to take you over*

# Chapter 1

## Summary of what the Man god looks like

The Man god is a human being making himself his god. He may have the following traits:

He has an innate need to know as much as possible with the purpose of being in control and independent.

He became aware of his own identity the moment he fell into sin. Then he became fearful and stressed.

The emotion of fear and distress replaced peace, joy and love. Focus on God was replaced by focus on self.

The need to do God's will was replaced by a need to do man's will. After the fall into sin man's conscience started up.

He prefers an elaborate, smart place of worship.

A preference is shown for worship amidst the wearing of special garments, choirs, liturgical order and hierarchical leadership structure during the sermons.

He prefers lethargic, passive worship. He hates to show emotions.

Tithes must mainly be used for the comfort of the man in the pew and not for the bringing in of souls.

Pragmatism such as: "*If it works, let's do it*" is preferred to what God teaches in His Word.

The modern pastor must play the major role in worship proceedings. He must be an intellectual leader of the congregation of the Man god.

The pastor of the church of the Man god must be an orator who can convince and debate. He must be a master of the techniques of rhetoric.

Dressing up is important during the church service for the Man god.

He seldom reads the Bible. He finds the Bible boring and uninspiring. He is critical of the Bible and likes to point to discrepancies.

The Man god likes to be well informed about secular topics. He likes to read and to take note of information from secular sources.

Sport is usually his ultimate love and passion.

Man god loves entertainment above God.

Entertaining sensual lusts is the driving force of the life of the Man god.

The Man god is often liberally inclined and prefers evolutionary concepts and moral pragmatism.

To the Man god, post-humanism is the truth about himself as he believes he is able to be his own god.

Positive thinking is the key to success in this life for the Man god.

Although the Man god mostly disregards the existence of the devil, in practice he is serving the devil with all his heart.

The Man god is full of pride, has a need for recognition, is selfish, loves himself, has a need of independence, wants to be rich and to have power over other people to benefit himself, to do his own thing and build his own kingdom.

Man god lives in a time of self-exultation and self-deification.

Man god believes in his own innate goodness.



Critical self-evaluation as far as own imperfections are concerned does not figure in the life of Man god.

Humanism is the overriding religion of the Man god. He does not need the Holy Spirit in his life.

Secular knowledge is more important than God knowledge.

Man god often becomes so depressed that suicide is one of his life options.

Man god does not believe in the rapture, hell or heaven. He sometimes believes you die like a dog without any afterlife.

Man god has a hedonistic outlook on life.

He believes he must be prosperous, healthy and blessed. To him, life now and here is everything.

The Man god elevates himself above God. Selfism is his religion.

He believes in positive confession as a means of persuading God to do his own will.

*Name* and *claim* is the name of the new game. In essence, Man god favors occult techniques.

A framework of laws are believed to govern even God's power. Power is the ultimate goal of the Man god.

Man god is easily persuaded by Satan's deception. He is fascinated by holograms.

He is susceptible to Satan's lies.

To Man god it is impossible to trust without understanding.

Empirical evidence is the only test of truth.

He believes in the scientific value of psychology. Psychological techniques like *guided imagery* and *visualization* are acceptable to him.

The Man god accepts concepts like the Freudian/Jungian myths of *psychic determination* and the *unconscious mind*.

*Hypnosis* and *self-hypnosis* are acceptable techniques for the Man god.

The demonic teaching of *all truth is God's truth* is a working paradigm for the Man god.

He believes that his fragile self-esteem is threatened and all things possible must be done to build up his self-esteem. This is the cure-all for almost all mental problems.

Man god believes the Bible is insufficient and must be augmented by additional human insights such as those found in psychology.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Summary of what the God man looks like**

You may have identified yourself with the descriptions of the Man god given above. Or perhaps you believe you do not fit into the description of the Man god and would like a deeper understanding of the character traits of the God man. In this case you are welcome to compare yourself with the following summary and see how you do:

To be in control is not really an issue to the God man. He likes to work with other people and unity is more important than control.

Although the God man can remember his old life before he came to God, he is no longer controlled by his old nature, now that he has God's Holy Spirit living inside him. He has a new identity as a Son of God and, as such, needs to fear nothing.

Peace, joy and love have replaced the old emotions of fear and distress. The God man's life is focused on God and not on self.

Man's will is replaced by a need to do God's will.

God man's conscience is very active when he does something not according to God's will. He has peace in God's redemption of his sins.

The place of worship is not of importance to God man anymore. Who he worships is much more important.

Outward attire and rituals are no more important. He can be at peace in God's presence wearing his pajamas sitting in bed, knowing he is in the presence of his loving Father.

The God man is often overcome by his emotions when he is in the presence of his loving Father, experiencing the love, compassion and forgiveness of the perfect Love. The God man loves to give and share what he has.

The God man is a fundamentalist and accepts the Bible as it is without trying to reason away what God said in His Word.

God is the Leader in any gathering, His will is important. The God man listens to the quiet speaking of God's Spirit in his innermost soul. He is humble and teachable. He has the gift of discernment when someone says something. He knows the Word of God and can verify the truth.

The Holy Spirit is allowed to teach, to convince and to guide. The human excellence of man does not play a role in convincing people of their sins and redemption in God.

Everyone is welcome in the church service even if they are poor and do not have smart clothes to wear.

God man loves the Bible. He can spend a lot of time reading the Word and meditating on it. He likes to quote scripture to God in prayer. The Word is always new and he is always discovering new revelations in the Word.

Secular information is secondary to the God man. He knows certain information is important but he is selective about what his mind dwells on.

Physical activity is important for the upkeep of the body but the God man seldom finds it necessary to identify with sport heroes in order to feel like a winner. Sport remains a game and does not become an idol.

