

WORLD WIDE MINISTRIES

Identification with the Holy Spirit

PEOPLE REACHING PEOPLE

Don Krider, Director
World Wide Ministries

"...SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE..." EPH.4:11-16

IDENTIFICATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

<u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
Foreward	3
Chapter 1	4-30
Chapter 2	31-54
Chapter 3	55-80
Chapter 4	81-105
Chapter 5	106-128
Chapter 6	129-152
Chapter 7	153-176
Chapter 8	177-199

IDENTIFICATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

FOREWORD

This study is designed to help us understand better the personage and functions of the Holy Spirit. **The Holy Spirit is not an IT or THING. He is a very important part of the triune God.**

In John chapters 14,15,16, Jesus explains to His disciples that He must go away, but that He would ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to them and He would be with them forever.

John 14:16,17,25,26 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But THE COMFORTER, WHICH IS THE HOLY GHOST, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 16:7-15 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.

My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will become a vital personage in your life.

Don Krider
Director, World Wide Ministries.

IDENTIFICATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Chapter 1

The Lord is saying that we need to identify with the Holy Ghost. We need to begin to realize that we should have the unity of the Spirit of God in our lives. What God is doing today by His Spirit is bringing that kingdom people out. There is a Kingdom of God people that are going to have the answers to all the problems in the world and they're going to be able to allow people to come to them in their need and have the answer for them. **God is raising up a people in this hour, neither male nor female, neither young or old, but spirit people that are born of the Spirit of God, and will be able to do great and exceeding things because they shall know their God.**

In that identity, we go to the first chapter of John, and it shows us the difference between the flesh man and the spirit man. The head of the natural man was Adam, and the head of the spiritual man is Jesus Christ.

The first Adam and the last Adam were compared this way: the first Adam was created; the last Adam was begotten. The first Adam was flesh; the last Adam was spirit. The first Adam sinned and died. The last Adam overcame sin and lived. The first Adam was created of the dust. The second Adam was born of the spirit. The first Adam returned to the dust. The second Adam lived forever. The first one is earthy. The last one is heavenly. The first is carnally minded. The second is spiritually minded. The first lost the dominion. The second regained the dominion. The first did his own will. The second did always the Father's will. The first is temporal. The second is eternal. The first is under condemnation. The second is freedom. The first is under the law. The second was under grace of the law of liberty. The first one walked after the flesh. The second lived by the spirit. The first is the vessel. The second is the treasure.

I Cor 15:47-49 tells us that which is first is earthy, but that which is last is heavenly, and as you have born the image of the earthly, you shall also bear the image of the heavenly. He is not only talking about a time when you will leave this physical body to be with the Lord forever. He is talking about a group of people that realize they were born of the flesh, but now inside of them there is a new creature that is begotten by the will of God, shaped in the image and in the

form and the shape of the living God. As we begin to die to self and come alive to Christ, we begin to die to the earthy and become alive to the heavenly. We begin to bear the mark of the heavenly creature. How would you like to do that? How would you like to really begin to walk in a new realm with God where there is no condemnation, where you don't go any longer by the seeing of the eye or the hearing of the ear.

That's what he's saying. As you have born the image of the earthy, if you will be faithful, if you will grow in the Lord and allow Him to change you by His Spirit, through His Word, you will begin to bear the identity of the heavenly. This earthy body will become the temple of the Holy Ghost, in which all the power and majesty of God will be represented. In John, through the power of the Holy Ghost, we're going to begin to identify not only with Jesus, but with the Holy Ghost.

Let's turn to the first chapter of John. I want to show you some things that the Lord spoke to my heart some years ago, about our identification.

Before we get into that, **Matt 1:21** said that His name would be called **JESUS**, because He would save His people from their sins. And in **Matt 1:23** it says they shall call Him **EMMANUEL**, for He shall be **GOD WITH US**. I want you to think about this. It's important to realize that it isn't just some man that's with you today, and it isn't just some individual from another town; it is the Lord Himself that is present with us. **IT IS GOD WITH US!**

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word...

The **WORD** is what we're going to identify with. The **WORD** was in the beginning. We were chosen in Christ from before the foundation of the world; we were chosen in the **WORD (Eph 1:4)**. We are to be first, a **WORD** people. We are to be identified with the **WORD**, through the **WORD**, and by the **WORD**. We are to be identified by the words that we speak, and they should be words that are oracles of God speaking (**1 Peter 4:11**). Our identity mark, the first mark that you will ever have, is that you are identified with the **WORD**. You are begotten by the incorruptible seed of the Word of God (**1 Peter 1:23**). Amen!

So the first thing that a new-born Christian ever identifies with is the **WORD**. You have to begin with that. "**In the beginning is the Word.**" In your beginning is the **WORD**. That is where you start, that is where you grow, that is where you will remain forever. "**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away**" (**Matt 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33**). If you are an eternal being it's because you're in the eternal **WORD**, and the eternal **WORD** is in you; a **WORD** that was from the beginning and will be at the ending.

How do we identify with the **WORD of God**? By allowing the **WORD of God** to be hidden in our heart. David said, "**Thy word have I hid in mine**

heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Ps. 119:11). The first thing the **WORD of God** does is point out what sin is really like and reveal sin to us, that we might be able to walk in a way that is right in the sight of God. **“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”**(Ps. 119:105). It's a guidance system by which the Holy Ghost teaches and directs us how to **identify with Christ**. It's easy to identify a Christian, because the words of his mouth should always be words that bring forth glory and honor to the Lord.

Let's look at Psalm 133:1. I want to get something across to you and I know this may be kind of hard to receive. We're all married to one another spiritually.

Psa 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

The word **DWELL** means, **TO MARRY**.

DWELL = Conc. #3427. yashab, yaw-shab'; a prim. root; prop. to sit down (spec. as judge. in ambush, in quiet); by impl. to dwell, to remain: causat. to settle, TO MARRY:-- (make to) abide (-ing), continue, (cause to, make to) dwell (-ing), ease self, endure, establish, X fail, habitation, haunt, (make to) inhabit (-ant), make to keep [house], lurking, X marry (-ing), (bring again to) place, remain, return, seat, set (-tle), (down-) sit (-down, still, -ting down, -ting [place] -uate), take, tarry.

It means to be joined together in the spirit, not in the flesh. **In the spirit!** He's not talking to flesh people. He's talking to those people of the incorruptible seed of the **Word of God**, to those that have an ear to hear. We've preached so long to the flesh man, we've almost condemned him because he isn't shaped like God. He doesn't do like God does. But **NO**, He's talking to the incorruptible being that is in you, and He wants you to identify with that.

So if we're going to **identify with the WORD**, where are we going to begin. Two thousand years ago? **NO!** Our identity is way beyond two thousand years ago. **We have to begin to identify with Him which was before the foundation of the world.** The man Jesus was the Lamb of God who came and was slain for our sin, and paid a price, and was resurrected from the dead, and is now seated in heavenly places (**John 1:29; Eph 1:19-20**).

We are identifying with someone that was in Him before He was ever born into the world. We are going to identify from this moment with the beginning, with the God that spoke the heavens and the worlds into existence. We were there! We were there before the world ever existed. We were there because God had chosen us in Christ from before the foundation of the world. So we see some things happening here.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

If I am a child of God, which I am, and if you're a child of God, which I pray you are, then your identity is back there when the **Word** was with God. I want to show you by the revelation of the Holy Spirit, why it's necessary to understand this.

In **I John 2:12** he begins to teach us something on identification, of being in the beginning with the **WORD**.

1 John 2:12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

The only thing a new-born Christian ever knows is that once he was a sinner and now he is saved.

1 John 2:13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning....

Not was, but **IS**. Is the word **IS** in your Bible? All right! It's important that you read this as the word is written, as the word is established. He said, "These are the fathers that have known Him that is from the beginning."

1 John 2:13 ...I have written unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one...

The young men are those that you can't really trust to do much because they start out for God and all of a sudden they're going to build it themselves. They get in all kinds of trouble. They mean well but they revert back and they're going to do it with their own strength. How many of you have ever done that besides me?

But what I want to deal with first is the Father realm, the **identification realm that God wants you to have**. If the Word of God said the Father is one that knows Him that is from the beginning, then I have to have a revelation of God from the beginning. I have to **know** Him from the beginning! I have to know Him as the Alpha and the Omega. I have to know Him and identify with Him from before the foundation of the world. Why is that important? Because of these next few words. **"The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made"**(John 1:2-3). We identify Him now as a **CREATOR**. He is the **CREATOR** and He lives in you so you ought to be identified as a **creator**.

You might think you can't create anything. Every time you pray for somebody, the creative power of Christ flows. The same spirit that spoke the worlds into existence, the same **WORD** that went out and formed the world, is in you. When you really begin to identify with Him as a **CREATOR** in your life, you're not going to be afraid to pray anymore. You're going to realize that the words you're speaking, are the same words that said, **"Let there be light"**(Gen.1:3). You're going to speak, and the creative power in you identifying Christ, will flow out of you and flow into that blinded eye, that lame leg, or whatever it is. It is creative power. If you cannot identify with creative power you

can't pray effectively, because when you pray, you create circumstances. When you pray in doubt, you create fear. True!

You're a creator because you're born of God. You can't help it. It's whatever you create that gives you the problem. **“Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth” (Prov. 6:2).** When we pray, we create something. If we pray in doubt, if we pray in that kind of an attitude, we create fear, but if we pray in faith, we create faith. If we pray for the blinded eye, or speak the Word to the blinded eye, or to the lame leg, or the lame arm, or whatever it is, we create faith in that heart, and that heart receives whatever you're projecting to it. We've identified so long with some puny flesh that can't do anything. **We're to identify with the Father, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty (Rev 1:8).**

So the Lord says now that when you're going to **identify with the Holy Ghost**, you'd better realize what you're doing. When you pray for people, you had better know what you're doing. There are people today that are full of doubt, praying for other people, and all they do is create doubt and fear. That's why He said, **“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord” (James 5:14).** Do not call for just everybody and anybody; call for the elders, because the Fathers know Him which is from the beginning, and they identify with the **CREATOR**, and not the creation.

Don't pray for me unless you believe that it's faith that you're praying in. Pray only according to the faith that you have. If you only have faith that a person can receive salvation, pray in that but pray with faith. Don't go out and start praying for healing if you don't believe it. That's why He said there are gifts of healing in the body. **1 Cor 12:9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit. 1 Cor 12: 28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.** There are gifts of healing in the body, but they that believe in that gift and those areas, have the faith to pray for it, and they believe that the **CREATOR** will work through them and recreate whatever is needed.

We're coming into the greatest age the church ever walked in, but we're going to have to start **identifying with the Holy Ghost**. We're going to have to start **identifying with the Spirit that did it all and does it all**. We're going to begin to see arms grow out where there were none. We're going to begin to see eyes come back where there were no eyeballs. We're going to begin to see actual bodies that have been deteriorated restored by the power of creation. When Jesus spoke to Lazarus, He didn't just speak into that tomb to Lazarus body. He spoke completely into the bosom of Abraham where the spirit of Lazarus had departed to; and when He spoke, the voice of creation went into that spirit and brought it back and put it into that body in that tomb, and Lazarus came out bound hand and foot **(John 11:39-44).**

Everyone of you that is a Christian has that power in you, but usually what we create is doubt. We look at empty seats in the Church or in a class and we say the place isn't full. But it is full because those saints that we do not see, are there. The angels of God are there. The spirits of just men made perfect are there. God is there. Jesus is there. According to **Heb 12:1** all of that is happening right around us. We can begin to fill a building by speaking the **Word of creative power** that will cause men and women to be drawn in, or we can say, "Well, it's a failure, because we don't have anybody." That isn't the way it works. Don't you realize the prayer that you pray identifies you with what you really believe. "If it be thy will, Lord, heal this person." It means you're hoping. You're not identifying with the **CREATOR**. Jesus gave a revelation of truth of identification: **"If you have faith and doubt not...it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive (Matt 21:21-22).**

It's time the people of God began to say what they mean, instead of hoping so much for something to happen. If you can really identify in the beginning with the **WORD** and with the **CREATOR**, then when you begin to pray you're going to begin to pray creation prayers. You're going to speak words of creation power. Jesus never said, "If it be the Fathers' will for you to receive your sight, you're going to get it." **No!** He never just hoped that somebody would get up and walk. He created in them faith. You know why? Because **"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).**

You are the **Word of God** in flesh, and whatever you speak brings faith or doubt. It creates something in an individual's life. You can't help it, because by the words of your mouth you're creating either negative or positive faith in a person's life. No wonder He said, **"Let's be swift to hear and slow to speak..." (James 1:19)**, because when we speak, we create. You can't help it, because you're a creator. The Spirit of God lives in you, and when you speak, it's creation power that comes out of you. That's why God is not happy with idle words.

Mat 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

Mat 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

That's why God wants to see Himself glorified in you like He was glorified in His Son.

We should have such a tremendous identification that we start **speaking** the **words of faith** and **believing** what we're speaking. If you speak them without believing them, you've got a problem. You're just passing confusion and doubt onto somebody else. The spirit of that individual knows what the spirit in your heart really believes, and when the word is spoken, if it's a word of faith, it builds faith in their heart. If it's a word of hope, it doesn't do much of anything. But if it's a word of fear, if it's a prayer of "I

don't know really what I'm praying for you about," and you stammer around and are struggling, there isn't going to be any faith in that individual's heart at all. They came to you for prayer, and what did you give them? What did you create in that individual?

When a baby is born it has no fear, it has no doubt, it has no unbelief, it has no hatred. It's just an empty vessel, but as it grows Mom and Dad begin to create in that life, fear, unbelief, worry, tension, strife, mistrust. They tell that child, "You can't trust the cops, you can't trust the authorities, you can't trust your neighbors, you can't trust anybody." The little kid is sitting there and he's hearing all this talk going on, and they're creating in his heart all that doubt, and fear, and unbelief, and so when he gets a little older, he just rebels against everything. Why? Because he was fed those things; and they were created in him.

That's why the Word says: Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

He may have a little trouble in the middle, but in the end he'll come to know the Lord. We don't realize it. This should be taught to every Mother and Dad. This should be taught to every person that's even thinking about having a child. The fear of God ought to be in our hearts, realizing we're creating either a monster or a saint, and the child had nothing to do with it at all. The end result of that child was what was programmed into him.

Now, when people come to you that have no faith in their hearts, you have the most glorious opportunity in the world to speak the words of faith into their hearts. You may not see an immediate reaction, but you have planted the **word of faith**. Someone else comes along with the same **word of faith** and begins to water that word, and that crop begins to grow. That's why the Church must begin to speak the same thing. They must speak the mind of Christ. They must speak the Kingdom of God. They must forget about appealing to the flesh, and begin to teach the Spirit of God into the hearts of men and women.

Let's look at John 1:1-3 again.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

You have to identify with the **CREATOR**. Is that so hard? It's really simple once you hear it, isn't it. Why is it that we have to get so confused? Why do we have to go around and have a theory or a doctrine for everything in the world? Why can't we just teach the **Word of God** like it's written? Why can't we take it for face value that it means what it says? If we are going to be Fathers of the faith, we are going to have to

identify with the **CREATOR**, not with only a Saviour on the cross, who loved us and gave His life for us. **We're going to have to go back to before the foundation of the world and stand there with Him, and see Him create the heavens and the earth by the Spirit.**

The Lord is bringing us into revelation truth in this hour, not because somebody got smart enough, but some people got simple enough to believe it. I think we've finally come to a point that all of our wisdom has alienated us from God, and we're finally going to come to a simplicity in Christ and say, "It says right here; that's all I understand. It just says right here, it is written, and if it is written, it's good enough for Jesus and it's good enough for me." Amen! **If God could just speak the worlds into existence, He expects us to begin to speak healing and deliverance into the peoples' hearts. Praise God!**

"All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made."

Underline that in your Bible. **Not anything. He is the CREATOR.** Satan cannot create anything. His is counterfeit. He has to work on your old carnal mind to make you fear. He gets hold of some believers that are weak in faith and they begin to get together and talk and begin to reason it out, and the first thing you know, instead of believing anything, they begin to fear everything.

You need to get around people that have faith, that are strong in faith, that have quit looking at what it looks like and feels like and sounds like, but begin to teach and minister the **Word** together in the power of His creation. Amen! So we see then that we identify with the **CREATOR**.

Next let's look at John 1:4

John 1:4 In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.