God man loves God so much that it is a pleasure to be in God's company. He enjoys God's company so much that there is very little need for secular entertainment.

Senses are a means of becoming aware of God as Provider, as Creator, as Almighty, as Redeemer, as the All of all. Sensuality does not become the passion, the driver and the ultimate goal of life to the God man.

Morality is based on what God says and not on man's whims, reasoning's and lusts.

God man tries to stay as close to God's command to deny yourself and follow after Him. He is constantly trying to crucify self and to honor and worship God.

Positive thinking is not the key to successful living. The guidelines about thinking as given in Philippians 4:8 are his passion.

God man runs away from devil. He conquers the bad by doing the good. He knows devil is a mighty foe, but he also knows Jesus defeated devil when He died on the cross on man's behalf.

God man is in constant battle against feelings of pride, to get recognition for the self, against self-love, a need of independence, the need to be rich, to have power over other people to benefit the self and to build his own kingdom.

Instead of self-exultation and self-deification, God man endeavors to humble himself and to deny himself.

God man knows he is a sinner saved by God's grace.

His own imperfections glare the God man in the face all the time.

God man can recognize humanism for what it is: *deification of man*.

God man cannot live without the leading, intercession, love and fruit of the Holy Spirit in his daily life.

Knowledge of God is much more important to God man than secular knowledge.

There is no need to escape this life because of stress and worry. The God man would like be with God because that is the best place to be.

God man believes the rapture is imminent. He knows there is a hell and a heaven. He knows there is an afterlife.

God man knows he is on this earth for a short period, not to get the most comfort, pleasure and joy for himself but to honor and to serve God.

Life after death is everything to the God man. His purpose in life is not to serve himself, to be prosperous, healthy and blessed. He knows he is going to suffer as Jesus predicted if he wants to live a God-fearing life.

God is above everything to the God man. He crucifies himself in order to elevate God. His constant battle is against selfism.

God man knows God. He knows nothing is controlling God. God is sovereign. It is impossible to constrain God and to treat Him as subordinate to any rules, scientific principles and tricks man may play in a futile attempt to twist God's arm.

God man would never try to play the game of *name it and claim it*.

God man is sensitive to the misleading practices of Satan regarding occult practices. He stays away from stuff presented as new religious practices promising astounding results.

God's power is sovereign. No law can restrict God's will.

Submission and humility are more highly regarded by God man than power and honour.

The God man is constantly on the lookout to discern Satan's deception.

The God man recognises the scientific reasons for the existence of holograms. He is not persuaded by the magic and power of human interventions.

The God man discerns Satan's lies.

The only way to get saved is to trust the redemptive work of Jesus our Saviour. The God man can trust without understanding or empirical evidence.

The test of truth is the Word of God. Empirical evidence cannot rival God's truth. To the God man, psychology is an occult religion and he stays away from it.

The God man accepts the biblical principles of body, soul and spirit. He is not interested in the lies of Satan regarding the unconscious mind and psychic determination.

Hypnosis and self-hypnosis are clearly shamanistic techniques of Hinduism and the God man knows it.

All truth, even empirically verified, is not necessarily God's truth. God is not submitted to anything, not even truth proclaimed by man.

The God man knows that the devil deceived mankind into believing that man has naturally a low self-esteem that need to be built up. The opposite is true and man must strive to crucify self as Jesus so aptly explained to man. The cure all of man's infirmities is not the mending of the fragile self—image but God's Son, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

The God man knows that the insight of psychology is insufficient at best and a mish-mash of lies, satanic deceptions and in direct opposition to what the Bible teaches. The Bible is totally sufficient as a source of knowledge pertaining to achieving everlasting life.

## Chapter 3

### Motivation for change

The motivation for change is often generated by the discrepancy between where you are and where you want to be.

Say, for instance, you read the story of the Man god and you discovered that in essence this is where you are at present. When you read the story of the **God man** you most probably discovered this is where you would like to be. You may have discovered that you are on your way to hell and would like to change your destination to heaven. Before we get to *the how to* of the change, I would like to share a hypothetical story with you that might increase your motivation for change.

*At a stage in your life you were invited to a party. This is not an ordinary party but a really big party. The party will be held on a houseboat. Many of your friends and family are also invited. All you need to bring is yourself, an open mind, a need to enjoy yourself and to trust in the houseboat to keep you safe on the troubled waters. You considered the invitation and decided to accept. The passage to the houseboat from dry land was easy, amidst songs and dancing, joking and enjoying yourself, you were carted to the boat. On your way to the houseboat you were already drinking, taking drugs, watching the eager girls and just thinking about how nice it is to live this life.*

*The party really got going when you got to the boat. The transition was so easy and you felt so safe on the houseboat amongst your family and friends. Your host was a nice looking guy. He wore expensive clothing (mostly in black) and heavy jewelry. He was friendly and engaging and he encouraged you to let go and enjoy yourself. You did not have to account to anyone. The only important thing was to enjoy yourself.*



*He, your host, would look after the boat and see to the journey, the speed and the direction you would be going. He disclosed that you would be mostly drifting with the current. No effort was required. The only provision was your enjoyment of yourself. Then you really settled in. You did not think about the future.*

*Your host told you the future was now. All your friends and family enforced the feeling of leisure and enjoyment so you could focus on your own needs and lusts. This was a really nice party. No end was considered. It might as well go on forever. However, soon a strange thing started to develop. The party-goers grew fewer. Even some of your family disappeared. But you weren't worried about them because you were only concentrating on yourself and your own enjoyment. Your relationship with your host deepened and you became quite attached to such a swell guy. He did not ask anything of you. You did not have to pay anything. You only had to enjoy yourself and watch out for number one – that would be you. As you got accustomed to your new lifestyle you discovered that your old hang-ups gradually diminished. Your conscience bothered you less. You never read your Bible anymore. You never prayed to God anymore but felt more and more grateful to your host for providing such an excellent lifestyle. You were getting into the swing of this new lifestyle.*

*You became so preoccupied with yourself that you did not notice how few of you were left on the houseboat. But as long as you stayed indulged in yourself, it did not really matter. Then, one day you looked around and it was only you and your special friend and your host left on the boat. Soon afterwards, your special friend took you to one side and he started talking very seriously with you. This was a rare occasion as serious talk was one thing you stayed away from on the houseboat. Your friend confided in you and said that he was becoming worried about the trip. He asked if you noticed that the current was carrying you faster and faster as if the host had lost control of the boat and as if the boat was moving to imminent danger.*

*For the first time you also noticed it and because you were so indulged in yourself you got anxious about the possible threat to number one. Then, one day your last friend also vanished. You did not really became lonely because you still had number one. You continued to indulge in enjoying yourself.*

*There was enough to eat, to drink, to smoke and to enjoy. You started noticing some things about your host you did not perceive previously. He was not always true to his word. He had a mean streak and he seemed to enjoy himself when he spoke of some of your friends and family who got lost on the way. You started remembering how some of them fell overboard and were quickly swept away by the current once out of the boat.*

*Then, one day when you got up after a heavy drinking session the previous day you discovered your host was gone. You now were alone on the houseboat. The speed of the houseboat had increased to an alarming pace and you felt a bit uncomfortable about it. Luckily, you still had number one. You went to the place your host usually sat when he guided the boat on the river. The boat was now moving very fast and you discovered there was no way you could diminish the boat's speed. You also had no control over the rudder – it was fixed in one position to keep you cruising in the middle of the stream. As your attention shifted from yourself to your circumstances, you became aware of a few things.*

*On the helmsman's table there were some maps. You paged through the maps and recognized the stream you were floating on. You also recognized the port you originally embarked from. The daily progress was marked in the diary your host kept. So it was easy to see how far you had travelled and where you were going. To your dismay you discovered that the boat was on a course towards a mighty waterfall. There was no way of rescue, no port along the way, nothing to diminish the boat's speed. You did a quick calculation and estimated that the boat would reach the 1 000-meter high waterfall in around 24 hours.*

*The waterfall was marked as extremely dangerous. In red it was marked with the warning that no person ever survived the waterfall. For the first time since the party started you got worried, it seemed as if number one might be in big trouble. You now had almost no option open. You were destined to doom and gloom, inevitably drifting at a tremendous speed towards to the waterfall of no return. Suddenly, the company of number one was not sufficient any more. All the pleasure and self- enjoyment now seemed so silly. You noticed something else. Where you were so occupied with self partying on the boat that you did not notice what was going on the river. You suddenly realised with horror that the water was full of people. They were even travelling faster than the houseboat and they were screaming for help. They were desperate.*

*You also noticed another strange phenomenon. The people in the water were hanging on to stuff to try to keep them from drowning. Some had pieces of paper in their hands and this seemed to be money and others were clutching gold bars, heavy stuff, pulling them down further. Some of them were pulling on other people, hoping they might save them. There were even clergy trying to swim in their heavy, ornate attire. Some people were clutching framed papers which looked like degrees or title deeds to property. Some were crying out for help, reminding others of all the good deeds they did to help them while they were still on land. As these people were flailing around with all this nonsense, trying to save themselves, you saw something almost unbelievable.*

*In the river there were many life-buoys floating. Each one was tied to a strong rope held by someone standing on the bank of the river. The persons on the bank of the river were shouting to the persons in the water to let go of what they were clutching to in order to get a firm grip on the life-buoy. The persons in the water either could not see the life-buoys or were unwilling to let go of what they held, believing it could save them. It was as if their eyes were covered with slime and scum, preventing them from seeing what could save them.*

*You were getting more and more anxious yourself, knowing how short the time were before all of you would disappear over the waterfall. It was now less than 12 hours before your lifeboat would disappear over the waterfall. You could already hear the mighty roar of many waters cascading over the precipice. There was a massive cloud hanging over the sky in the distance and you knew that cloud was caused by the waterfall. People were shouting, those in the water out of fear and the ones on the riverbank begging them to grab the life-buoys. It was mayhem all over the place. An icy hand was gripping your heart, knowing the same fate is awaiting you. It might be possible for you to jump into the water and try to get hold of one of the life-buoys but time was running out and the speed of the boat was increasing every minute. In order to get saved you had to let go of your security in the houseboat. You would have to jump over the side. You would have to let go of your comfort and your joy in yourself. You would have to trust in the life-buoy and Him holding the life-buoy. Your focus would have to shift from self to Him who could still save you even in this very late hour.*

*When you had almost made up your mind to jump, suddenly your host appeared again. You could see he was not pleased with your decision to put your trust in the life-buoy and Him holding the life-buoy safe on the shore. As usual, your host, dressing in black and glittering jewels, started talking soothingly, explaining that you will be safe in his boat, even if the boat goes over the 1 000-metre waterfall. He said he rocks at the foot of the waterfall would cause no damage or injury and you would be able to carry on your life of self-indulgence.*

*The big question now remains:*

**Who are you going to believe and trust?**

*Will it be your black host? Will it be the life-buoy and Him begging you to trust Him? This can easily be a true story, even your story. This is the life story of many people. It tells of Satan's deception and the foolishness of self-indulgence in all its forms.*

*It tells about wrong decisions. It explains self-ism and self-deification. It is about everlasting hell and it tells about everlasting life with God.*

Would you like to get hold of God's life-buoy? In the next section we will deal with the *how- to* of the big change.