I'm going to have to identify with **LIFE** then, aren't I? If I'm going to really identify with the Holy Ghost, I'm going to have to identify with **LIFE**. That which was in Him; that which was from the beginning: **LIFE!** **Life** was in Him. **Life** was in the beginning, so I've got to identify with **life**. "But Brother Krider, how am I going to identify with life?" By living it and quit talking about the world, quit talking about dead things. Get your mind off the world and the cares of this life. They are not going to do you any good. They will pass away, and if you allow them to continually drag on you and hurt you and harm you, your mind will never grow into the mind of Christ.

Let's go to Phil 4:8. This will help you if you'll receive it.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good

report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

If I'm thinking on only things that are just and pure and good, then when I speak what's going to come out of my mouth? Things that are just and pure and good. I'm going to be able to sow that in somebody else. But whatever I have meditated on is going to get into my heart, and when I open my mouth, if it's the cares of this life I've concentrated on, I'm going to be locked up in inflation. I'm going to be locked up in depression. I'm going to be locked up in what I feel. I'm going to be locked up in whatever I have fed into my soul.

So to identify with life, I've got to identify with the things that life really is. Life does not consist of the things of this world. Not true life. Not the life that I'm identified with. It does not consist of meat and drink, and all of these things. It does not consist of temporal physical things. **Life consists of this life which was in the beginning, which was in Jesus Christ.** It takes all the fear out of it, doesn't it. When you re-identify with **THE CREATOR** and realize that **you are His creation**, then He becomes responsible for you, and you are no longer responsible for yourself.

Look at **verse 4** again. **"In Him was life..."**

You are a people that should quit looking at your flesh body and saying, "I'm too old." No! You're eternal. Eternal has no age. The moment you gave your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, and He imparted His life into you, at that moment you became an eternal being. The eternal being doesn't care about anything in the world. The only desire he has is to please the Father, to go out and do the works of God, to be used of God to do whatever God wants him to do. That's all he's concerned about. The rest of it is minus. Everything in the flesh realm is minus; everything in the Spirit realm is plus. If you want to be a minus being, concentrate on the things of this world. If you want to be a plus being, concentrate on the things of God.

That's what the Apostle Paul told you in **Colossians 3:1**, **"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."** If that's what he says, and that's where we're to identify, then why are we so worried about what's going on in the world? I don't see one Epistle ever written telling the people that they had better begin to stock up for the future because the Romans were oppressing them, and they had better start stocking up for tomorrow. **NO! Jesus told them in Matt 6:25-34 not to worry about tomorrow.**

Let's get the job done today. We may not be around tomorrow. Everything you leave undone when you leave this physical body, will be undone forever in your life and it'll be a total loss in heaven. You can't change it. That's why it behooves us to live every day to the fullest; to do everything we know to do for God and to concentrate totally on Him. To put all our energy, our thoughts, our minds, our resources in Jesus Christ, and do all that we know to do. Then if we live to get up in the morning there'll be

some more, but we won't have to go back and try to do yesterday over again. We won't have to try to catch up last week. It's all caught up. **That's what he's talking about, identifying with the eternal being. Identifying with Him that is forever. Identifying with life.**

John 1:4 In Him was life; and the life was the light...

Now we have to **identify with light**, don't we; **true light**, because **Jesus says to us in Matthew 5:14, "You're the light of the world."** We have a problem with this, and we think that we're reflected light. I've heard this. I used to say it too but the Lord didn't say that. **He said, "You are the light of the world." He said, "You are a part of me, and I'm not reflected. I'm real. I'm the head. You are the body. You are as much everything as I am, and you are the light of the world. It shouldn't change because I go away, because the COMFORTER that's with you shall be IN you. The same light that's walking here in this flesh body is going to be in your flesh body. You're not going to be a reflected glory; you are going to be the glory of God."**

We get so engrained in our hearts and minds of what we should be in the flesh to be a Christian that we have a hard time getting rid of these old doctrines and washing them out. It has nothing to do with your flesh man. Your flesh man is dead. That settles that issue. You can't make it good enough, you can't make it pretty enough, you can't make it righteousness enough to do anything for God.

It's the spirit man that God is talking to. It's the eternal being that He's telling to identify with life, identify with light. That way, if they take your old body out and shoot it, you can't say anything about it because what can you say about shooting a dead man. That's why Paul never railed at them when they beat him and threw him in jail (**Acts 16:19-24**). They were just throwing a dead thing around anyway.

When you get in that real attitude with Christ, you're going to find out that you can love your enemies. You can pray for those that spitefully use you. You can bless those that curse you (Matt. 5:44; Luke 6:27,28). It's only as long as you're alive in the flesh that you have a problem doing that, and that means you're **identified with flesh.**

Your reaction really proves where your identity is. If you're identified with the Holy Ghost, they can do with your flesh what they've done with the apostles and men and women down through the ages, who were still blessed when they were getting killed. Our identification has just been off a few inches. We've identified up here in the mind, not down in the heart. We've tried to get the old man to look like God. God hasn't any wrinkles. He's the same always. I can look at a picture taken thirty years ago, and I'm not going to deceive myself; I know I don't look like I did thirty years ago.

Simple, isn't it. Such a simple gospel. I like this gospel. It's comfortable. The Holy Ghost makes it comfortable. No longer any striving, no longer any trying, no

longer any warring to accomplish something for God. **God's going to accomplish everything He wants to in my lifetime because I'm His.** I'm not going to try to work His plan out. He's working it out. Hallelujah!

Now let's look at 1 Thess 5:1-5.

1 Th 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

1 Th 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

1 Th 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

1 Th 5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

1 Th 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

He's going to come like a thief in the night, but He said it shouldn't overtake you because you are **children of the light**. If we really walk where God wants us too, the only desire we have is the things of God. Do you think He wrote **Matthew 6:33** just to fill up a space He needed to put a sentence or two in? **"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all of these things shall be added unto you."** See how simple it gets. I have to let the Holy Ghost explain the Word to me, and when He explains it, it's so simple. Then I realize He designed it for people like me.

God is showing us that there is **a life and a light** that we must be identified with. Why? Because the kingdom of God is a kingdom of light, and we have been translated out of the powers of darkness according to **Colossians 1:12-13**.

Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in LIGHT:

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

If we truly believe we have been translated out of the power of darkness into the Kingdom of His dear Son, the opposite of darkness is **light**. Then if I'm going to expect people to see the Kingdom of God in my life, it's going to be more than in word; it's going to be in deed. It's going to be a life lived in joy, peace, and righteousness (**Romans 14:17**). When they come to me with a bad report about the economy, or

about wars and rumors of wars, I can say, "I'll show you the newspaper, back here in Matthew." **I'm identifying with Him that was before, and is before, and will ever be.**

John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

I had a revelation from the Lord about the account of the rich man and Lazarus that I would like to share. **Luke 16:19-23** says that Lazarus died and the angels took him to the bosom of Abraham. **The angels took him!** But the rich man died and went to hell. There wasn't any angel carrying him anywhere; he just slipped right into hell. He looked up there across this great gulf that was fixed, and he could see Lazarus, he could see Abraham, and he could communicate across that gulf. The Lord spoke to my heart that men can see out of darkness into light, but you can never see out of light into darkness. That's why God can't look at sin. When a person is lost in sin, He can't look on them. God can't look into darkness, but men can always look out of darkness into light.

When I was a young man and before I was a Christian, my uncle invited me to go to hear a Baptist preacher. I don't remember anything that man preached except this: "We know that the lake of fire is literal fire. Just suppose it's a fire that you and I cannot see; it's a fire of darkness." Do you know that you can't see the hottest fires today that they can make? That's true! Many race drivers have died because they were burned to death, and you couldn't see the fire that burned them. Methanol! But there is a fire beyond that!

This preacher said that one day he was studying on hell, and he went to prayer and the Lord showed him this: Here is this beautiful, wonderful place where all the people in it are in light and they're enjoying it and they're happy and they're eternal people. Suppose hell was like this: floating around them in darkness were the spirits of men that were lost forever. They could look in and behold what they could have had, but forever it was denied to them because of their own choice, but you could look out and all you could see were the beautiful heavens. I sat there, and I wasn't even saved, and I said, "Oh God!" I **KNEW** there was something about what he was saying that was real because he was talking in reality. We don't want to be identified with that darkness. We want to be identified with **THE LIGHT**, don't we. We want to be identified with that true light. **We want to be identified with the Holy Ghost of God.**

John 1:4 IN HIM WAS LIFE; AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN.

The **LIFE** was in **HIM**; the **LIGHT** was in **HIM**. There was no eternal life in the flesh man of Jesus. He was filled with the fulness of the Godhead bodily (**Col 2:9**), but He wore a physical body just like you and I have. One day He would lay down His physical life, not His eternal life. Life never stopped existing because He died. You cannot kill that which is eternal. That's why Jesus had to be born a triune man, of His own Spirit, of His own soul, and of His own mortal body. He had to overcome Satan in the flesh. He had to condemn sin in the flesh (**Rom 8:3**), but eternal life was put in Him

and He gave that life to as many as the Father had given Him. **The Father gave Him the power to give that life to whomsoever He would, but it was not a life of the flesh; it was a life of the Spirit.**

Let's look at John 1:4-18

John 1:4 "In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

John 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

John 1:8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

I want you to underline the word "every". That's the reason the Lord could say, "In that day man shall be without excuse" (**Rom 1:18-21**). He said even those outside the law do those things that are contained within the law, their consciences either accusing them or excusing them (**Rom 2:14-15**). Every man that is born of the world has a void place in his heart; there is a witness in his spirit that he needs a God. The Christian is supposed to tell him who God really is. The witness of the Spirit of the Lord is supposed to tell men and women who God really is.

That was the true **LIGHT**, not John. John was not the true **LIGHT**. He was a witness of that true **LIGHT**. **Jesus told the disciples, "You shall tarry in Jerusalem until you be endued with power from on high, for you shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you and you shall be witnesses unto me" (Acts 1:1-8).**

Darkness never witnesses of light. Light witnesses of light. The Spirit bears witness of Spirit. Then a true witness of Christ is a witness that identifies with the **LIGHT**, identifies with the **CREATOR**, identifies with the **WORD**. But when did all those exist? When did they all exist? **IN THE BEGINNING!** You were chosen in the beginning.

This should excite your heart. You don't have to identify with some church body. That's where your flesh goes. I can go out and fellowship with someone and we can have church. I'm saying that everyone of us can have church. When we assemble together in a place that has a name on it, we're coming together unto the Lord. We're gathering together there. As we gather together unto the Lord, it doesn't make any

difference where we are. We're not to gather together in the flesh; we're to gather together in the Spirit. In the **LIGHT**, in the **LIFE**, in the **CREATOR**. **IN HIM**,

You're going to find out when you do that, you won't have any trouble submitting yourself to the authority in that church. The only time you rebel against the authority in the church is because you live in the flesh and are identified with darkness. When you identify with **LIGHT**, you thank God for the elders that the Lord has given the oversight of the flock, and you pay them honor. Whenever you rebel, Beloved, it's because your flesh is predominate in your life. It's taken the first place in your life, instead of the Spirit of God. We are all one spirit. We may be separated by thousands of miles in the flesh, but we can't be separated in the spirit. **We're one in Christ.**

So the identity with the Holy Ghost is that we have to identify in the beginning. Hallelujah! The **WORD** became flesh. The **WORD** is still becoming flesh all around the country today in the bodies of individual believers. The **WORD** should be in us, and out of this flesh body should come the Word of God. There shouldn't come murmuring, complaining, griping, arguing, striving, and envying. There should come out of us things that are pure, holy, honest, and of a good report. There should come things that build faith in our hearts. There should come things that encourage the saints of God. There should come things that will heal the sick, bind up the broken-hearted. **We ought to be identifying with the same one that was from the beginning.**

John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

John 1:10 He was in the world and the world was made by Him and the world knew Him not.

We read the Word of God like we already have preconceived ideas. Read it like it's written. Who created the world? The **WORD**! It said so just a few verses ahead of this (**John 1:1-3**). The world was made by Him. He made all things. There was nothing made that was made without Him. John is still not talking about the man Jesus, who died for your sins. He's talking about the **WORD** that was in the beginning. He's talking about the **LIFE** and the **LIGHT** that was in the beginning. Jesus Christ becomes that flesh man that will be the spotless **SAVIOUR** and **LAMB** of Calvary, that God will accept for the washing away of all our sins, by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. What he's saying we should identify with here is not the man Jesus Christ, but with the **WORD** which was in the beginning who created all things. Jesus only created sight through His physical body to blinded eyes, as He worked by the Spirit of God. John begins to have a point of identification. He identifies with the **WORD**, the **CREATOR**, **LIFE**, **LIGHT**, the true **LIGHT**.

John 1:11 He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.

He wasn't talking about the Jewish people. He continually came to men and women down through the ages from Adams fall, and tried to reveal Himself. He came

to Noah and Noah was a preacher of righteousness, and yet the world rejected the message and they were destroyed. And there were men and women that kept bringing the message of the Light of the world, and yet men loved darkness. In just two thousand years after God had created man, He had to destroy Him, because His own creation had rejected Him. Amen! Then, hallelujah, He put that **LIFE** in a place where it could be propagated through the prophets. Israel did not want that **LIGHT!** Israel did not want that Kingdom, so He put all under sin that we all might be saved through Jesus Christ.

He created it and the creation did not want Him. Everything belongs to God. The earth is His, the fulness thereof and all they that dwell therein, belongeth unto the Lord (Ps.24:1). Everything is His. He came to man, and His own creation, created in His likeness or His image, continued to reject Him. Why? Because men love darkness, rather than light. It hasn't changed over the years.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on His name:

Abraham, Joseph, Noah. One day when Jesus would rise from the dead on the day of the resurrection, they had believed on Him, and He would cause them to raise with Him. He would cause them to be emptied out of Paradise, and cause them to be brought forth, and now they are called the spirits of just men made perfect (**Hebrews 12:23**). Here the word says He was not unfaithful to forget their works of righteousness. They had believed on Him. They had waited on Him, and when He rose, hallelujah, they rose with Him.

Joseph believed in God. He believed that a redeemer would come one day, and when the children of Israel were going to leave Egypt, he said, "Don't leave my bones here. Take my bones over there with you (**Gen. 50:25; Heb.11:22**). I want to be there, because when He is dead and buried and raised again, I want to be raised with Him." That's exactly the desire that he had, that his bones would be transferred over into that location where he knew, by faith, that the Lord would come. He knew by faith that a redeemer would come. He knew by faith that there would be one that would come to redeem him, just as Job and other men did.

But since the cross, glory to God, there is a personage of the Holy Ghost here, a presence of all that God is, dwelling in us, teaching us to identify with Him that is from the beginning!

In man's time he identifies in days, and seasons, and years. In God we identify in the eternal realms. We are eternal people. We are not 50, 60, or 70 years old; that's the house we wear. We're going to get rid of it. We're going to get a new one, not made with hands, reserved for us in heaven (**2 Cor 5:1**). We have been given one another and made family by the Spirit of God through the blood of Jesus, and we are an eternal family. We are an eternal being, and therefore the conscious effort we put forth

should not be to take care of the flesh man. It should be to take care of that family we are joined to, but we can't do that unless we're identified with an eternal Father.

We can't really do that as long as we're worrying about what it's going to cost us. We can't really take care of one another if it's going to cost us too much. Aren't you glad that Jesus said, "It doesn't cost too much, Father." Aren't you glad that while you were dead in your sins and trespasses, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, Jesus Christ came, gave Himself a ransom, paid a price that you and I could not pay and satisfied the debt. **That's the kind of identification we need today in the spirit: "Father, the price is not too great to pay for one another."**

John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

I've got a flesh body that was born of the will of my Dad and Mom, but I've got an eternal body that they didn't have anything to do with. No matter how pretty they made this one, it can't compare to that one. **He gave me beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning (Isa.61:3).** We ought to get happy! Hallelujah!

Somebody said, "How come you can dance?" Because my spirit dances! My spirit dances when I realize that I'm not identified with this world. **I'm identified with Him that is from the beginning.** I don't need music. I've got a song in my heart. I've got a dance in my feet. I'll tell you something else: you keep jumping, and dancing, and shouting long enough, arthritis doesn't have a chance to catch you. God is saying that we need to come to a place where we're flexible in God, where He can shape us, mold us, and make us what He wants us to be. That's simple, isn't it.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh...

Here finally comes our Lord Jesus Christ on the scene, but it was the same **Word** that was with the Father in the beginning. It was the same **Word** that spoke the worlds into existence. It was the same **Word** that created all things. It was the same **Word** that was a true **LIGHT** and the **LIFE**.