## Chapter 4

### **The *how-to* of the Big Change**

*The best incentive for eating is hunger.*

This also applies to the Christian life. The hungrier you are for God, His word and His salvation, the more ready you will be to receive what He has in stock for you. Perhaps you became hungry after you mirrored yourself against the life of the Man god and the God man. Let's assume you are now getting hungry, you are interested in how to satisfy your hunger for God, to quench your thirst for the Living Water, the Son of God.

First of all it is important to remember that God works in mysterious ways. It is impossible to confine God and His workings to a single box or recipe. Therefore His working in your life might be totally different from the way He worked in your friend's or your mentor's life. There is however a sequence of events to facilitate the Big Change in your life:

First you must get disgusted with your old sinful way of living. You must get fed up with yourself, your selfish existence, your double hearted behavior, your lusts, your dependence on yourself and your own abilities, your greed, your addictions, the stuff you value more than God in your life, including your own sense of importance, the constant craving after earthly securities, the lack of compassion for people in need, the constant looking out for the benefits of number one, the self.

Knowledge of how to get rid of sin is the next step. You must know about God's love for you. You must know that God proved His caring love for you by sending His most precious Son, out of the perfect heaven, to earth, with the sole purpose to be punished for your sins.

You must know that Jesus, God's son, is without sin and He is the only person on earth worthy to suffer for your sins in order to set you free from those sins. You must know about the suffering of Jesus on your behalf until his death on the cross. You must know that He was resurrected from death, that He promised His Spirit to believers after he went to heaven. You must know that Jesus is interceding for sinners who accept Him and trust Him, with God, our Father. You must know that one day Jesus is coming back to take you to be with Him and His Father for ever and ever.

Knowing all these things is not going to save you from eternal destruction. Even the devils know these things but they are not saved by their knowledge. A very important element is still missing. namely accepting what God, Jesus and His Holy Spirit did for you. A very important word comes into play in this regard: appropriation. Think about property.

Someone might give property to you but if you don't accept the property, appropriate it as your own and dwell in it, then it is of no use to you. In the same way you must accept and take as your own God's forgiveness for your sins through what Jesus did to save you. There is one other element of paramount importance if you want to appropriate what God gave you. That is trust. How can you appropriate salvation for yourself if you don't believe that what Jesus did for your salvation was sufficient, without you trying to supplement His offering with something you are trying to do? Trusting Him, believing Him, accepting what He said as truth will guide you over to eternal life.

The way to salvation might sound simple but let us test these three steps by a perfect example recorded for us in Luke 23:39 to 43:

*One of the criminals who was suspended kept on railing at Him, saying, Are you not the Christ (the Messiah)? Rescue Yourself and us (from death)!*

*But the other one reproved him saying, do you not even fear God, seeing yourself are under the same sentence of condemnation and suffering the same penalty?*

*And we indeed suffer it justly, receiving the due reward of our actions; but this Man has done nothing out of the way.*

*Then he said to Jesus, Lord remember me when You come in Your kingly glory! And He answered him, Truly I tell you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.*

This sinner was saved. He was not baptized, he did not speak in tongues, he did not obey commandments, he did not undertake any rituals, he did not try to augment what Christ did, but he was fed up with his sinful life; he knew Jesus was the Son of God and he accepted and trusted Him as his Saviour.

The bare essentials of getting saved are quite easy to understand. All that must be in place are hunger, self-loathing, knowledge and acceptance.

Picture yourself in a position where you have time and you are in a tranquil setting. What more will you need apart from the hunger to be saved, knowledge of how Christ saved you and accepting His offer for your own redemption. Often the person coming to Christ will feel a need for baptism, to confirm the symbolic washing off of his own sinful nature and his own sinful past. Most probably he will experience the new life when he comes up out of the water of baptism, as God gives new life to him as He did to Jesus. So the new-born creature will be able to identify with Jesus in His death and resurrection. Usually an awareness of the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit follows the baptism and there might even be a confirmation of the baptism with the Holy Spirit by speaking in tongues. Most definitely the sinner's life will change now for the good and he will have a passion for Jesus, to live a life after Jesus's example and to save other sinners.



## Chapter 5

### Obstacles on the way to Change

Perhaps you are eager to change, but at present you are encountering obstacles. Let us look at some of the obstacles you might encounter and also at ways you might overcome them.

#### 5.1 A fixed lifestyle

You became so accustomed to your old sinful ways of doing things that you easily slip back. God said in 2 Corinthians 5:17:

*Therefore if any person is engrafted in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creature altogether; the old (previous moral and spiritual condition) has passed away. Behold the fresh and new has come.*

This is the truth spoken by God. Now you can either choose to listen to the lies of Satan telling you your old sinful nature is still active in you, or you can believe God that you are a new creature. The voice you are prepared to listen to will eventually be the one producing results in your life.

#### 5.2 Time allocation.

Can you expect to see positive results in your life if you are not prepared to spend time furthering your new life goals? If you spend time reading secular topics you cannot expect to grow spiritually. If you spend time in the company of people who do not care about Jesus, you will most probably find it hard to overcome your old lifestyle. Spend time with God in prayer and listening to Him as He speaks through His word and you will get to know and love Him better. You will long for more of His company and His Holy Spirit will be more evident in your life.