Enoch found it before Jesus came. He just walked along one day with the Lord and he was tired of living here anyway, (365 years was long enough), and the word says, "He was not, for God took him" (**Gen. 5:24**). God took him because he had a testimony that pleased God. He was a preacher of righteousness. **"And he was not!" Why? Because he identified with Him which was, and which is, and which will ever be from the beginning. He wasn't waiting; he was possessing. He wasn't talking; he was living. He was identifying every day of his life, and it pleased God.**

Don't you realize that it pleases God when you identify with **His Word**. Don't you know it pleases Him when we pray the prayer of faith. It pleases Him when we confess **His Word**, and not only confess it but live it, and enjoy it, and walk around telling

somebody else about it. Wouldn't that be something, someday just to be preaching the Word of God, and start walking with the Lord and just walk on out of the room! **HALLELUJAH!**

THE LORD HATH BROUGHT TO US IN THIS DAY, AND IN THIS HOUR, THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING IDENTIFIED WITH HIM WHICH IS FROM THE BEGINNING.

So now we see Jesus:

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

There's an identification point here. If He was full of grace and truth, then we ought to be full of grace and truth. If we are like Him, as the **Word** declares that we're to be, then out of us should come grace and truth. We talk about being full of miracle power. Part of the miracle power is having grace when you need it, and telling the truth when everybody wants you to lie, including yourself. Paul writes to the Ephesian church and tells them to speak the truth in love (**Eph.4:15**). Speaking the truth in love! The flesh man says, "Well, it'll be more convenient for you and less harmful for you right now, if you'll just kind of bend it a little." Isn't it funny we never tell lies anymore; we bend it a little. **You can't bend the truth; it breaks. It becomes a lie the minute you try to bend it.**

This was a man they couldn't comprehend, and the reason they couldn't comprehend Him was because He didn't fit anything they knew. He didn't lie when it was convenient. He had grace and mercy. He had the attributes of a man they'd never seen before that would have mercy and compassion on the sick, the lame, the halt, the blind, the leper, and everybody else. Everybody He came to, the demon possessed, whoever it was, grace was there to cover the need, and when He spoke the truth it liberated them.

What do you think liberated that adulterous woman when they bought her to Jesus. Here's all her accusers with the rocks, and they've got the law. Boy, they knew how to handle this situation. They're going to take care of this sinning woman. They start rolling out all their accusations according to the law, "The law says this and this; what do you say?" Jesus didn't say anything. He starts writing on the ground. All of them just dropped their rocks when He said **"He that is without sin, let him cast the first stone."** I don't think they threw them down. I think they just dropped them real easy and walked out. He looked around and He said, "Where are your accusers?" "Lord, I have none." He said, **"Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more" (John 8:1-12).**

Don't you know that put in her heart a love for that man, to follow that man even to the end of the world. He was the first compassionate person that she'd ever run

across. She had the priests, she had the scribes, she had the lawyers, and all they could do was condemn her, but **here came a man that had His arms out to her, and said, "Come and follow me; go and sin no more."**

The church has got a lot of rocks in it's hands, you know, just looking for someone to pop. Our hands ought to be filled with the love of God, the healing power of Jesus. The church ought to be walking in that kind of grace and truth today instead of condemning everything everybody's doing, condemning people. They ought to be walking around saying, "Come, let us follow the Lord together. Thy sins be forgiven thee. I don't accuse you. I don't condemn you. I've got no rocks to throw at you." This man Jesus did not fit anything they did, and the Christian ought not to fit anything the world can understand. The Christian gets identified with being religious. Religious can be anything, Buddha, Mohammed. Sooner or later everybody that's religious gets in trouble. They've got to kill somebody to make it look good on their side.

I'll tell you something: they could nail the love of God to a cross and He would still have enough grace in Him to say, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). He knew the truth in His heart, that He would die for them, be separated from the Father, but on the third day, He would be raised again. Hallelujah! The truth that set Him free (John 8: 32). Amen!

I want you to identify with that. Underline it in your Bible and see how much of your life really identifies with this. See if you're really identifying with the Holy Ghost in your life.

John 1:15: John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: (and then he makes a great statement) for He was before me.

"Oh, wait a minute, John, you're six months older according to the flesh birth." But here he says **"He was before me." John was not identifying with the flesh man. He was identifying with the Spirit. "I didn't know Him, but He that sent me to baptize, told me that upon whom the Spirit of God would descend and abide would be Him. And He would baptize you with the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and with fire" (John 1:33; Matt 3:11; Luke 3:16).**

Here is another point of identification. Before your flesh body existed, **He** always existed. Before your flesh body ever was created, you were with **Him**. We try to relate everything to our flesh realm, and nothing relates right. We have a momentary success, but it falls apart. Our program works for a season but it comes to nothing, but **God's program was perfect from the beginning through the end. It has no flaws in it.**

So John said, **"He that cometh after me was before me."** Jesus would later on say a statement that amounted to something like this when He talked to the religious group. He said, **"Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58).** That was a dangerous thing to say, because that was the one that sent Moses down to deliver the great nation

of Israel. **"Who shall I say sent me?" (Exo.3:14) "I AM has sent thee."** Here was a man in a mortal body saying, **"I AM."** He wasn't ashamed of it. He didn't think it robbery to be like His Father, to be equal to His Father (**Phil. 2:6**). He had a mind in Him that identified Him with the Father. That mind **WAS** in Him, and it is still here today **IN Us (Phil 2:5)**. We should be able to identify with our heavenly Father, and not be ashamed of being His children. He said, **"Before Abraham was, I AM."**

Did you ever notice how Jesus never identified with the flesh. He called His mother "Woman" (**John 2:1-4**). He told John the beloved, "Behold your mother" (**John 19:27**). Jesus identified with the Father. You and I should identify with the Father. We should identify with the Spirit of the living God and quit identifying with the weakness and the pride of flesh. Amen! But it got Him in trouble, didn't it. It got Him killed.

It got Paul in trouble a few times. Paul never went looking for the greatest hotel to stay in. He just went down and looked at the prison, because by nightfall he'd be in there. Sooner or later that's where he was going to end up, right there in that jail house. But he didn't care; he was dead anyhow. What can you do to a dead man? You can throw him around, you can mistreat him, you can abuse, him, but he doesn't live there. Paul was free. He was never bound. He had chains on his body, but he said, "I'm in prison, but I'm free." He was communicating with the Father all the time.

They had him down in prison beaten, stripped, blood running everywhere, but his identity was with **"I AM."** His identity was with Him that is from the beginning. He began to sing with old Silas, and praise God, and the Lord shook the jail house, and opened the prison doors (**Acts 16:22-26**). Why? Because the man dared to identify with God. He didn't cry out and send for the best lawyers you could find, didn't beg for mercy, just went boldly down there and said, "Here, put them on me. I've been here before." Then he began to praise God.

I'm saying to you, you need to begin to identify with the **"I AM."** I want you to **identify**, then you aren't really going to worry about your old flesh, what shape it's in, what shape it might be in. You see, He was pre-existent.

John 1:16 And of His fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

Let's look at Eph 1:20-23

Eph 1:20 Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places,

Eph 1:21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

***Eph 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church,
Eph 1:23 Which is his body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.***

The church is the one that contains the fulness of God, and we are not to identify with the emptiness of this world, but the fulness of God. Not the weakness of this world, but the power of God. We're not to identify with somebody that was, we're to identify with somebody that is. When Jesus said, "I Am," He didn't say, "I used to be, or I will be." Hallelujah!

We are the Church. Pauls' prayer for the Church is that we might be filled with all the fulness of God, until we become conformed to His image. He is talking about identification of the Holy Ghost of God, the eternal Spirit of the Lord that wants to abide in residence in us and bring to focus through us all the things that God is to this world. You might think you've got to have a pulpit. No, if you can't live it outside the Church, don't preach it in the Church. If you aren't living it out there where it is needed, don't testify about it. People out there need the **I AM**. People out there need to hear the story. People out there need to see some overcoming lives.

When we come together, it's to gather unto Him and just magnify Him and glorify Him, and get our spirits saturated with His presence. Then we will go out filled up, and charged up, and take off down to the battle line, wielding that sword of the Spirit, which is the **Word of God**. Satan runs in all the bushes trying to get away from you, and you start to chop the bushes down looking for him, not running from him, but looking for him. Loosing the captives, setting them free.

Men get up and preach fear doctrines in the church. "You've got to be careful; you've got to be afraid; you've got to get this; you're going to have that." God said, "I'm going to give you the **I AM** to dwell in you. **I AM** going to dwell in you. **I AM** going to do it. **I AM** going to live in you." Hallelujah! It all depends on what you're identified with.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses...

All man can ever give you is the law.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

A lot of people are preaching a lot of law. Not many are preaching **grace and truth**. I'm praying that every minister, every member of the body of Christ, will start showing the world grace and truth. Underline that. Start showing the beautiful liberty that's in Christ Jesus to worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness; not because we've got a law that says we have to, but because we've got a heart that wants to. Don't raise your hands because you have to; raise your hands because you want to. Don't dance because you have to, but dance because you want to. Don't sing because you have to; sing because you want to. Don't tell somebody about Jesus because you have to; tell

them about Jesus because you want to. **There ought to be a "want to" in you. There ought to be a desire consulting you to show the great things of God.** And if you can bring to the law, under the law, the Spirit of God, and grace, and truth, those things which identify with **grace and truth** become a transgressor" (Gal 2:18). Paul had one fear and he said these words: **"I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Cor 9:27).** What was he preaching to others? He was preaching the glorious liberty of Jesus Christ. He was preaching the blood atonement. He was preaching that Jesus had paid the full price. But there was the law, tempting him always to come back under its' form of godliness, under its' beauty, under all that it had esteemed in the eyes of men. The law still had a great esteem at that time. The law had a great place in the Jewish nation at that hour, and Paul was outside that law. He was preaching the **Word of God** in power, but there was always that tempting desire to go back again to it.

It's the same way with a lot of us. We get liberated out of a religious situation, and our flesh says, "You were comfortable back there. Here there aren't many of you. Back there there's a whole bunch. Your flesh can perform it. Here it has to be by the spirit."

"Better get back under there, Paul. You can take the knowledge you've got, but put it under the law." He wasn't afraid of wild women; he wasn't afraid of drink. The one thing that made fear in his heart, was that he would become a flesh man again, to live in the law, and try to bring that grace under it. Peter was withstood to the face by Paul who said, "You couldn't live it; we couldn't live it. What makes you think they can? What are you trying to do, bringing these men under the law?" (Gal 2:11-16). A lot of times you're bold in areas where you're afraid you're going to go back into. You have to be. That's your protection.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

John 1:18 No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.

If He is the head of the Church, and He declared the Father, then we ought to begin to do some declaring ourselves. We ought to identify with the **I AM**. We ought to go out as trumpets of God, the voice of God, the very oracles of God, and begin to tell men and women, "There is a good way, there is a right way, there is a pleasing way. There is a place where you can know God through the power of Jesus Christ's blood and through the Spirit of the Lord." Personal relationship. Jesus always declared a personal relationship. **He said, " My Father and I are One (John 10:30). I don't do these things of myself, but of My Father. He showeth Me the things to do"(John 5:19).**

Instead of trying to bring an old priesthood up and trying to modify it and rectify it, and put it in a good light, Jesus didn't want a man between Himself and God. **He**

wanted only to have Jesus there, that we could come to the Father directly through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. That we could take an identifying mark here of the Father and I, We are One (Jn.17:21-23).. Hallelujah! He hath moved into me, and He and I are one. I'm not going to wait until I get out of this body to enjoy the presence of God. I'm going to enjoy it while I'm in it. When I shout, I'm going to make it shout. When I want to raise my hand, I'm going to make it raise its' hands. **It's the temple of the Holy Ghost.**

**Jesus wants us to have a personal relationship.
Man could never declare and still cannot declare God.
It takes the Spirit!**

Jesus said, "No man cometh unto me except the Father draw him"(John 6:44).

JESUS SAID, "WHOM SAY YE THAT I AM?" AND PETER SAID, "THOU ART THE CHRIST,THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD." AND JESUS SAID, "BLESSED ART THOU, SIMON BARJONA: FOR FLESH AND BLOOD HATH NOT REVEALED IT UNTO YOU, BUT MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN." (MATT. 16:15-17).

If you're saved, you should be so excited you can hardly stand yourself. You weren't saved because somebody revealed Jesus to you. You were saved because the Spirit of God, maybe through the preaching of the **Word**, maybe through the witness of men and women to you, but it still was the Spirit of God that revealed Christ to you. Jesus had to have Himself revealed to men by the Spirit. It was an identification mark declaring God.

What do we declare? Famine, earthquakes, bad news? That isn't God. I'm going to declare His righteousness, His peace, His joy. I want to declare His salvation. I want to declare His mercy and His judgments forever. **David said, "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever" (Psalm 89:1).** He also said, **"I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto Thee, O Lord, will I sing" (Ps. 101:1).** I hear people singing, "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing." I have never heard anybody sing, "I will sing of the **judgments** of the Lord forever." The judgments are Gods' decisions for us. We need to identify with His judgments and His decisions, and do that which is right.

Let's look at Psalm 19: 9-11.

Psa 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the JUDGMENTS of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

Psa 19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Psa 19:11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

**JESUS WAS THE CONVEYOR OF GRACE AND TRUTH.
HE WAS THE DECLARER OF GOD.**

Let's look at John 1:29.

Here is something else about Jesus that we should be identifying with the Spirit of God.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming unto him, and sayeth, Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Now He is called the **LAMB OF GOD**. The **LAMB** had a purpose. He was going to be a sacrifice, just as He has been down through the typology of the law.

(**Typology** = Dict. = the doctrine or study of types or symbols, especially those of Scripture).

I want you to notice something about this. John the Baptist had a heritage given to him after the flesh. He rightfully could have gone into the temple and offered those sacrifices which he was really ordained to do in the natural. His father was Zacharias the priest, and his lineage was to continue in the old religious ways to offer up sacrifices. But what did he choose? He chose the wilderness. He had on his camel's skin, ate locusts and wild honey (**Matt 3:4; Mark 1:6**), and was in the wilderness until the day of his showing forth.

The church has been in the wilderness. Religion has done all kinds of things, but there is a true people coming out today from the wilderness. The only thing they're going to want to do is to magnify the Lord and to make the announcement, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**" (**Mt.3:2;4:17**). So John chose a better priesthood but he still functioned in the role of a priest. Jesus had to be offered up by the old priesthood. The Lamb of God was presented to John the Baptist, who in the natural was of the old priesthood, but in the spirit was of the new priesthood. He offered up that Lamb before the whole congregation of Israel and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (**Jn.1:29**), and they still didn't know Him. They had gotten so locked up in their traditions and in their doctrines.

Jesus never bypassed the law. He fulfilled every jot and tittle. He took care of every commandment of the law, and the law said that He had to be washed, and He had to be presented. But it wasn't man's lamb this time. It wasn't something that somebody else had grown. It was Gods' own dear Son, His Lamb, without spot, without blemish, without wrinkle. Hallelujah! He was offered up that day, and from that day on He suffered at the hands of men. From that day on He

was rejected, He was spit on, He was cursed, He was called all sorts of names, He was blasphemed against. He came to His own and they offered Him up to die.

We need to be like a lamb. We need to have that kind of meekness about us. "Do with me whatever you want to do, but the **Word** is still the truth. Put me in prison if you will, but the truth will still be the truth. Nail me to the cross if you will, but the truth will still be the truth."

Jesus Christ fulfilled the law in this area. He was washed in the water. He was presented to the congregation of Israel. So this is an **identification** that we all need today. Let the world think what it will. Let the world do what it will, but let us become like sheep in His pasture.

Paul said, "**We are killed all the day long, we're accounted as sheep for the slaughter**" (Romans 8:36), so Paul had an identification with Him that he was dead with Him and buried with Him. There was a new man risen walking around, and that new man longed to be free from the skin, from the flesh, from that which separated him from the very fulness of Gods' presence. Paul said, "**It is better to be absent from this body and to be present with the Lord**" (II Cor.5:8), but it is needful for you that I remain" (Phil. 1:23-24).

You've got to identify with the fact that you can't go back under the law. You can't go back under the flesh realm. Jesus fulfilled it. There's no door now. Jesus nailed it to the cross with Him.

Let's look at Colossians 2:12-15.

Col 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Col 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Col 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

The hand-writing of ordinances that were against us, He destroyed them, triumphing over them openly. The fulness of the Godhead bodily, standing there by Jordan, putting Himself into the hand of the priesthood, presenting Himself, and letting

Himself be buried in the water and washed. Then having the announcement made over Him that He was the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. It excites me when I realize that He did it for me. Praise God! He did it for you.

Notice the things that He's already been called that we're to identify with. **GOD WITH US**, the **WORD**, the **CREATOR**, **LIFE**, **LIGHT**, the **TRUE LIGHT**, **PRE-EXISTENT**, the **CONVEYOR OF GRACE AND TRUTH**, the **DECLARER OF GOD**, and the **LAMB OF GOD**.

You say, "Well, I lost my identity." He's got plenty here to be identified with. Nothing in this world that you can identify with in one point, will ever reach anything that God will identify you with in Himself.

Let's go to John 1:30-32

John 1:30 This is He of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for He was before me.

John 1:31 And I knew Him not: but that He should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

John 1:32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon Him.

There's an identification mark we ought to have. While He was in a natural body, the Spirit of the Lord descended and abode upon Him. **Acts 2:1-4** says that on the day of Pentecost, when His time was fully come, they were all in one place in one accord; and the whole house wherein they were seated was filled with the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and tongues of cloven fire sat upon their heads. There was an outward work of the Spirit of God putting them together, sealing them in the Spirit, identifying them with this same identification.

Isaiah 60:1 "Arise and shine, for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."

Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:14 the fulfillment of that prophecy.

Eph 5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

A Christian that's walking around in darkness isn't a Christian. Light can't walk in darkness. It just runs away from it. I've got to turn off the light to get in darkness. I can't take the **LIGHT** into the darkness. It won't work! All the darkness leaves, and everytime I go for it, it just goes.

John 1:33 And I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is He which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

Matt 3:11 says "With the Holy Ghost and with fire." John said, "When you see this man, know something: there's going to be a new baptism, there's going to be a new presence. There's going to be a spirit that will dwell in men."

I want us to look at John 3:1-2. I want you to see how close error is to truth. Nicodemus was pretty close to right.

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

John 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto Him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with Him.

He only made one mistake. God wasn't WITH Jesus; He was IN Him. God isn't WITH the Christian; He's IN him. "My Father and I, we will come and take our abode up within you" (John 14:23).

You see, this was a new dispensation of grace and truth that the world didn't know anything about. The religious world had become so corrupt they'd even lost the types and shadows of His coming. They had lost the reality of God. Jesus had come to bring that reality to all men, but not a God that was afar off that could not be touched with the feeling of our infirmities.

We have a High Priest now. He can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities, for He was tempted in all points even as we are tempted, yet without sin (**Heb 4:15**) that He might succour us in the hour of our temptation (**Heb 2:18**). How close is **IN** you? That's closer than **WITH** you. That's why He told you, "There's a new time here; the end of all the sacrifices has come. The end of the blood offering of bulls, and bullocks, and goats, and pigeons, and lambs. That's all over. Here's one final sacrifice that I will accept. This is the final sacrifice for sin that I will ever accept." So all the sacrifices we make, like trying to do penitence for sin, is wrong. We must repent and ask forgiveness and accept the blood of that sacrifice.

Let me tell you something about things that are eternal. They never lose their power. The blood of Jesus is as powerful today as it was when it was shed. The blood of Jesus is just as strong and sufficient now for all men as it was that day on Calvary. I am saved not because of any law of man. I am saved by the grace and the truth and the blood of Jesus Christ.

I want to identify with this man that stood in that river that day. I want the Spirit of the Lord upon me, as Jesus said in **Isaiah** and **Luke**.

Isa 61:1 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Isa 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

Isa 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Luke 4:19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

AMEN!

IDENTIFICATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Chapter 2

In Chapter 1 we saw that Jesus had become the **LAMB OF GOD**; that He was the very representation of God's sacrifice. Today, we're going to start with **John 1:32-33**. I want to show you something here.

John 1:32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

John 1:33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which BAPTIZETH WITH THE HOLY GHOST.

John said, "He will baptize you with the Holy Ghost," so He takes on another title, doesn't He. He takes on the **BAPTIZER**. The Lord is the only one who can baptize you with the Holy Ghost. He's the only one that has the right and the authority and the office of baptizing you with the Holy Ghost. So look at the identification that we've already found out. He said you are identified with **GOD**, the **WORD**, the **CREATOR**, **LIFE**, **LIGHT**, **TRUE LIGHT**, the **PRE-EXISTENT** one, the **CONVEYOR of GRACE and TRUTH**, the **DECLARER OF GOD**, the **LAMB OF GOD**, and the **BAPTIZER in the HOLY GHOST**. He said, "You have an identity."

We've always tried to identify with God from this side of the cross. We've had a problem. **Our problem is WE'VE IDENTIFIED GOD WITH US**. We've identified God with what we look like or what we are in the natural. He is limited to a realm of what we are, what we have, or what we can do, but that's not what God said. **WE ARE TO IDENTIFY WITH HIM. WE'RE TO TAKE ON HIS LIKENESS. WE'RE TO BE LIKE HIM**. He's not going to become like us; we're supposed to be like Him. So we need to have an identity then with a God that's bigger than flesh, a God that's bigger than self, a God that's bigger than the world.

We found out that our identity is with the **CREATOR**, and through that we become creators. We become creators through Him, and we can create new sight in eyes, we can create new limbs, we can create whatever is needed, yet it is the same Spirit in us that was in Christ Jesus doing the mighty works that He did. Our identity needs to be **IN HIM**.

I'd like you to go to **2 Corinthians, 5th chapter**. There is something that we really need to get into our heart more than we do in our head, and get it down in there and really begin to operate in it. We always quote the 17th verse:

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

That is a truth, but it is a truth that needs a foundation, and the foundation happens to be in the 16th verse.

2 Cor 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

We don't know **Him** after the flesh any longer. Many of us have know **Him** as the **HEALER**, many of us have known **Him** as the **PROVIDER**, many have known **Him** as the **SAVIOUR**, but those are flesh realms. He wants you to know **Him** as the **LORD**. He wants you to be identified with **Him** as the **LORD**. He wants you to identify with **Him** as the **GOD of HEAVEN AND EARTH**. Therefore, we must no longer know **Him** after the flesh. You cannot know other people in the spirit unless you know God in the Spirit. It takes the Spirit of God in you revealing what kind of a spirit you're dealing with.

We need to have a revelation of God in what He really is, not in what we are. We have brought God down into a place that we identify in such a way that He's identified with us. We are in His likeness so He's in our likeness. We're in His image, so He's in our image. "Poor little me; I can't do anything." **But when we begin to identify the other way around, that we're identified WITH GOD, we're identified with everything that He is, then nothing becomes impossible. All things become possible. We have a God then that can do the impossible.**

Instead of us looking at situations, and saying, "Well, I can't do it because I don't have the resources," we say, **"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me (Phil.4:13). I am born of the same Spirit He is of. I am born of the same Spirit that Jesus Christ was raised with. I am born of the same Spirit that created the heavens and the earth. I am of the Spirit of God. I am His child. I am part of God."**

Don't bring God down into your realm and say, "Well, God's part of me." That's just about how we walk around doing it, and then we can't do anything. **Let's become a part of God. He's not ashamed of us. He's not ashamed that we are His children. It's time that we begin and say, "Hey, I'm a part of God. I am part of the great I AM, just like Jesus said, I AM."** God was His Father. He was not ashamed of Him, and the Father was not ashamed of Jesus, so they worked together in perfect harmony. When the Father told Him something to do, He just did it without any effort, without any trying, without any putting forth of His own ability. He yielded Himself to the Father, and the Father flowed through Him.

How much effort do you think it took on the part of God to create the world? How much do you think it took on the part of God to create the trees? **HE SPOKE!** That was it! **HE SPOKE!** We try to work up everything to get in a religious type relationship with God, where we're good enough for God to use us, where we are by our own abilities going to be used of God.

He said, "When you identify with Me, and let Me work through you, I will use you no matter what you are in the natural. I will use you." That's the kind of identification that we need today.

Then we find in **John 1:38** another identifying mark that we need to understand.

John1:38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

There was a desire in their heart to know who He was, and to know where He dwelt, that they might come and abide with Him. These were physical men that followed Him but they could never really identify with Him. Peter could never identify with the Lord, and he never really lied when he said that he did not know the man (**Matt 26:74; Mark14:71**). He was telling the truth. He didn't **KNOW** Him. He did not know that man. He really didn't believe that Jesus was ever going to die. All he could know of Jesus was after the flesh, a **MIRACLE WORKER**, a **HEALER**, a **DELIVERER**; someone used greatly of God, but surely not one that was going to hang on the cross. Not somebody that was going to die, and yet Jesus had told him again and again. He said, "You don't understand it now but the Holy Ghost is going to tell it to you. He'll explain it to you, and when it comes to pass, you'll understand what I'm saying to you now" (**John 14:26,15:26,16:13**). Peter denied Him, but he never lied about it. **He didn't KNOW Him.**

A lot of us don't really **know Him** like we ought to know Him. We still are identifying with the Jesus of the cross, the grave, and the resurrection. That was the **LAMB OF GOD**. That was the manifestation of God's love toward us, that His Son would die for us. I cannot die for anyone. You cannot die for anyone. **So if we're going to identify with Him, we have to identify with someone beyond and before He physically came upon earth. We must identify with Him which is from the beginning.** We saw in **I John 2:12-14**, we must identify with the fullness of God; not only His Christ, but we must identify with **ALL** that God is. We must be that Kingdom people that are the fullness of God (**Ephesians 1:23**).

So in **John 1:38** they say **He is the MASTER, He is the RABBI, He is the TEACHER.** Surely they realized something we need to realize: this man spoke as no man ever spoke before. He had words to speak that weren't like a scribe or a Pharisee, or someone just repeating something. **When He would speak, the words were Spirit and they were Life. They were words of Life that would raise the dead. They were**

words of Life that would cause the blind to see. They were words of Creation that would cause the lame to walk and leap for joy. And Jesus said, "These works that I do and greater shall you do because I go to be with my Father" (John 14:12). But there's very few people even doing anything near what He did because we're trying to identify with the wrong Christ. Jesus didn't do it of Himself; He identified with the Father.

We're to identify with the Father. We're to be identified with our Father God in such a way that Jesus Christ is glorified in us wherever we go.

Jesus never limited God. He didn't limit Him to a flesh body. He used that body to cause the power of God to flow in every direction that He wanted it to flow. If you and I would identify with the God of heaven and earth, the **CREATOR** of heaven and earth, we could walk around just like Jesus did and the power of God could be channeled wherever God wanted it to go through us.

We talk about miracles, we talk about healings, we talk about all these things and they're good and wonderful, but they should be just a common ordinary thing in our lives. You shouldn't be amazed when the sick get healed; you should be amazed when they don't get healed. You should glorify God when they're healed, because God said you will lay your hands on the sick and they **SHALL** recover.

Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Mark 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they SHALL recover.

We've identified with failure more than we have success. **God always succeeds. God never fails.**

John 1:40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

John 1:41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is being interpreted, the Christ.

He had something to say, and we need to have something to say. A revelation of truth, not only of **the MESSIAH** now, but He's called **the CHRIST**. Notice the things He's called already: **the WORD, the CREATOR, LIFE, LIGHT, the TRUE LIGHT, PRE-EXISTENT, CONVEYOR OF GRACE AND TRUTH, DELIVERER OF GOD, LAMB OF GOD, the BAPTIZER IN THE HOLY GHOST, the RABBI, the MESSIAH.** He's called all of these things. They were revelations of truth given to men by God, but they only knew Him in part. One knew Him as the **CHRIST**, one knew Him as the

MESSIAH, one knew Him as the LAMB OF GOD, one knew Him as the DECLARER OF GOD, but He is not that to us. **He is ALL of that and more, and He has given His fullness to you and me. He has given the fullness of His Spirit and His love to the body of Christ, and He has given every member a portion. He's given every member a fullness of His revelation toward Himself.**

When we identify with just a healer, we identify with just the miracle worker. We identify with just someone to provide for us. We're not doing God justice. We're not doing the body of Christ justice. When all you do is go out and preach healing, or you go out and preach miracles, or you go out and preach deliverance, you're preaching only a portion of Jesus Christ. You're preaching only a portion of God, and pretty soon people follow that portion, and that's all they ever see. If you can't agree with them because you have another portion, they separate themselves. The healers go one way, the miracle workers and the prosperity workers go other ways, and they're all true; but in the Kingdom of God they're all together, and the fullness of that dwells in the Church.

We do a tremendous misjustice to our God when we split Him up. We should declare the whole counsel of God (**Acts 20:27**). When we have put God in the primary place where He belongs in our lives, and we have sought the Lord with all of our heart and with all of our strength, then when somebody needs a healing, the presence of God will just flow there and touch him. The miracle will just flow there and touch him. Why? Because we're not putting a partial Christ there. This helped me years ago when I was preaching miracles. I really thought that what people needed was a miracle, but the Lord rebuked me one night when I was praying. He said, "I want you to preach **ALL** of **ME**, not part of **ME**. You're splitting **MY** body up. You're dividing **MY** people. You've got them chasing after miracles whenever you come into town."

I'm not against those things. I'm for them because they're truth, but we're going to have to come to the identity with God for whatever your need is, God is here to meet it. He will take care of it, and when you go out, you will go out whole, whether it's a financial need, whether it's a miracle, whether it's a healing, or whether it's salvation. Whatever is needed in that body will be fully met and everybody that is seeking the Lord will be satisfied.

John 1:42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be call Cephas, which is by interpretation, A Stone.

John 1:43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow Me.

There was a drawing by Jesus, wasn't there. These men were going to leave good trades to follow Him. When you start identifying with God, there are going to be men and women that are going to want to follow you because you've got something they don't have, and part of them will have a revelation. Part of them will know that **He is CHRIST**. Part of them will know **He's MESSIAH**. Part of them will know **He's a**

TEACHER. Part of them will know this and part will know that, and they'll want to be with you all the time. Don't discourage them but begin to show them the identification with God, that everything you do is by God and for God.

Soon you'll get some people that have been washed away from all of their foolishness, and they've come into a oneness with the Lord and with His Christ. They begin to do the same thing and it's repeated over and over around the world. That's why He said, **"Go ye therefore and teach all nations (or make disciples)..." (Matthew 28:19).** He expected them to go out in such an identity that people would know they were from God. They weren't building their own kingdom; they were building the Kingdom of God. They weren't building their own ministry; they were taking the ministry of the Holy Ghost of God out into the world.

No matter what you do, you're going to draw the kind of people you are to yourself. You will always have people around you that are just like you. If people backbite, murmur, and complain, that's an identity mark, and they're always identified with backbiters, murmurers, and complainers. That's the only kind of people that'll stay around them. If you're a God person, the only kind of people that are going to stay around you very long are God persons. That's why it's so important to have the identity today. That's why it's so important to be identified with the **CREATOR**, to **be identified with Him that is from the beginning**; to be identified in such a way that men and women can follow you as you follow the Lord. Paul said, **"Follow me as I follow the Lord" (I Corinthians 11:1).** He was so identified with God, he said, **"This is my gospel" (1 Thess 1:5).** He could do that, because he believed it.

Let's look at John 1:49.

John 1:49 Nathanael answered and saith unto Him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

Isn't that amazing! "Thou art the Son of God..."

Peter said it, **"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matthew 16:16).** You'd think these men really had a revelation, wouldn't you. What happened at the cross? None of them stayed with Him. They had a carnal revelation. They didn't have a spirit revelation. If you're only identified through a natural sense realm, if you're only identified through a mind realm of the natural, when you get in a hard place you're not going to know what's going on. You're going to become confused, and your identity is going to be messed up. That's why it is only by the Spirit of God that you can identify with God, for God is a Spirit. **"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth" (John 4:24),** so if we're going to have an identity at all with Him, it must be by the spirit.

You can't follow Christ with your flesh. You'd be offended every time you turned around. Every time they called you a fanatic, you would be offended. The Word of God says, **"Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend**

them"(Psalm 119:165). That's an identity mark. Jesus was not offended. **Jesus told us, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you (John 15:18). Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh" (Matt 18:7).** Jesus knew they were going to do it to them.

The revelation that Nathanael or Peter had wasn't enough, was it? The identity mark they had wasn't enough to make them stand when the trial came. They had to have something beyond the revelation of Him even being the Christ, or the Anointed one of God, and so do we. Salvation becomes yours when the revelation of this is given to you, that **"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God."** That you were dead, and now you are alive (**Eph 2:5-6**). That's salvation but it doesn't give us a lot of strength of identification.