### **5.3 The constant battle against selfism.**

Even after you give your whole life to Christ you will still battle with self-indulgence. Jesus told us what to do in this regard in Matthew 16:24:

*Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to be My disciple, let him deny himself (disregard, lose sight of and forget himself and his own interests) and take up his cross and follow Me (cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if needs be, in dying).*

### **5.4 The lukewarm Christian.**

Jesus asks our all. We cannot keep a part of our life for ourselves. He is the All of All and as such he is also asking your all. If you want to hide some secret sin in one of the inner chambers of your heart then you will find that this one chamber is going to shut Jesus out of your whole heart. If you are not prepared to give your whole life to Jesus, better stay as you are. Jesus said in this regard in Matthew 10:37:

*He who loves (and take more pleasure in) father or mother more than in Me is not worthy of Me: and he who loves (and takes more pleasure in) son or daughter more than in Me is not worthy of Me.*

And Revelation 3:16:

*So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold or hot, will I spew you out of my mouth.*

### **5.5 The hedonistic life**

Your old life was centered on the self – pleasing the self, enjoying the self, looking out for the self. A very hedonistic self-centered lifestyle was the way you lived. If you think you can carry on making self number one in your life, then you will find it impossible to overcome this obstacle on your way to Christ.

## **5.6 Addictions**

Christ came to set us free. He indeed made us free and there is no reason to stay in bondage to some addiction. If you find that an old addiction like pornography, alcoholism, smoking, eating, sex, games, sport or whatever is still holding you back from a total surrender to God, it is time to be honest with God, confess your infirmity, ask Him to set you free, claim the freedom He provides for you. Be resolute, trust God for the freedom He promised and obey God. He has already set you free, also of your previous addiction. Trust and obey – it is the only way.

## **5.7 The Good Life**

Many people get so immersed in the “good life”, without God, that it is almost impossible to convince them of a “better life”, with God. They get so entangled in their possessions, profession, sport, family, entertainment and relaxation that they have no desire for anything else. After accepting Jesus as their all in life, these previous life lures may still draw them back.

## **5.8 Political affiliation**

It sounds unbelievable but for some people political affiliation is so important that it supersedes anything else. Politics may be more important than what God teaches in His word. The group you belong to, their convictions about race, marriage, laws of the country, corruption and the role of religion in politics may be a serious stumbling block in your religious growth. The pressure exerted by the group may cause your downfall. Therefore, politics can represent a major decision in terms of your willingness to give your all to Jesus.

## **5.9 Unwillingness to sacrifice**

Jesus was sacrificed unto death for our redemption. He told us about the way we will suffer for Him. He said it was inevitable that we will suffer if we want to follow Him. You must consider the cost of being a follower of Jesus before you try to commit your life to Him.

Are you willing to sacrifice your old lifestyle, your friends, your passions, your comfort, your position. Are you willing to be ridiculed, banned, laughed at, lose your job, be alienated from your family, thrown from your comfort zone? Jesus gave His life to save you. Are you willing to give the saved life back to Him?

## Chapter 6

### Now that you are a new person

When you gave your life over to Jesus you lost your old identity, but you also gained a new life.

When you went into the baptismal water your old nature with all your sins were washed away. The old self drowned in the water. You died with Christ. To a certain extent your lungs were filled with water as it was before your physical birth. You had to be born again. When you rose out of the water you took a deep breath. That was the breath of life. You started a new life in Christ. The Ruach, the wind of the Holy Spirit, gave new life. The life of Jesus started to dwell in you in the form of His Holy Spirit. Everything became new. Galatians 2:20 gives a perfect description of this process:

*I have been crucified with Christ (in Him I have shared His crucifixion), it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

Then everything became new. Ephesians 4:23-32 speaks about this new life:

*And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind (having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude).*

*24. And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, (Godlike) in true righteousness and holiness.*

*25. Reject all falsity; let everyone express truth with his neighbor.*

26. *When angry do not sin; do not ever let your wrath (your exasperation, your fury, your indignation) last until the sun goes down.*

28. *Let the thief steal no more, but rather let him be industrious, making a honest living with his own hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need.*

29. *Let no foul or polluting language nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk ever come out of your mouth, but only such speech as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God's favor ) to those who hear it.*

30. *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.*

31. *Let all bitterness and indignation and wrath (passion, rage, bad temper) and resentment (anger, animosity) and quarrelling (brawling, clamor, contention) and slander (evil speaking, abusive or blasphemous language) be banished from you, with all malice (spite, ill will or baseness of any kind).*

32. *And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tender-hearted, (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted), forgiving one another (readily and freely) as God in Christ forgave you.*

The life of the new creature in God can be summed up as a life living the fruit of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

The new man does not try to keep the Ten Commandments in order to be saved. As everything became new so the old covenant of keeping God's law in order to be saved was replaced by a new covenant. This new covenant is the covenant of grace. We are saved by what Christ did for us, not what we did to deserve redemption. The new man got a new inscription in his heart.

God's law of love is written on it. The new man does not conform to God's will because he must, but rather because he wants to. He loves the Redeemer of his life and wants to do all he can to please his God.

The new man loves the company of God. He likes to spend time with God. It is a pleasure to listen to his Master's voice. This is mainly done by reading God's Word and reflecting on it. He also enjoys the company of fellow believers and attends church on a regular basis. He not only listens to God but also enjoys talking to God in prayer. As is the case with an intimate relationship, communication moves from factual to emotional and even sometimes to such a deep level that words are superfluous and the God man can be in God's company without speaking, simply enjoying His wonderful presence.

The God man does not own anything. In his old life, possessions played an important role. When he received Christ in his life he discovered the ultimate treasure. Nothing can compare with this treasure of God living in you. Everything this life can offer pales against the treasure of God. While his life, his comforts, his ambitions, his longings were all about pleasing himself and accumulating as much as possible, stuff has lost its value. The new man knows he owns nothing in this world. Everything is for his use only and nothing can be taken out of this world. He can only manage and look after, but he cannot possess. Everything belongs to his Father in heaven.