There are a lot of good brothers and sisters stumbling and falling all over the place, arguing with one another, fighting with one another, over how great their ministries are. "Well, I'm following this one, and I'm following that one." **Why don't we follow Jesus? Why don't we follow the CHRIST?** When you really **identify with God**, personalities don't mean anything. Everybody is the same in God. We've identified in such a way that if you've got something to say, praise God, I'll give you the platform. I don't have to have my time. It's God's time.

So if these men who had that kind of a revelation could not stand, how do you think you and I are going to stand in this last great day. If we fainted in the day of the foot soldier, how are we going to do it in the horseman? How can we contend in a day when the greater strength is poured out. **We're going to have to have an identification with Him which is from the beginning.** We're going to have to press into more of God than just having a salvation experience. That doesn't give you much of an identification that you need today in this world. **You're going to have to have an identification that knows Him not only as the SON OF GOD, not only as the CHRIST, but you're going to have to know Him as the LORD (I Cor 12:3). When you know Him as the LORD, that means that every area of your life is being perfected into His likeness.**

Wasn't it wonderful how the Samaritan woman, with the revelation she had, brought a whole city to Jesus. All she had was this fact, **"Come, see a man who told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" (John 4:29).** The revelation, if you get one, will really do something. When you have an identification with God it will do something for you. In these last great days, the last move of God, it's going to be so beyond anything we can think or imagine right now, that we're going to have to be identified with Him, because Kings and Rulers are going to be sent to us. Those in need are going to be sent to us for an answer (**Isaiah 60:1-5**), and it's going to have to be more than a doctrine. It's going to have to be more than our physical being. It's going to have to be a Christ-like man living in us that knows the Father and is identified with Him from the beginning. A Christ-like man that can say, "My Father said..; It is written..." That will be it. There won't be any of this discourse of big doctrines and

arguments of why you ought to believe, arguments on why you ought not to believe. It'll be a people that are molded and shaped together, loving and rejoicing in one another, and they will be identified with God. **They will be a God people. They will be that people who shall know their God and they shall be strong and they shall do exploits (Daniel 11:32).**

Know is a word that we use like "I know this brother and I know that sister," but in Hebrew it's an intimate relationship. **Knowing, having a relationship with God.** In Hebrew they used that expression for propagating the race, that this man knew his wife and they had children (**Gen 4:1,17,25**). **It's the same way with God:"They will know their God." They will have an intimate relationship, and they will reproduce. They will bring forth, they will replenish, they will be the people that will finish the commission God gave to Adam and Noah, to be fruitful and to multiply and to replenish the earth (Genesis 1:28; 9:1). They will be a God people.**

In John 2:9, Jesus takes on a new attribute.

John 2:9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, he knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

John 2:10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

John 2:11 THIS BEGINNING OF MIRACLES DID JESUS in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

He begins to be known now as **the MIRACLE WORKER**. You would think His disciples would begin to get a picture here, but they didn't because the prophets worked miracles. The only miracle Jesus did while He walked upon the earth in His flesh body that had never been done before, was to open the eyes of the one born blind (**John 9:1-11; 32**). That is the only miracle Jesus did that's recorded in the Word of God, that says He did what no other man had done, so the miracles didn't prove much of anything to His disciples.

We already know He's the **CHRIST**. We know He's the **SON of GOD**. We know He's the **MESSIAH**. We know a lot of things about Him so this is added to our information. He's also a **MIRACLE WORKER**. They still didn't know Him. Identification was still missing, yet He sends them out in the power of His name (**Matthew 10:7-8; Luke 9:1-2**). They go out and heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out devils, and they still didn't know Him.

In the carnal realm you don't know God as you should know Him. That's because if you know Him as a **MIRACLE WORKER**, or you know Him as a **HEALER**, or

you know Him as anything else, He is still working in the flesh realm in your life. **When He becomes the LORD of your life** and the Kingdom of God becomes your first priority, then all these other things will come in your flesh realm. **"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17-18).** Jesus could have been just another prophet according to the sign that they saw. He could have been just another great man. He could have been exactly what Nicodemus thought He was.

We have been identifying with the flesh so long, it's hard for us to lay that down and get into the place where, "You are all I want, Lord. I want the identity with you so I can do what you want me to do, not in sections, but in fullness. Where I can meet the needs, because I love as you love. I can meet the needs of whatever the area is, whether it's a healing, or a miracle, or finances, or whatever. Lord, let me be a person so in love with you that you can love through me."

All of these identification factors so far did not reveal God to these men. If I'd seen all those things, I don't know what I'd have thought. "Well," you say. No, remember something: the Holy Ghost had not yet been given. All they could really believe was what they were seeing and hearing, even though they had a revelation of Him being the Christ. The only proof they had of anything going on was what they could see and touch and feel. A Christian who is still identifying with God in the see, touch, and feel realm is carnal. He may know Jesus as his **SAVIOR**, but he still only knows the man that lived, and died, and raised again. He still knows him only as the flesh man that hung on the cross.

That is salvation, to believe that God raised Him from the dead (**Romans 10:9-10**), but I'm saying to you there is a place **to KNOW God** beyond all of that. It will bring you such peace, such rest in Christ, that people will begin to wonder what you're up to. People will begin to wonder what you really have that they don't have. They're going to church, and they're doing the things that they feel that they should do. They're doing the things that they see, and they're identifying with their church through the religion that's been set before them, and God is saying all the time, "And yet you don't know Me."

Only by the Holy Ghost can a man ever say that Jesus Christ is **LORD (I Cor 12:3)**, and that's not just a verbal confession. It's a confession of a life that is lived in every area that the **LORD** has control of. They couldn't really call Him **LORD**; they couldn't submit their lives to Him. They were having a lot of fun going around with Him. He was doing things that nobody in that country was doing. He was fitting a pattern nobody else ever fitted, but they still couldn't even identify with Him. They still weren't able to walk where He walked.

In **John 14:1-3** Jesus tells the carnal disciples standing there, "**If you believe in God, believe also in me, for in my Father's house are** (they're already there) **many mansions...**" Isn't that what it says? "**I'm going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, (present tense) you may be also.**" So the carnal church starts preaching that God is off in heaven building houses but that's not even what He said. They couldn't understand it either. They said. "Where are you going; how do we know where you're going?" He was talking about His death, His burial, His resurrection; that when He opened that door, they could come into the Spirit realm with Him. Then they could really be identified with Him, because He was Spirit.

It makes it so easy walking with Jesus, because you know Him then as sufficient for every area of your life. There's no longer a struggle in it. There's no longer a battle to try to do anything. You just have yielded yourself to the **SPIRIT of GOD** and the **LORD** takes control of your life, and you identify with Him in every part of your being. Amen!

Let's go to John 2:18-21. He begins to give another revelation.

John 2:18 Then answered the Jews and said unto Him, what sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

They said, "Just show us a sign and we'll believe." It reminds me of the rich man in hell. He said, "If he can't come down here, at least send him back; they'll believe one risen from the dead." Abraham said, "No, they wouldn't believe Moses or the prophets, and they won't believe though one be raised from the dead"**(Luke 16:19-31)**. He was speaking about Jesus Christ. He was speaking about the resurrection of Christ. He raised from the dead, and they wouldn't believe Him. A miracle greater than the law.

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

John 2:20 Then said the Jews, forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

John 2:21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

I Cor 3:16 and **I Cor 6:19** tell us that our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. What an identifying factor! Jesus said, "My body is the temple of God. Now I want you to identify with Me. Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. Your body is my dwelling place. Though they tear this building down, yet shall I raise it up again." He spoke of His body.

My body is not the habitation of devils, unclean spirits, unclean doctrines, ungodliness. My body is identified with His body, and I am the temple of the Holy Ghost. He lives in me, He dwells in Me, He abides in me, He moves in me. My body belongs to Him. It is not my own.

1 Cor 6:20 For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your Spirit, which are God's.

We go along like this body is subject to everything the devil wants to put on it. It is not! It has been moved out of that realm, quickened from sin, quickened from darkness, and quickened into the temple of the Holy Ghost. That's what He said in **Romans 8:11** when He began to tell us, **"If the Spirit of him that raised up Christ Jesus dwell in you, he shall quicken your mortal body..."** It will cause it to come out of the power of darkness. It will cause it to be liberated, and it will be a temple of the Holy Ghost. Hallelujah! The new dwelling place of God!

We identify with the old man, not with the new man. **The old man is dead.** Sin has no longer dominion over me. I have been translated and I'm going to identify with Him, just like Jesus identified with Him. This is His temple. This is His house. You can't get any closer than that. **IN** you is closer than **WITH** you. **IN** you is closer than **BESIDE** you. **No man can be as close to you as Christ is**, but He is being cheated of His identity in our lives. Jesus identified His body as the temple of the Holy Ghost. Paul tells us, **"Know ye not your bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost" (I Cor 6:19).** What does the temple of God have in common with the temple of idols? They're dead, they're in darkness. God doesn't even see them. You can't see in darkness.

When you realize who really lives in you, you will not be afraid of anybody or anything from now on. **"Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).** That's going to be more than just quoting a scripture; it's going to become a reality. My Father lives in me, my God dwells in me, and this is His tabernacle. He won't let it starve. He won't let it freeze to death. He won't let it get too hot. He'll just take good care of it wherever I am.

He tried to tell the carnal Christians in **Matthew 6:26-29** **"Consider the fowls of the air, how the Father feeds them. Look at the lilies of the field; they don't toil, neither do they spin, but I tell you that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."** It has been said that the combined wealth of three of the richest men in the world could not feed the fowls of the air for one day; yet my Father feeds them whenever they are hungry. You can go into a land where there's famine and hunger and children are dying, but the birds are still eating. Think about it!

The Holy Ghost is teaching us something. David said, **"I was young and now I'm old, yet I've never seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging for bread" (Psalm 37:25).** We've identified with the world and whenever it has a crisis, we get into it. We're trying to identify to be like God, and yet every time we turn around, we identify with the problem. You see, we are the answer to man's problem because we have Christ in us. We're not the problem.

Remember when the prophet Elijah came to King Ahab, and the King told Elijah, "You're the problem. You're the reason that we're having no rain, and it's your fault."

Elijah turned around to the King and said, **"You're the problem."** (Read **I Kings 16:29-34** and the **17th and 18th chapters**.) The King had a wrong identity. He was identifying the church with the problem, but Elijah turned right around and said, "You're the problem, you religious heretic. You're the problem." He proved it, didn't he, and the answer came. Why? Because he identified with God.

God has set laws in motion, and they never change. The Lord has said, "If you will identify with me, you will be strong, you will do exploits"**(Daniel 11:32)**. Why? **Because I'm identifying with someone greater than flesh. I'm identifying with God. I'm identifying with Him who is able to speak worlds into existence. I'm identifying with Him who is able to speak sight into blinded eyes.**

Why should I lower myself and come down to a place of counting myself unworthy of the Kingdom of God, just like the Jews did. You might say, "Oh, there you go, you self-righteous man." No! I am dead, yet I live. Anything I boast on, it'll be in Him. Anything we boast on, it **must** be in Him. God doesn't mind having some boasters as long as they're boasting in Him. **Everything I glory in will be Him for He is my glory and the lifter of my head (Psalm 3:3).**

Paul did it. He said, **"I will countless come to glory. I will come to boasting. I shall glory in this, I shall glory in the cross. I shall glory in Christ."** (**2 Cor 10:17; I Cor 1:31, Gal 6:14**). **Hallelujah!** You see, Paul had already divorced himself from this world. He had already died to it. He reckoned himself dead to this present world of sin, but alive unto God (**Romans 6:11**). So whenever he said something, he wasn't boasting on Paul; he was boasting on the power of the living Christ that made him what he was.

Do you think Jesus was boasting when He told Pilate that day, "You have no power over me unless it be given unto you (John 19:10-11). My Father, He has given Me power to lay My life down and to take it up again" (John 10:17-18). Do you think He was boasting in Himself? He was telling him a fact. He said, "You don't have any power unless my Father gives it to you, and my Father has given me greater power than that. I'm going to lay my life down but He has given Me power to take it up again."

When you do something for God, people begin to criticize you and say that you think you're really something. But when you fall in love with Jesus, you want to talk about Him and you're going to brag about Him. You're going to tell others about Him, because He's your husband. He's the most wonderful person you ever got married to in your life. He has never left you nor forsaken you (**Hebrews 13:5**), and there has never come a time when you needed something that He didn't provide (**Philippians 4:19**). I tell people everywhere that my God provides my needs, not some of them but all of them. He even throws in a desire now and then.

We are going to wake up and we're going to say, "Praise the Lord! I am everything God said I am. I'm nothing less. I just didn't know it." If I don't enjoy being a

son of God, that's my fault. If I don't enjoy the many benefits and blessings of God, that's my fault. If I don't enjoy going out and speaking the word of faith that heals the sick and causes the blinded eye to see, that's my fault. You can't rob me of it. The only guy who can is that carnal man that I'm wearing. He says, "That doesn't make sense. That's not the way I heard it. That's not the way I was taught."

If I'm teaching you anything but the Word of God, then I repent; but I won't repent for teaching you the Word of God, because this is His Word. Time after time after time, the revelation came to these men and they still didn't know Him. They still didn't understand what He was talking about, and do you know why? Because they had not the Spirit of God. You cannot have a revelation from God that will cause you to grow unless it comes by the Spirit of God. So here He says in **John 2:19-21** that He is known as the temple of God.

Now let's go to John 2:24-25.

John 2:24 But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men,

John 2:25 And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

God gave you a spirit to be able to discern. He said, "**Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits to see whether they be of God...**" (1 John 4:1). How many of us ever try a spirit? Jesus knew who He was, and He did not want any spirit other than God's Spirit receiving glory. He was not going to commit Himself into the hands of any man, because He knew what was in the heart of them. As soon as He would give Himself to them, they would begin to go out and try to build a miracle ministry.

Many people are called to the ministry, and instead of waiting and taking the work step by step, they go out and jump in and start. Because miracles are real and healings are real, they go out and start a campaign in those areas. The people leave them and some got healed, and some got delivered. Thank God for that, but if they had said to the people, "Look, these things can happen in your life right through you. You don't need some special man to come into town because **CHRIST is here. The LORD is here. The MIRACLE WORKER, the HEALER, the LORD GOD** of heaven. Why don't you reach out your hand because you are what God is." **That's why the LORD wants us to preach CHRIST.**

We counted ourselves unable to minister the precious things of God, possibly because we didn't have a pulpit to preach from or we didn't have a degree in our background, or we hadn't been to Bible college. I've got news for you. Paul said, "**All that I've gained, all the wisdom that I've accumulated, I count it as dung, that I might win Christ**" (Philippians 3:8). He said, "The education I've had has separated me from God, because the simplicity of the gospel of the Kingdom of God was

something I could not attain through the wisdom of my natural man. It had to come to me by revelation."

The Kingdom of God has to come to you and me by the same revelation. **The wisdom of this world is foolishness in the sight of God (I Cor 3:19)**. We must humble ourselves, because His ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts are above us (**Isaiah 55:8**). He must not bring them down to us. He must bring us up in heavenly places, that through simplicity of faith, He can begin to feed our inner man as new-born babes the sincere milk of the Word (**I Peter 2:2**). Then we can finally grow up into the meat of what God has in store for us (**Hebrews 5:13-14**).

You see, it's not that God is going to condescend to man. It is that man will arise through Jesus Christ and be exalted into God's presence by God's Spirit through the blood of Jesus. The wisdom of this world tries to bring God down to our identity. It tries to make man God in some fashion or other, but it isn't going to work. **God has brought us up into Himself, and we are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6)**. We cannot attain anything from God through our own ability.