Other people become more important than himself. He discovers a soft heart in his inner being. His feeling for his fellow men increases. He finds himself thinking more about others than himself. He starts feeling compassion for other people, especially for those in need and those who cannot help themselves.

Whereas he used to worry and to fret about life and the future, now he is starting to experience peace, joy and love. He is less occupied with himself and what is to his own advantage. What God wants from him becomes the driving force of his life.

Previously, Man god identified with a mystical person who Satan created in his mind. He thought the ideal man needed to be successful, rich, influential, powerful, popular, self-centered and, above all, balanced. When the new man came into being this all changed.

Instead of watching out for number one, that is, self, his focus shifted to God and his fellow men. He now identifies with a real Person, Jesus, and Son of God. He already knows he has part of Jesus in himself in the form of the Holy Spirit, and his life ambition is to be like Jesus, his elder Brother. His new identity is as a Child of God, loved by God, redeemed by God, living for God out of God's abundant provision, longing to be with God for all eternity, praising Him and enjoying Him for ever and ever. The old passed away, everything became new.



# Chapter 7

## The rest of your life

### 7.1. What about the rest of your life?

What are you living for? What do you need to do with every day God grants you on earth? What are you looking forward to? What must you watch out for? How must you count your days to grow a wise heart? How can you release the power of the Holy Spirit day by day? How can you make the rest of your life count, now that you are a new creature?

Actually, your new life started the moment you accepted Christ in your heart as your Saviour. The rest of your life, while you are still on this earth, is infinitely small in comparison with the everlasting life awaiting you when you step over to Jesus. How can you compare one second to a million years, which is a totally inadequate comparison of our life span compared with the everlasting life with Christ? Let us, just for a moment, consider everlasting eternity without God.

### 7.2. Think about eternity. How long will it be?

Every problem you encountered in life lasted for a while and then it stopped. Even a person who is terminally ill with a disease such as cancer, knows his pain and sorrow will soon end. It might last for a few years and then he will die and he will be free from pain and suffering. Not so in eternity. If you step over and you find yourself in hell, then it is going to last forever. It is hard to imagine how long that will be but your pain and suffering is never going to end. It is just going to carry on forever. There is no sense in choosing hell for all eternity.

How can you do something like that to yourself? And to think you make your choice voluntarily. No one is forcing you – it is your choice to suffer in hell, burning, thirsty, crying out, begging, cursing the demons with you in hell, suffering pain, alone, no one to help you.

Please think again about your choice. When you choose Jesus, think about what He did for your salvation and how you received it freely to enjoy everlasting life in the company of God: no more sin, no more sickness, no more suffering, no more pain, no more worries, no more hate, no more uncertainty about anything. Instead you are redeemed, singing not crying and enjoying peace, love and perfect company. Why, oh why are you not choosing this life? You still have time. You still have a choice. Come in now. He is waiting for you with outstretched arms, lovingly smiling, forgiving ... waiting, waiting, waiting!

### **7.3. What are you living for in your new life?**

You are no more living for self, to get rich, to be independent. You are now living for God whom you love above all else. You are also living for other people, people in need, to save and to help them. Your life does not belong to yourself any more. Jesus bought your life for Himself by paying for it with His blood on the cross. So you were redeemed from hell. The Holy Spirit is prompting you with love to do good and to forgive, just as God has forgiven you.

### **7.4. What will your new life look like day to day?**

You will get up with a song in your heart. You will perceive all God's wonders around you. You will not only enjoy the beauty of nature around you but you will be able to see the Creator of it all behind it. You will greet God in the early morning, you will long to be in His presence, you will thank and honor Him. You will confess your deep need for His help and guidance during the day. You will be eager to listen to His beautiful voice and therefore you will cherish every word He speaks to you out of His Word. You will meditate on what He told you and you will endeavor to do as He told you. Above all, you will trust Him with your life, again and again you will give your life away to Him to do with it as He pleases. To work will be an honor for you. Everything you do you will do well, as if you are doing it for Him.

You will, during the day, think about Him, thank Him and let Him have His way with your life. When Satan tries to lead you astray, you will recognize him and conquer his evil ways by doing good. When you do slip you will not allow Satan to condemn you, instead you will hold on to Jesus's promise of His forgiveness. You will know that Jesus is interceding for you with the Father and that you are safe in His hands. When living gets tough and people are trying to ruin your relationship with God, you will count it an honor and joy to suffer on behalf of Christ and you will remember the promise of Jesus –, the crown and reward for His children who persevere till the end. When evening comes you will find relaxation in Him and in His grace, extended over you for yet another day. Your security will be in the knowledge that God is your everlasting Father, Jesus, His Son, is your eldest Brother and His Holy Spirit is your guarantee of salvation, that He is the Advocate, interceding for you, that He is your Comforter, Your Strength, God in you, as a foretaste of what is to be expected when you pass over.

#### **7.5. Watch out for:**

- Company trying to influence you to walk away from God.
- Circumstances deceiving you into believing in the greatness and pleasures of this life.
- Spending too much time with secular things.
- Getting drawn into arguments and missing the real life-giving truths presented in plain understandable words as can be found in God's Word.
- Starting to love something in this world more than loving God as will be evident in the time spent with the new god.
- Focusing on own efforts. Jesus did everything for your salvation. You don't need to add anything.
- Keeping some things for yourself. Not yielding all to God.
- The seduction of Satan.
- Enjoying anything in this life more than God's company.
- Trying to do life on your own.

## **7.6. Strive to get wise**

What is wisdom?

The wisest man ever, Solomon, gave the following description of wisdom:

*The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning of ( the chief and choice part) of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight and understanding (Proverbs 9:10).*

Proverbs is full of wisdom. There are 31 chapters in Proverbs, one chapter for every day of the month. It is as if God puts this wisdom within our easy reach, to study and to conduct our lives accordingly.

## **7.7 Forgiveness**

Our only hope of entrance into heaven is forgiveness. Jesus did everything for our forgiveness. When he cried out, “*It is finished*”, our redemption was accomplished and complete. All our sins were forgiven. How can we then go through life holding grudges against people for the wrong they did against us? Our un-forgiveness is the one sin that can keep us out of heaven. When you refuse to forgive it means you do not understand your own forgiveness and the price that was paid to set you free.

## **7.8. Be holy**

The rest of your life will be a continual struggle to be holy. God said we cannot enter heaven without being holy (1 Peter 1:16). Therefore, it is necessary to get out of the company of people who are willfully sinning. You cannot be holy by association with people who choose to ignore and disregard God.

## Chapter 8

### Run the race

In the book of Hebrews, we who are still living on this earth are compared to athletes running a race, watched by those who preceded us, those on the grandstand of heaven (Hebrews 12).

*Therefore then, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses (who have born testimony to the Truth), let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us (Hebrew 12:1)*

The way the race is to be run is set out in the rest of Hebrews Chapter 12. Let us look at some of the main ingredients of this race of life.

**12: 2** *Looking away (from all that will distract), to Jesus.*

*Just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition and bitter hostility against Himself (reckon up and consider it all in comparison with your trials), so that you may not grow weary or exhausted, losing heart and relaxing and fainting in you minds.*

**12: 4** *You have not yet **struggled and fought agonizingly against sin**, nor have you resisted and withstood to the point of pouring out your own blood.*

**12:6** *My son, do not think lightly or scorn to **submit to the correction and discipline** of the Lord, nor lose courage and give up and faint when you are reproved or corrected by Him.*

**12:14** *Strive to **live in peace with everybody** and pursue that consecration and holiness without which no one will ever see the Lord.*

**12:15.** *Exercise foresight and be on the watch to **look after one another**.*

***12:16. That no one may become guilty of sexual vice.***

***13: 1: Let love for your fellow believers continue and be a fixed practice***

More on the excellent teachings regarding the way to run the race of life can be found in this part of God's Word.

## Chapter 9

### Bring in the harvest

In Mark 16:15 we find these words of Jesus just before he departed from this earth:

*And He said to them, Go into the entire world and preach and publish openly the Gospel to every creature of the whole human race.*

Whoever tastes God's love, His forgiveness of sin, His compassion, His everlasting promises, His indwelling Holy Spirit, the power, the joy, the peace of His company, the security that only He as Creator can provide, will have no choice but to share the wonderful news of the Gospel when and where He guides the person. The words recorded in Mark will become a compelling force in the believer's life. He will want to do what Jesus told him to do. The love for the fellow human being will be the driving force to save the lost soul, to bring in the harvest of God. Above all, he will be driven by his love for God, to honor God, to lift Him up, to further His kingdom by assisting to bring in lost souls to make the souls willing to obey our God and, in so doing, bring more honors to our Mighty King.

The new man God will perceive life in a different way. Life will become an opportunity to bring another being to eternal life with God. He will know that it is the power of the Holy Spirit who convinces of sin, Who creates a longing in a sinner's life for something more and something better than the life of discontent being lived up to that stage. The God man will easily submit to God's will and do what must be done and say what must be said. He will be able to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit telling him what to say to a specific person in a specific situation. He will not rely on his own insights, his own understanding or his own power to convince, but he will give over to God. He will be able to let go and to let God do what He knows is best in the situation.

He will be knowledgeable regarding the Gospel of redemption, he will let the Holy Spirit guide him, he will be able to pray with and for the lost sinner. He will look after his newly found brother and his wellbeing will weigh heavy on him. He will think about the new God man and he will be so full of joy and gratitude for another soul saved out of hell for God's kingdom. Therefore, he will disciple the newly found soul to guide him through his spiritual infancy until he is also able to bring in new souls for God's kingdom. The joy of being instrumental in saving a lost soul will become one of his main aims in life. Seeking after this joy will be his driving force in life. It will be the one thing that makes life worth living, giving everlasting sense and meaning to his own existence.



## Chapter 10

### What the end will be like

There are different scenarios possible for different people. Let's look at a few. Perhaps you can identify with one these possibilities.

**You died as a lost sinner.** Your soul went to hell and your body rests until you will rise again to face Jesus as Judge when he comes back to this earth. You will get a chance to plead the reasons why you rejected Christ in your earthly life.

**You died as a redeemed child of God.** Your soul and spirit went to God when you died and your body awaits the resurrection when Jesus comes on the clouds as bridegroom for his bride during the rapture.

**You are living on Earth during the rapture and as a child of God** you will ascend into the clouds to be with Jesus for seven years and then for all eternity.

**You are living on Earth when the rapture occurs and you decide to reject Christ as Savior,** the Son of God. You will go during your lifetime into the tribulation on Earth for seven years, during which you will suffer immensely under the rule of Satan. After which you will be judged to be in hell for all eternity. There is a possibility that you will accept Jesus as your Savior during this terrible time. According to the Bible few will be saved during this time.