I want to share something with you in **2 Cor. chap 5**. We've already been there, talking about the 16th and 17th verses, but I want to show you what Paul's revelation of the church really was. Paul takes on an identity in **2 Cor 5:18: "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation..."** If God had to be in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, and He has given us the same ministry of reconciliation, do we need any less power? "Well Brother Krider, we're more educated now. We attract people now through the intellectual system." It didn't work then; it won't work now. Unless the Spirit draws a man, he's not coming, and when you have the Spirit of God speaking through you, He will speak to the spirit of another man. When you speak out of intellectualism all you speak is intellectualism. **When your spirit speaks to another spirit, He begins to give that spirit the revelation knowledge of Jesus Christ.**

Here is a point of identification. Christ has the job of reconciliation and He gave it to the rest of the body. Any person who is a member of the body of Christ and says, "I do not have a ministry," ought to read the scripture. We have a ministry. Everyone has a valid ministry of reconciliation. The Holy Ghost that worked inside of Jesus, will work inside of us, and He will do the same work and greater than He did through Jesus. **"These works and greater shall you do because I go to be with my Father" (John 14:12).**

So He said in 2 Cor 5:18-19,"...and hath given to us (underline it) the ministry of reconciliation; to wit that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the Word of reconciliation." He said, "I have given you the same incorruptible seed of the Word of God, the same powerful Word that I gave to my Son Jesus. I have committed that Word to you and it is a Word that will reconcile man unto God." That

reconciliation is not only for salvation. When we really walk in the Spirit of God, whatever need is alienated from God in our lives, will be reconciled.

You didn't realize you were a complete ministry running around, did you. You didn't realize that you are complete in Christ. You didn't realize that no matter where you are, no matter what time of day it is, no matter what group you're with, the power of God makes you complete in Christ to minister to any need that you come across. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord (**Psalm 37:23**). The word "**ordered**" means "**established of God.**" Wherever you go, God has ordered it to be so, for "**All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose**"(**Romans 8:28**). To them who are called of God. Who are chosen of God. Who love Him. Hallelujah!

So the Lord did not stop with Jesus. He began a work that the body is going to finish. It's hard to identify, isn't it, because we're so fleshly. "If I could just get this flesh six feet tall and put dark curly hair on it, I know God that I could do it. Lord, if you hadn't made me like you made me, I could have done something." God said, "I knew exactly how tall you're going to be, and how much hair you've got on your head, and I know exactly what your personality is like. I gave it all to you, and it fits the job, it fits the purpose, it fits my plan perfectly. All you have to do now is take that and let me use it. Just take it and let me use it just like Jesus." **Jesus yielded Himself to God, and God worked right through Him.**

We have a ministry. We are ambassadors for Christ; a point of identification. When this was written, an ambassador couldn't call home every five minutes. He couldn't call overseas. He had to make decisions that might be a binding factor on the kingdom he represented, and the kingdom he represented always stood behind his decision. Let this get into your heart. We have to be a people that are walking so in tune with the Holy Spirit that we don't have to call the home office every time we need to make a decision. We ought to be a people upon this earth representing the Kingdom of God with all the full power and the privileges of an ambassador.

"Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (**Matt 18:18**). He said, "I have given you the word of reconciliation, and you're an ambassador. You are representing Me and whatever you say, it will create something."

Let's look at 2 Cor 5:20: "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead..." (or place; that's what stead means).

I've got news for you. Jesus isn't healing the sick any more. Jesus has gone to heaven. The Holy Ghost is doing it, through the name of Jesus and the anointing of Christ. Jesus touched them. Jesus spoke the Word. He was an ambassador for God. He was in a foreign nation. Didn't He say so?

John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Didn't He in the parables continually tell you about the foreign nation, the Kingdom of God. He was a merchant man in **Matt 13:45** seeking goodly pearls. He was many things. **Read the Word of God.**

Paul is saying that we have a ministry that replaces the one Jesus had while He was upon the earth. That's hard to identify with, isn't it. You aren't making yourself anything. You're just believing what God says. We can quote scriptures like, **"...As he is, so are we in this world" (I John 4:17).** Well then, how is He now? What does the world see through our lives? Do we really act like ambassadors? Do we really believe we have that kind of power and authority to make decisions that God will honor? You had better, or there's an area that you'll never identify with God in. It's in the Bible! Do you see it in there? God won't be impressed if you erase it, or take the scissors and cut it out. No! **His Word is settled forever in heaven (Psalm 119:89).** It is not going to be changed.

If you come short of this it'll only be because you have read it with the natural eye and understood it with your natural mind. You say, "That doesn't make sense. That's not for me. That's OK for Paul, but it's not for me." No, He said He's given unto **US** the ministry. He's given unto the **BODY** the ministry. Unto Peter He said, **"I will give unto you the keys of the kingdom..." (Matt 16:19).** Not **to** the kingdom, but **OF** it, **denoting ownership, partnership.** He said "I'm going to give you the keys to open and close the Kingdom anytime you want to; but you'd better be careful that you open it more than you close it." Amen!

So the Lord says, "You are my ambassadors. You are representing a Kingdom that is foreign to this world." The world doesn't understand it, but by looking upon you and watching and hearing what you're saying and what you're doing, they ought to be able to see what the Kingdom of God is like. They ought to be able to come to you and desire an entrance into that Kingdom, and be able to walk into it. Listen to this in **2 Cor 5:20: "...we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."** He said, "Our prayer is in Christ's stead. We're praying for you. The Father is hearing us just like He heard Jesus." **Verse 21: "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."** He identified with our sin that we might identify with His righteousness. **You are become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.**

Don't let somebody rob you. Don't go around and say. "Well, I'm just a poor little old sinner." **I used to be a sinner. I've been saved by grace, washed in the blood of the Lamb, sanctified, set apart, and now I am a saint. I am a saint, and I'm always enjoying the saints.** When Paul wrote, he identified and wrote to the saints; he never

wrote to the sinners. There is very little in the Bible ever written to the sinner except "repent." Man in darkness can't read the Word of Light.

You might as well get excited. God is not going to change it. What He is raising up are some people right here and everyone of us can walk in this. Everyone of us has the God given ability to say, "Lord, it says it, and I believe it. It is written there, and no longer am I going to doubt it. No longer am I going to let people tell me that I'm not what God said I am. No longer am I even going to allow myself to say to myself that I'm not worthy, that I'm not what God wants me to be. I am what God wants me to be, and I'm everything God wants me to be because God made me what I am." **This should make us happy!**

I have had so many people come and say to me, "Oh, pray for my children, Brother Krider; they're going to the devil." When you say that you've already created a situation by the words you spoke. You've created by the power of your word an entrance into the pit for them. Why don't you close it by saying, "My kids are saved. I speak the Word. I create a place of salvation for them. I create it. I don't care what it looks like. I don't care what they're into." I can speak the word of creation and you can too, but **you've got to identify with the CREATOR first.**

If you don't believe that you can create through the Spirit of God, don't pray for anybody that's sick, because you're going to have to create health. Don't pray for the blind, because you're going to have to use that faith that's in you by the Spirit of God, to create sight in that eye. There was a little girl in one of our meetings one night who was blind in one eye, and God gave her back her sight. Man didn't give it to her. **God gave it to her.** Why? Because He loved her, and all we had to do was just speak the Word of creation. **We spoke sight into that eye, and God honored it because we're ambassadors of His, "And whatsoever we loose..." (Matthew 16:19).** We loosed the blindness, and brought in the very sight of the living Christ.

We're walking around giving everything to the devil and he's already whipped and defeated. We say, "Here, take my kids, take my family, take my job, take my riches, take everything. I'm just going to have to give it all to you. I guess I'm whipped." **NO!** Jesus said to stomp on him. Walk on him. Let him know you know who you are. God said that the words that we speak are words of power, and they create because you're a child of God. You create situations in your life. When people ask how it is with me, I say, "It is well." I'm creating a place where it's well for me.

We're ambassadors. Get it into your mind and your heart. Just saturate this into your heart. **YOU ARE AN AMBASSADOR OF CHRIST. You're God's representative right here and you have the same authority, the same power, the duty that Jesus had. He left and set you there, and He gave you the same Holy Ghost. He gave you the same authority, same power. He went home to intercede as a High Priest for us, oh glory to God.** Don't give your kids away. Don't confess sickness on yourself. Just tell it like it really is. "It is well. Praise God, it is well," because God has given us the power to reconcile ourselves unto God in whatever area we're weak in.

We see then that He said that we have been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I can't see one thing in that scripture where it says you have NO power or authority. An ambassador had all power and authority of the kingdom he represented. His word was law. Whatever he said, that was it. God has to honor your faith. **"...according to your faith, be it unto you" (Matt 9:29)**. If you confess your families into the pit, God has to honor you. The devil has nothing to do with it. He couldn't take them; he's powerless to take them.

I'd rather be eating this than anything else. Why? Because this is feeding the inner man. Nobody can take that from me. I go out and eat and then I've got to go eat again, but this is food that feeds my soul. It's food that feeds my spirit. It's food that gets down inside of me, and I never hunger for that part again. That part is satisfied! It gives me a drink so I don't have to thirst again for that area of my life. It is identified with Christ. Once it is identified, it is satisfied. The reason most Christians aren't satisfied is because they're not identified with God. We need to get that identity. Amen!

Let's go to John 3:16-17

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

He is a REMOVER OF CONDEMNATION. He is a purger, through His blood, of the conscience (Hebrews 10:22).

Now let's go to Romans 8:1-2. Paul was a person that took full advantage of the Lord.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore NOW NO CONDEMNATION to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Notice that: "now there is NO CONDEMNATION." Before Jesus Christ came they were under a law, and they were always under condemnation, but when Jesus Christ came, He removed condemnation. He did not come to condemn, so if we are really God's ambassadors, we are not here to condemn people. We are here to tell them about a better kingdom. We're here to show them a better life. We're here to give them hope. We're here to give them something greater than condemnation can bring.

Paul, after wrestling with this thing (**Rom chap.7**), found that his flesh just couldn't get it together. He was walking around under condemnation because his flesh slipped up every now and then. Then he got the revelation right out of John in the third chapter and he said, "Wait a minute! I'm not serving that rotten thing anyhow. What I'm serving is God. My inner man loves the Lord and serving God. My outer man has to be under the law because he's dead, but who shall deliver me from this vile body. You're not going to put any condemnation on me because I have been set free. I'm not seeking the things of the flesh, but I'm seeking the things of God."

We make a mistake or blow it, and we walk around under condemnation, when all we have to do is what Paul did, and say, "You lousy thing; you tricked me. That's the last time you get a chance in that area, old boy. There's no condemnation because I did it. I don't want to do it (**Romans 7:19-20**), therefore I'm stepping on you."

The churches should start preaching that, instead of getting you under condemnation every time you failed and did something in the old flesh, and gave in to it. Then you say, "Well, what's the use now; I've failed God and I'm just no use. I'm barely going to make heaven now." No! Paul had that same problem but he finally woke up. He said, "**Jesus didn't come to condemn me. He came to redeem me; and I'm not going to live in the flesh, because that's where He condemned sin. I'm not of the flesh; I'm of the Spirit.**"

So we see then that **He's the REMOVER OF CONDEMNATION. "There is no condemnation in Him..." (Romans 8:1). If there is no condemnation in you and me, there won't be any toward us or from us.** We will walk around and say, "Jesus didn't come to condemn you. Let's get up out of your pity party, and let's go on for God. Quit feeling sorry for yourself. You fell into this mess, but let's get out of the hog pen. Let's go back to the Father's house and go on. We've got things to do."

The prodigal son (**Luke 15:11-24**) didn't take his inheritance; he took his portion. God has given us all a portion in this life. The inheritance is what we get after we leave it. There was a portion that the prodigal son had coming; there was a pay-day he had coming. The Father gave it to him and he left and he squandered it on riotous living. He was having a party, wasn't he?

One day he woke up and all his friends were gone, all his money was gone, and he couldn't find a job. There was a famine, and all he could do was go feed the hogs. He got to smelling those old pigs, and the stinking old corn cobs and the husks, and he said to himself, "Whew! Even the servants in my Father's house are eating better than this. What am I doing in the hog pen? I'm going to arise. I, by my will, am going to get out of here, and I'm going back to my Dad's house. I'm not worthy to be a son, but I'm going to see if I can just get a job there on the ranch and live out in the bunk-house with the boys." He had the right attitude, didn't he.

All of a sudden he started for home and saw somebody up there on the hill. When he left, he was a good looking boy, but now when he came back, his clothes were

tattered and torn. He had hog smell all over him. The Father didn't say, "Well, tell him to come around back of the house and wash up." He ran down there and hugged him, and squeezed him, and loved him. He gave him a robe, put a ring on his finger, put slippers on his feet, and said, "Kill the fatted calf. My son which was dead, is alive." Come on! He didn't say, "You'll just have to start all over again, and move out there in the back and work with the boys fencing the cattle, and doing a few things like that, and eat out there." **No! He threw a party. Why? Because his son that was dead had returned. He was always his son. Whether alive or whether dead, he was still his son.**

Some of us are alienating ourselves from God because we cannot believe that our Father loves us like that. We cannot believe that God wants us to walk in the same place that His Son Jesus did. The same authority, the same power, the same all-knowing wisdom that Jesus walked in, is available to you and me. The world is in need today. There are people that are really in need today, and the Church has the true answer. I'm not talking about the church of any certain name; I'm talking about the Church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven (**Hebrews 12:23**). Fear is gripping the hearts of the people. People are going bankrupt. People are destitute, losing their minds. The church is afraid to identify and say, "**Do yourself no harm. We've got the answer. Jesus Christ is the answer.**" Hallelujah! We need to identify with Him.

We need to come to the place where we're also removing condemnation from people. He said, "**Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins you retain, they are retained**" (**John 20:23**). He has given you power. You aren't doing anything supernatural. Jesus appeared once in the end of the world (**Hebrews 9:26**) to put away sin. He paid the price for the sins of the entire world. If a man continues on in darkness and is lost, it'll be because he didn't take advantage of the forgiveness that was issued from the throne of grace. When you go out and tell a person that, all you're saying is, "Jesus appeared in the end of the world, in the end of the dispensation of time, and He put sin away. Don't you realize you don't have to live there any more. You've already been forgiven. All you need to do is turn around now and start going for God, instead of going around feeling sorry for yourself because you got caught up in so much ugly sin."

We were all dead in our sins and trespasses before Jesus saved us. Sinners! (**Romans 5:8**). Whether we were walking around and looking pretty or not, we were all dead as door nails until we took advantage of the grace of God. When you go out as an ambassador, you're just telling people, "Look, Jesus already died for you. He's risen again. The sin debt you owe is already paid for (**Col 1:14, 2:13-14, Rom 8:2-11**). If you go to hell, you're going to have to work your way into it. You have to trample the blood of Jesus underfoot (**Heb 10:29**). You have to take His Word and say it's not true, because the Word of God says the **wages** of sin is death (you have to work for wages), but the **gift** of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (**Rom 6:23**). You don't work for that."

One of my daughters as a teenager was having a lot of problems in her life and got off into a lot of things. People said, "Your daughter's in bad shape." I said, "No, she isn't; she's in good shape." They said, "Well, I can see what she's into." I said, "I don't care what you see. I see what God sees (**Heb 11:1; II Cor 4:18; 5:7,16**). Her sins are forgiven. One day she will wake up."

We were sitting in the house one day, and she wanted to go out with this old boy who was ungodly as all sin. Now that's where that ended. That was it! That's where I lost it. That's where all the confession I was confessing went down the tube. I just talked to this boy, and said, "You know, you need to get saved. Would you like to get saved?" He said, "I don't want to have anything to do with God." And still my daughter wanted to go out with that guy. I sat her down, and I screamed at her, I yelled at her, I ranted and raved at her, and I told her all the things that were going to happen.

I was prophesying nothing but evil to that girl. I said, "Go to your room!" She bawled and squalled, and I'm sitting out there weeping and crying, and she's in there weeping and crying, and God said, "What did you do?" I said, "I told her I was right and she was wrong." God said, "You were wrong! You go and apologize to her." Oh, my Lord! Dad apologizing to his kid about being wrong. So I went in there, and God gave me the grace, and He gave me the word. Pretty soon we got through crying and we both sat down, and I said, "Honey, you're old enough to make a decision and if you want to go out with that boy, it's all right, but I want you to know the decision you make, you're going to be responsible for it now" (**Ecc 11:9-10; Gal 6:7-8**). I loved her, hugged her, prayed for her, and I walked out of the door. A week later she couldn't stand him. Two weeks later she was giving her life to Christ and going for God. Later she called me on the phone and she had just led a twenty-three year old boy to Jesus Christ.

Do you see what I'm saying to you? If we confess what we see, we're going to be in trouble, because we're creating a situation (**Pro 18:21**). I had to repent. I had to go into that room and ask her forgiveness. I had to speak the words of faith that caused her to enter into a realm where she could begin to see. I had shut the kingdom up to her. But thank God, **the REMOVER OF CONDEMNATION** finally got ahold of me. I was condemning her, and condemning the old boy she wanted to go with. I wasn't helping her. I wasn't helping me. I wasn't helping him. I should have set down before I blew it (**James 1:19**), and said, "Honey, OK, that's your decision and you're responsible for it." When you're almost 18 years old, you ought to be able to make a few decisions. But God took that situation and He didn't put any condemnation trip on me at all (**Rom 8:1**). He just turned it right around where everything worked out perfect. Amen!

He is the REMOVER of CONDEMNATION. That means that you and I should also tell others that Jesus has paid the price; that we should not go along any longer living to the world but living unto Christ. We even make people feel like they're so bad that nobody can get saved anyhow unless they do a certain amount of tricks, or unless they do a certain amount of good works. No! When they repent, when they give their life to Jesus Christ, He accepts them into the beloved right there. They're just as good as anybody else (**Eph 2:8-9**). They're just as alive as the man that's walked with God

for a hundred years. Think about it for a minute. How many times have we confessed a confession that brought this kind of condemnation? How many times have we looked at something in the natural, and we have confessed what we saw, and we knew in our little brain it was really going to happen if they continued on that way?

Let's go to John 3:29. This will just thrill your heart.

John 3:29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom..."

John's beginning to give some pretty good stuff here. He's getting closer, and closer, and closer to the reality of who Jesus Christ really is. He is now called **the BRIDEGROOM**. He is called the one that has the bride. I believe that I'm the bride. I've never been one yet, but I'm going to be one. By faith, I'm already it. I want to tell you about the husband that loves me, and I'm getting married to.

He made a covenant with me one day. He said, "I will supply all of your need according to my riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil 4:19). I will do exceedingly above all that you can think or ask of me, according to the contract or the power that worketh in you (Eph 3:20). I will give you beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning. I will give you the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness (Isa 61:3). I will give you the beautiful garments of salvation (Isa 61:10). I will give you my kingdom (Luke 12:32)".

"Poor little old me, I'm just a Christian, barely making it through. I don't know who's going to take care of me." Whoa! **His bride isn't like that. He's got the bride. He's the BRIDEGROOM.** He's taking care of her. He is sharing His Kingdom with her. He's decking her out in beautiful garments of salvation. He has decked her out in the fine white linen (**Rev 19:8**). He has given her the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. He has given her not only the Kingdom but He has given Himself to her. Didn't I tell you that in the last days, they that know their God, they that have an intimate relationship with Him, shall be strong and they shall do exploits (**Daniel 11:32**).

Let's read on in John 3:29. I think John was about to have a fit.

John 3:29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice; this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

Oh, thank God! He said, "He's my friend." He's the bridegroom, and I'm rejoicing just because I hear His voice. Jesus would later on say, **"My sheep know my voice, and a stranger they will not follow" (John 10:4-5).** John was saying: "I'm so excited about this thing, I can hardly stand it. I just hear the voice of the bridegroom, and it drives me up the wall." What should it do to the bride? What should it do to those that are espoused unto Him?

Years ago I was in Hawaii on my way home. I hadn't seen my wife in sometime, and I invested all my money, seventeen bucks, to make a phone call. As soon as her

voice got on the other end of that phone, my heart leaped. Just like that! I thought it was going to come out of my chest. I heard her voice! Now, that's good for my natural man; but how about when you go to prayer, and the voice of the Lord comes to you and says, "You're my beloved. You're the one that I have chosen. You're the one that I have imparted my Kingdom to. You're the one that I will take care of." Then we get right up from it and say, "Well, I don't know what I'm going to do about tomorrow. I don't know what's going to happen. The thing looks terrible." **The Lord says, "You didn't hear!"**

John was only a friend of the **BRIDEGROOM**. **WE ARE THE BRIDE OF CHRIST**. **We are the one that He has bestowed everything on.** We aren't happy enough. We're just not excited about this thing. **HE'S the BRIDEGROOM.** He's got me for a bride. If I looked in the mirror and I saw me for a bride, that wouldn't excite me. But He sees the **REAL** me. He sees the one inwardly that's just like Him, that one day He's going to put His arms around and hug, and squeeze, and say, "Welcome home, honey. Get down here on the throne with me. Sit down. We're going to rule this Kingdom" (**Rev3:21**). I am the bride! He said He gave us beauty for ashes! His bride is beautiful. We're going to cover the seven steps to the victory of the throne of God later in the book of Revelation because it's identification with the Holy Ghost.

I can see the beauty of the Lord in my Brothers and Sisters. I can see the potential even in a lost man or woman. I can see the potential of what they could be in Christ if they would only know that the price has been paid. Isn't that good news? Doesn't that sound better than going out and saying to somebody, "You're going to hell. You're just filthy rotten. If you don't quit your smoking, drinking, cursing, swinging, you're going to go to hell." The guy's already dead; what's hell mean to him? He's living in a world right now where nothing else is working, and you come along and condemn him.

He is the **REMOVER OF CONDEMNATION**. He removed the condemnation from us. He removed condemnation afar off. He died for the whole world. He said, "Here it is children; make a decision. What do you want? Do you want life or do you want death? Do you want all that I've got, or do you want the bare existence, and then finally die and lose it all?" He's a **BRIDEGROOM**. He loves us! He has decked us out with the jewels of heaven (**Malachi 3:17**). He has given us the unlimited resources of heaven. **Haggai 2:8 says "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts."**

I don't know what I'm worth today. I really don't. Somebody asked me one time, "Brother Krider, how in the world can you preach this kind of a gospel? You probably don't have a dollar in your pocket." Well, if you want to know the truth, at that time I didn't have a dollar in my pocket. I said, "I'll tell you what, I don't know what I'm worth. How much was a drop of blood from Jesus worth? How much is all the gold and silver in the world worth? How much are all the cattle on a thousand hills worth? (**Psalm 50:10**). How much is the earth worth, and all they that dwell therein? (**Psalm 24:1**). If I

knew the worth of those, then I could tell you." I'm an heir; an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ Jesus (**Romans 8:17**). I'm not a beggar.

I don't have to go out and tell people how tough it is on the evangelistic field, because it isn't tough. The way of the transgressor is hard (**Proverb 13:15**) but I'm not a transgressor.

I'm everything God said I am. I'm everything, nothing less, and never will be anything less that God said I am. I'm identifying with the Holy Ghost of God. I'm identifying with everything that Jesus Christ told me to identify with. I cannot find one place in the Word of God where He said, "I'm going to change my mind. I'm going to take it back."

He said, "I give it to you; the Kingdom and all that is therein. I am the BRIDEGROOM and you are My Bride. I am the REMOVER OF SIN. I am the REMOVER OF CONDEMNATION. I am the one that was dead, but now am alive for evermore (Rev1:18). I am He which is from the beginning, and I am He that is the beginning, and I am He that is the end (Rev. 1:8)." Hallelujah!

I want to tell you, Saints, the Church ought to rise up with a victorious shout of praise for their Lord and Savior, knowing Jesus Christ as **LORD**, not only as a portion of Him, but **KNOWING HIM**. How would you women like to know your husband only partly? "All I know about you is you give me a paycheck and that's all I know about you." You wouldn't have much of a relationship, would you. But when you got to know him, you got to love him, and got to cherish those little funny, stupid things he did. You begin to cherish those moments, and you begin to have a relationship that is no longer fifty-fifty.

I was sharing before that marriage isn't fifty-fifty. It's two parts that make one, and sometimes my wife has to supply 99 percent of this marriage. There are times when I come home from a trip, I'm drug out, I'm tired, and she has to minister to me. There are other times when I get the opportunity to supply 99 percent. It's never fifty-fifty. We didn't marry for that. I didn't take her to be fifty percent of me. I took her that we would be one in Christ. Complete! One number is one, not fifty-fifty. It's one. That's all there is, and that's what God wants us to be. Identifying with Him. Just one in Christ (**John 17:21-24**). Just today saying, "Lord, I'm yours. You're mine. We are one today!" It wouldn't take long for that kind of a message to catch on.

You don't have to sell the baptism of the Holy Ghost. You don't have to sell healing. You don't have to sell miracles. They'll just happen because the love of God will be so real in your life. (**Mark 16:17-18**) people will begin to ask you about the things of God.

**THE ONE THING THAT THE WORLD IS LOOKING FOR
IS A PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEIR GOD. AMEN!**

IDENTIFICATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Chapter 3

We're studying on the unity with the Spirit of the Holy Ghost, being identified with Him that is from the beginning. We are going to be identified with somebody before the cross. Not only with the cross, not only at the resurrection, but before that ever happened. We're going to begin to identify with Him. We're going to identify with the power of the Christ.

In **John 3:15-17** Jesus told Nicodemus that He was the one that had come to be the **SAVIOUR** of the world, and if a man would believe on Him, he would be saved. He said He hadn't come to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved; He was the remover of condemnation.

Now let's look at John 3:34-35. We're going to begin with the 34th verse, but the key verse is the 35th verse.

John 3:34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God...

I want you to underline that in your Bible. There is a reason for it, because **Jesus said "As my Father has sent Me, even so send I you" (John 20:21)**. If He was sent of the Father, which He was, and He spoke the Words of God, then the proof of our faith in Him is that we're going to speak the Words of God. We're not going to speak fear, doubt, unbelief. We're not going to create those things in other people's hearts. We're going to create faith. We're going to speak the Words of God. We're going to be so identified with God that all that comes out of us are words that create life.

Now remember we are creators. We speak words that create things. They either create fear, doubt, and bondage, or they create faith, healing, and deliverance. They create life, they create death (**Pro 18:21**). We have a choice of what we speak. **Jesus said, "He that hath sent Me is My Father, and I speak His words."** So we're to identify with Him by speaking the Words of God.

John 3:34 ... for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him.

In other words, in Him was all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (**Col 2:9**). **Eph 1:23** said the same thing. It's an identification mark that we really dearly need to have in our hearts. Notice these words: **"Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all."** He had the fullness of the Godhead in

Him bodily. The Church, the corporate Church, the body of Christ, has all that God is in it.

Eph 1:23 (Amp. Bible) "Which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all - for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere (with Himself)."

The body of Christ has all that God is, so the Church doesn't need to go outside itself for anything. Everything is in the Church. All power is given unto the Lord and He hath put that power into the hands of the redeemed. He has given you the power of creation, the power of life, the power of healing, the power of deliverance, the power of making known the salvation of God to all men. He has given you a sufficiency in Him. We don't need intellectualism in the Church. We need dedication. We don't need programs. We need a willingness to perform, by the Spirit of God, those things which God tells us to do.

Jesus said in **John 3:34** "I speak the words of the Lord." Now let's look at verse 35.

John 3:35 The father loveth the Son and hath given ALL things into His hand.

He didn't say a "few things." He said **ALL THINGS**. In **Luke 10:19** Jesus said, "**Behold, I give YOU power over ALL the power of the enemy.**" If **ALL power** is inclusive, then is there anything outside of **ALL**? If **Jesus Christ has all power, how much does that leave for the devil?** He is a minus! He is a liar, a deceiver, a suggester. He has everything in the world, but he has no power. The believer has to give his power to Satan before he can ever do anything in his life. He has to give him permission to do the things he does in his life.

So here the LORD is saying to us, "I have ALL power given to Me, and I have given the Church ALL power. I have transferred that power into My body to speak the Word only. I have given you the same power that I had when I walked upon the earth."

The Church has not identified with the Holy Ghost. They've identified with lots of things. Denominationalism. They've identified with personalities. They've identified with everything in the world, but they're not identifying with the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**. We need to identify with Him in the Words of power. That's why we begin to hear more than we speak. We begin to be quick to hear but very slow to speak (**James 1:19**). We're realizing that we're creating something in an individual's life when we speak. We're creating either fear, doubt, and unbelief, or we're creating faith. You're not taken snare by the devil. You're taken snare by the words of your own mouth (**Pro 6:2**).

The LORD said, "Remember this now, ALL power was given to me in heaven and in earth, and in you, the Church, is all the fulness of that

power." No wonder when the Church finally wakes up one day, that the whole earth will be filled with the glory and the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9; Psalm 72:19).

If you think Pentecost was something, when the church begins to stand up in unity and one voice, in one accord, the whole world will hear the sound of the mighty rushing wind. We're going to have to begin to rise up here into a dimension of identification with the Holy Ghost, knowing who God has made us. We know who God made Jesus to be, but we don't know who God made us to be. **He made Jesus to be sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (II Cor 5:21).** I'm going to identify then with righteousness, not with sin; with life and not with death; with health and not with sickness; with riches and not with poverty, because of what Jesus Christ and God together did for me. They made me the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. They made Him the sin and made me the righteousness. We've identified so long with so many things it's hard for us to identify with Christ.

Have you noticed how people are beginning to identify with the Holy Ghost; how they are beginning to move into that realm where the miracles are happening and salvation is flowing, and healing is flowing. In one meeting a young lady got laid out on the floor and started speaking in another tongue. She said to one of our team members, "What happened? What was I doing? What did I say?" She didn't know anything about the Holy Ghost, but she had for a moment identified with Him. Now we, as believers that know the Holy Ghost and we know Jesus, how much more ought we to be identified with Him. How much more ought we to be walking in power and authority and glory, bringing it all to Him.

The Church is waking up and saying, "I didn't know who I was before, but now I do, and I didn't do anything. God did it all." Then we'll start identifying with righteousness. When people say, "Oh, you're nothing but a sinner and you're unworthy," you should say, "Oh no! My Father did a work for me and He told me to identify with Him. He said that I'm righteous; that's good enough for me. You aren't as big as God, and God said I'm righteous, and God is forever, and you're just temporal." Don't apologize about being the righteousness of God. Don't apologize about being the hands of God or being the feet of God; being the very example of all that God is. Don't be ashamed of it. Tell your children, and tell your neighbors, and tell everybody else, "Hey listen! Our God is alive!"

Now let's go to John 4:10:

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water.

He would have given thee living water! Jesus Christ identified Himself as the **GIVER OF THE LIVING WATER**, but He doesn't stop there.

Let's go to John 7:37-39. Notice that Jesus again says these words:

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

John 7:39 (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Has Jesus been glorified? Yes! Has the Holy Ghost been given? Yes! Then Jesus is opening a key to us. We can offer people a drink of living water. We have the same power to say to people, "Listen! If you will come, I will show you the way. If you will come, I will show you what Jesus is all about. I have the authority of my Father to offer you salvation."

Jesus Christ is the SAVIOUR. He died for the sin of the world. He put the power of sin at an end (Col 2:14-15) and He said, "You're my ambassadors. You have the authority to do everything I have done and greater. I want you to go out there and begin to tell people that there is a Spirit that can change their lives." This He spoke of the Holy Ghost. This He spoke of the Spirit.

The Church is supposed to be talking about the Holy Ghost. The Church is supposed to be living Holy Ghost, so they can glorify Jesus Christ, and they won't know anything among one another except Christ and Him crucified (**I Cor 2:2**). The only way you can know Christ that way is to walk in the Spirit, otherwise you're going to be in everybody's business. You'll be wanting to know what they're doing, what they're up to, why they weren't in church. You'll be worried about this. **When you're in the Spirit, the only thing you know is Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. The only thing you want to know is Jesus.**

He stood up and cried with a loud voice, **"If any man thirst, let him come unto me."** He gave them a key. He said, "To them that believeth on me as the scripture has said; to them that believe according to the witness of the scripture, they'll receive the Spirit. To them that will not believe on it, they will not receive it." The Holy Ghost is for those that believe. He is not for the world. He sent a Spirit that the world cannot see, cannot receive, cannot know, but He said, **"You know Him, for He shall be in you. He is WITH you right now, but He shall be IN you" (John 14:16-17).**

The Church has a message of power. The Church has a message to get out to the world. The Kingdom of God is a reality, and that Kingdom is in the Holy Ghost. If you will believe on Jesus Christ, you're going to be identified with Him, because out of your bellies will flow rivers of living water. No dead water came out of Jesus. He did

not offer that Samaritan woman dead water, dead religion, staleness. He offered her something alive, something living, something vital. **He said, "If you knew the gift of God, then you would ask of Him, and He would give you that living water" (John 4:10).** The Church has an opportunity to serve people with living water, to be identified with living water, vital water, creative water, healing water. Glory to God!