There is an analogy between the end times and the traditional Jewish marriage. As Jesus is indicated as our Bridegroom and Jesus's church as the bride of Jesus, it might well be appropriate to look at the traditional Jewish marriage:

*The bridegroom will go with his father to the bride's house. There, negotiations will be held between the fathers of the bride and bridegroom. A deposit of a guarantee of the whole price to be paid for the bride will be given. From now on the bride to be is pledged to the bridegroom. The couple are now engaged. At this stage the bridegroom will start building a dwelling next to his father's house. The preparations for the wedding will usually take about a year. Before the bridegroom collects his wife, the father must inspect the newly built abode and only when he is satisfied will he give the green light for the bridegroom to collect his wife. The wife will be expecting her husband together with her aides (as in the parable of the 10 virgins waiting with the bride to be for the return of the bridegroom). Usually, at an unexpected time during night there will be a shout: The bridegroom is coming. The virgins will go with the bride-to-be to meet her future husband, who will take them to his father's house for a seven-day festival during which the bride's virginity will be tested. Blood will be the sign that she was a worthy bride.*

So much of this traditional wedding is found in the predicted return of Jesus as the bridegroom to fetch His bride, the church. Let's look at some obvious resemblances (Mark 2 and 25, Revelation 18, Matthew 9):

*Jesus is portrayed as the bridegroom coming for His bride, At an unexpected time,  
After He prepared a dwelling place for His bride.*

*There will be a wedding festival in heaven when Jesus arrives with His bride.*

*The pureness of the church will be tested and blood will be the only sign of the purity of the bride, the church. The Blood of Jesus will be the only means to cleanse the church and sanctify it for entrance into the holy presence of God.*

*The seven-day festival will be the seven years the church spends with Jesus in heaven while the people left behind, after the rapture, will suffer for seven years.*

*The rapture represents the coming of the bridegroom for his bride.*

*The preparations for the new home for the bride are represented by Jesus going back to the Father to prepare a place for His church.*

We are at present very close to this phenomenal occurrence. Let's look at the signs of the coming of the bridegroom.

**The very first sign is the deception of the devil pretending to be God himself.** This whole book deals with this sign of deception, warning about the sly ways in which Satan will deceive mankind as it is predicted by Jesus in Matthew 24:3:

*While He was seated on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately and said, 'Tell us, when will this take place, and what will be the sign of Your coming and the end (completion, the consummation) of the age.*

*24:4: Jesus answered them, Be careful that no one misleads you (deceiving you and leading you into error). 5. For many will come in (on the strength of) My Name (appropriating the name which belongs to Me, saying I am the Christ (The Messiah), and they will lead many astray.*

**“And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars”,** as is very evident in the times we are living, especially the “rumors of war”. When we think about the time at which these predictions were made it was almost impossible to hear “rumors of wars” as there were very limited means of communication and it took months to get some news from neighboring countries. The “rumors of war “ is actually a prophecy of Jesus for the time we are living in. Today, we can see every evening on TV news the rumors of wars as they are discussed in the high offices of countries.

Almost all media is reporting, what is happening on Earth, busy proclaiming the imminent coming of our Lord.

**“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.”** Never before were nations and kingdoms so totally engaged with each other as in the First and Second World wars, happening in our time, during the last century.

**“... and there will be famines and earthquakes in place after place.”** Present-day statistics show this to be true of the days we are living in.

**“And they will hand you over to suffer affliction and tribulation and put you to death.”** Statistics show us the facts to confirm that this is actually happening in the age we are now living exactly as foretold.

The most subtle form of deception will be to lead man to believe that he can be his own god. This deception will be, as in the case of Eve, driven by the belief that knowledge equals godliness.

**“And then many will be offended and repelled and will begin to distrust and desert (Him Whom they ought to trust and obey), and they will stumble and fall away and betray one another and pursue one another with hatred. And many false prophets will rise up and deceive and lead many into error.”**

**“And the love of the great body of people will grow cold because of the multiplied lawlessness and iniquity.”**

And this Good News of the kingdom (**the Gospel**) **will be preached throughout the whole world as a testimony to all the nations.**

And then will come the end.

Calculations predict the Gospel will be available in every language by 2033. That is 2000 years after Jesus ascended to heaven.

The relevance of the words of Jesus is astounding. He might as well have walked the streets of any major capitol in 2019 while speaking of the end times. It is as if Jesus, Who is not bound by time, was exposing His supremacy over time by being timeless in the relevance of His sermons 2 000 years ago.

Indeed, we are serving, loving, trusting and believing the Living God.

## Chapter 11

### The prayer to take you over into everlasting life

*Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus, Your Son, with the prayer that You, Holy Spirit, will intercede for me.*

*I confess my sins.*

(This should be a very personal part of your prayer whereby you confess whatever sins God reminds you of and sins you are sorry about and would like to eradicate from your soul, mind, emotions and memory. If you cannot pray this confession in sincerity, meaning it with your whole heart, crying out in repentance, loathing yourself for doing wrong, or not doing something good, like forgiving someone, rather you not pray this prayer)

*I believe You, Jesus, is the Son of God. I believe you came to this earth for the sole purpose of obeying God our Father, in love for mankind, to take on Yourself the punishment for my many sins. I believe You suffered on my behalf immense pain, rejection, suffering, and even death to cleanse me totally of all sin. I believe this was an offering of completeness so that I can add nothing to deserve anything. I believe this cleansing of mine was completely done by Jesus on the cross of Calvary.*

*I accept this gift of salvation from You, My God, for myself. I give myself wholeheartedly – body, spirit and soul – to You to do with me as You please. I do not belong to myself anymore. You purchased me from hell and now You can do with me as You please.*

*Thank You for saving my soul, spirit and body for Your kingdom forever. As I go through the water of baptism, will you baptize me with Your Spirit.*

*I ask you to pour me out for Your purpose in this life as You please.*

***May Your Name be honored,***

***May Your kingdom come,***

***May Your will be done.***

***Amen! Amen! Amen!***

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