You don't need to preach healing, deliverance, miracles. You need to walk in them. You need to flow in them. They ought to flow out of you whenever the need is there. It ought to just be a sign that follows you, because it's living water **(Mark 16:17-18)**. Somebody said to me, "That's fanatical." I know it is, but the only people that can believe on Jesus as the scripture said, are fanatics. You've got to be out of your natural mind to believe this. You've got to be out of yourself to believe this. **You've got to be in Him. You've got to be in the mind of Christ. You've got to be in a new realm. You've got to be in the realm of identification.**

The Church is still trying to identify with the world, and get good enough. That isn't what He said. He said, "Only believe as the scripture has said. Don't do all sorts of things to try to do it." It's an identification mark, isn't it. What is flowing out of us? Creative words of life? Healing, deliverance? We ought to be careful what we speak. We ought to keep our mouths shut if we haven't got something good to say. If we haven't got living water, let's not give them stale religion. Let's not get somebody bound up in doctrines of men. Let's give them living water.

Jesus came to set us free from the law of sin and death, from the curse of that law (Rom 8:1-2; Gal 3:13). He came to set men free from the bondage of sin. He came to destroy him that had the power of death (Heb 2:14). He did it with His Word. He spoke the Word because the Words that He spoke were the Words of life. They were the Words of God. They were living water, and when they touched someone, something happened. He didn't leave men and women like He found them. They never were the same. No one He touched was ever the same. The blind saw, the lame leaped for joy, the dead were raised, and the religious ones were convinced of their sin.

You don't have to be male or female, you don't have to be old or young; all you have to do is to be marked with Him in believing, according as the scripture has said on Him, and let that living water speak out from you. We're in the greatest time the Church has ever been in. This is the end. There isn't going to be another age after this one. This is the wind-up of all the ages. This is what the prophets desired to see. This is what holy men looked for. They knew that there was a power, a dimension of faith and power that they could not attain to. Paul said, "I've not attained it yet" **(Phil 3:12)**. He knew there was something more than he was able to get into, but we have come to the point that **we CAN attain it**, because the return of the Lord is that close.

He said that we must be identified with the living waters, not stale stagnated doctrines of men. We must have out of us Words of Life. Words of power. Words of authority. When you really know who you are, you don't argue any more. You just say,

"That's the way it is." Somebody says "But!" "NO! There are no buts. That's the way it is. God bless you!" and walk on off. That is what has propagated the thing called denomination - argumentative spirits. "Well, that's not the way I see it." "Then go build your own church; that's the way we see it," instead of saying, "Well, let's pray about it. Let's discuss the scriptures. Let's not argue about them. "

That living water is going to flow out of every member that believes on Him, and living water doesn't mix with stale water. It just doesn't mix. It doesn't make it pure. Living water is pure water. Out of us shall flow rivers (plural). It's everything anybody needs. When they come to you, they can have that need met. Isn't that great? You don't have to have a pulpit. You don't have to have a church building to do it in. You are **the Church** wherever you are. When you come together in your assembly, you can shout and sing the victory, and praise God, and give the glory and honor unto Him. Then you can go out again, and let some more rivers flow out until the next time you come together. That's an identification point,

One evening during a meeting, a young lady said they had been praying to have a baby for five years, and God said to me, "Speak the word of life into her womb. Speak it in there." She got pregnant and she dedicated the baby to the Lord." The Lord said, "Speak it!" I spoke it, and it was up to God to perform it, not to me. What comes out of our lips and our mouths? Is it living waters? Is it words of power, words of life, creative words?

After Jesus had given this discourse of the living water, He told the woman all about the men she'd been married to, and the man that she was living with who wasn't her husband. What she'd done in the past didn't mean anything. He was bringing her life. Rivers of living water were coming out of Him. Forgiveness was there; the peace of God was there. Look what she says:

John 4:19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

She was getting pretty close to the truth, wasn't she. Later on she realized it's the Christ (**vs 29**).

The spirit of prophecy is a testimony of Christ in the believer. The Word of God declares in **Rev 19:10** and **I Cor 1:4-8**, that the spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus. That means that in every one of us there is a spirit of prophecy that cannot be gainsayed. The spirit of prophecy knows all things, future and past, and we have not allowed that spirit of prophecy to operate in our lives. We have not allowed the very presence of the Holy Ghost of God to identify us with Jesus, to identify us with the Holy Ghost.

Every time you tell somebody that Jesus is coming again, you're prophesying. It hasn't happened yet, has it? It's a future event. You've already identified right there with the spirit of prophecy. You're prophesying a future event that you really know in your heart is true. You not only believe it but you know it's true; so why don't we go

ahead and let the spirit of prophecy take us into all the areas that God would open to us. He would open **ALL** of it to us. He would hide nothing from us. **He said, "I would do nothing unless I first of all show it to my servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7).** He was saying, "I'm going to tell my friends what I'm doing," but we will not allow the Holy Ghost, the spirit of prophecy, to show us future events (**John 16:13**).

We get so concerned about what the President is doing, or what the government is doing, or what the economy is doing? I can tell you exactly what the end of it is. I can tell you exactly how it's going to come out and so can you. We need to be identified. When people start worrying about the economy, just go up to them and say, "It is well. It's not going to be well, it is well! In the kingdom of which I am, it is well. There are no ups or downs; it's just a steady incline right into the throne of grace, a continual walking in a level place with God." The spirit of prophecy lets you know that all things will pass away, but the only thing that will remain is the Kingdom of God. We need to be identified with the eternal things of God (**Col. 3:1-2**).

People are always going to try to drag you into today's economy or today's wars. There's never any good news when people sit down to talk. Do you ever listen to conversation around the table? "Aunt Susie is in bad shape, and Uncle John just beat his wife up and is in jail, and looks like we're going to have a bumper crop in wheat. We prayed for a bumper crop, we got it, but now we can't sell it." Nothing ever seems good and the Christian is sitting over there just doing nothing. You ought to take charge of that conversation and say, "Hey! It's great! It's wonderful! It's a beautiful day! It's the day the Lord has made! It's time for us to begin to enter into praise and worshipping God!" The spirit of prophecy.

It's time we began to realize that Jesus was a **PROPHET**, but He was more than a **PROPHET. He was the MESSIAH, the CHRIST, the KING of GLORY.** He wants you to identify with Him by beginning to confess faith, not by what you see, but by what you really know, and prophesy the Word of God to these people. When you're outside the realm they're in, you're prophesying to them something that you know of a certainty. When the prophets prophesied, they knew it and understood and prophesied it. The nation of Israel was so far from God, all they could see was the man doing certain things, but they could never hear the word, because they had not repented in their hearts.

God wants us to be identified today with Him. We have all things given into our hands. We are givers of living water. We're prophets in the Lord. I'm talking about in the spirit of prophecy. In **John 4:29** the woman calls Him the **CHRIST**. We need to identify with the **CHRIST**. We need to begin to tell people, "Come and see a man that told me all things whatsoever I did. **Come unto the LORD and live. Come unto Christ and live. Come unto the LORD and He will take care of you. Don't worry about what you need; come to Him and cast all your cares on Him, for He careth for you"**(1 Peter 5:7).

That's what the woman at the well was saying to those people: "Come and see Him. You've got problems; I had problems. I went to this well, as I always have gone to this well, and all I had was problems; but I met a man there, and He told me all things whatsoever I did. He told me how to worship God. **This is the CHRIST; this is the MESSIAH.** Come and see Him. He will meet your needs just like He did mine." She didn't go back to the village and say, "Well, I found this guy by the well, and you know we just had a nice little conversation, and if you want to, you go up there, and maybe He'll do something for you."

I believe that woman had a screaming fit when she came down from that well. She was so excited she left her waterpot (**John 4:28**), and she had a new message. She had new water now; she didn't need that old stuff. She laid down her doctrines, she laid down her religion, she laid down her traditions; **she picked up the living water.** She went down that hill into that village, and she began to preach to these men. She had so much of Christ already on her, she was so convincing that she brought a whole city to Jesus, because in just a moment of time she identified with somebody.

We've been living in the spirit for all these years, and we're having a hard time bringing anybody to Jesus. We're not convincing. We're almost apologetic about it. "MAYBE God will do it. He COULD be the answer you're looking for." No, no! **He IS the answer.** She identified with **CHRIST.** She identified with Him. She had a message, and she didn't even have the Holy Ghost living in her. She didn't even have the Spirit of God on her and she went down there and began to preach and convinced those men, and the whole city came out there.

We need to begin to bring people to **JESUS CHRIST,** because we have a conviction that He's real. We have a revelation that He's real. We have a relationship that He's real. We're identified by the power of the living **CHRIST,** with that kind of a **CHRIST,** not "Maybe God will meet your need." **We should be saying, "You go see Him. He's got it all. He's everything you'll ever need. You don't need to worry about anything from now on. There is a man on the top of this Mount Zion, that's got all the answers." Hallelujah!**

Do we have that kind of a convincing, convicting testimony? We ought to have. **We ought to have it MORE than that woman had it, because we're the BRIDE of CHRIST. We were chosen to reign with Him forever.** We ought to start reigning with Him right now. We ought to start taking our authority now. We ought to start moving in the realms of kings and priests now, in the **BRIDE of CHRIST.**

We ought to begin to move in authority with such an identification, that we say, "Brother, if you'll come to Jesus, He'll take care of you. He took care of me, and He'll take care of you. Throw down your water pots, throw down whatever you're doing. Forget about your schedule, forget about what you were going to do. This is too important. Let's go see this man Jesus. Let's go. He's got the answer for your need. He's got the answer for your problem." Amen!

John 4:42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying...

At first they believed because of her saying, didn't they. Her testimony was so true and so sure and so vibrant that they believed, and they came to see this man Jesus. Look at this:

John 4:42 ...for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the CHRIST, the SAVIOUR of the world.

Glory to God! How would you like to lead a city to Jesus. You've got more than she had. You have been given all power and authority to go out and witness for Christ (**Acts 1:8**). The thing that she had that we really need (and it's important in identification), was that she had a testimony that was convincing. She had a life that was changed. They knew that woman. She'd been around. She didn't have the best reputation in town. She wasn't a preacher's daughter. She didn't have a nice big reputation behind her; but when she came down off that experience with Jesus, she was so changed that her identification was no longer with the world. It was with Jesus, and they forgot what she used to be. We need that kind of conviction that men and women can begin to see the SAVIOUR of the world. We need to begin to believe through Christ that He has done all of these things.

Let's go to John 4:50 and see what Jesus said to the nobleman whose son was sick.

John 4:50 Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

This son was on the verge of death (**Vs.47**). **Jesus SPOKE the word, the word went forth and the child was healed.** Jesus didn't have to go lay hands on him. Jesus didn't have to send out a prayer handkerchief. I'm not against these things. They're in the word of God (**Acts 19:11-12**), but I'm saying there is something beyond that. **There is a place where we can SPEAK the word.** We don't have to be standing next to them. We can speak the word around the world. **It doesn't lose its power. The word of God is eternal, and when the eternal being in us speaks that word, it holds the same power and the same authority it had for this young man.**

Jesus didn't say, "I'll come by next week and see how he's doing." He didn't say, "I'll come by next month and see if he's still alive." He didn't say, "Well, now look fellow, if you belong to the right church, you're in." **He just said, "Thy son liveth," and sent the word. "Thy son liveth." That's living water. He was the giver of life and miracles, and the healer right there, wasn't He.**

Jesus said, "You are to do what I've done, but you're going to have to have the same power and authority and identification that I have.

My identification is with the Father, and with His Spirit. We are one, we are inseparable and when I speak, it is not I, but the Spirit of God. The Father speaketh through me and the word that goes forth is the eternal word of God, healing, saving, delivering, keeping power because it is a living word" (John 12:49-50; John 14:10).

Remember the Syrophenician woman (**Mark 7:24-30**). She came to Jesus and besought Him that He would speak a word and deliver her daughter from the devil, and He said, "It's not meat to give the bread of the children to dogs." She had Him though. She said, "Yes, Lord, that's true, but even the dogs get the crumbs that fall from the master's table." **He SPOKE the word, didn't He? "BOOM!" The word went. She was delivered.**

We've identified with flesh so long it's just hard to get in the realm where we're spirit people. **WE'RE SPIRIT PEOPLE. WE'RE BORN OF THE SPIRIT (JOHN 3:6). WE HAVE A FATHER THAT IS ETERNAL. WE ARE ETERNAL BEINGS.** We are living in flesh houses, but the house isn't important. We work at trying to get something off the ground, and **the Lord said, "All of your efforts are in vain. All the works of flesh are in vain. Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1).** We're trying to stir up a revival in our own strength, we're laboring in vain, and all we're going to get is tired and disgusted. If we will come in, relax in the presence of the Lord, enjoy what He's teaching us, take that out to somebody else, we can have a revival you couldn't believe. It would be a revival that would flow through the living waters of the spoken word of God.

Speak the word! Speak the word! Don't pray about doing it. **SPEAK IT!** When you have the answer, speak the word. **CREATE IT.** What was Jesus doing? He was creating life for that young man. What was He doing for that girl that was bound with those demons? Creating freedom for her. The enemy can't stand the word. It kills him, it destroys him, it just drives him crazy. Every time the word of God comes around, he just runs; he can't stay because the word is too powerful. It annihilates him. Jesus just simply said three times, "It is written, it is written, it is also written. Get out of here. I've got things to do. Get behind me" and satan departed and left Him for a season (**Luke 4:1-13**). That word had ripped him to pieces already. He had lost his battle right there.

Jesus came out of the wilderness in power. Mark 1:12 says He was driven into the wilderness. Luke 4:1 says He was led into the wilderness. It doesn't make any difference how you go into the wilderness; it's how you come out that counts. He came out identified with the Father. He came out identified with power, and majesty, and glory, and honor, and He came out with living waters out of Him. He came out with the authority. He came out with an identification that the Father gave Him. He said, "This is my beloved Son, hear ye Him. This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). When He came out of that wilderness,

when He separated Himself out of there, He came out in power, and from then on, when He spoke the word, that was it (Luke 4:14).

The argument is that He was Jesus. The answer is that He was a man, just like you and me, surrendered to the Holy Spirit. Not one of us can use any excuse to not walk in the power of God. We can make them all, but they won't stand up. We can make alibis, but they won't work. If we believe on Jesus like we say we believe on Him, He said, "Out of your belly there's going to flow rivers of living water" (**John 7:37-39**). He said, "It's going to happen." He had a river for healing, a river for deliverance, a river for the blind, anything you needed, there was a river right there. Anything anybody needs, they ought to be able to come to a Christian, and the Christian should say, "I've got the answer. Bang! It's done. It's all over with." **He was the giver of life. Amen!**

Let's go to Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:...

He had to be born a baby. He had to be a child, but God could not offer up a child. He had to have someone who was full grown and had a will of his own, and would willingly die. God can beget you as children, but He can't really use you until you become mature and have the mind of Christ (**Phil 2:5**), and can know Him which is from the beginning. Then you can, by your own free will, elect to be used of God and be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service (**Romans 12:1-2**).

Jesus was a living sacrifice all the days of His life. After He had done that, He became a dead sacrifice that God raised from the dead.

You're born into this world as a child, but God doesn't expect you to be a child forever. He wants to give the world some sons, doesn't He. He wants to give the body of Christ some sons that know Him, that live with Him and dwell in Him, and He dwells in them, and they can be living sacrifices.

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

Jesus was a child. He could not be a sacrifice until He became a grown man. God cannot use us the way He wants to until we finally come to the identity that we are His sons. We are His sons, by His choice. We have been born and adopted into His family, and therefore all the right the **first son** had, we have.

I am so tired of the Church being preached against, and always told what's wrong with them without a remedy. There is an answer for the Church. It's called identification. I mean real identity, **knowing** why you're identified, **knowing** why you can speak that word, **knowing** why you can confess a thing, instead of just going and trying to confess it and then trying to believe it in your heart. It doesn't work that way. You've got to **know** the foundational truth.

Why does God's word work the way it works? He tells you right here why it works. He tells you, "It's because you're identified with **ME**," and then He gives you the word line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little (**Isaiah 28:9-10**). He builds it together so when you speak, it's not "hope so"; it's "**know so**." It's not "maybe so"; it's "**shall be**." We need that, don't we. That's why God must have some sons today.

Now look at **Isaiah 9:6** again.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulders...

The Kingdom of God has a government. It's not a chaotic government. The Kingdom of God is not in chaos at all. The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17). If we're operating in the Kingdom of God, it should be evident to the world that we are **UNDER** control; we are not **OUT** of control. We are **UNDER** control.

The Lord has everything **IN** control. God is organized. He doesn't mind organization, as long as it has organism in it; as long as it has life in it. His government has life in it, and when we line up with His precepts and speak the word and **KNOW** that we're speaking His word, and out of our heart we're assured of it, things are going to happen. We have an identity, and God will honor that identity because it's His word, His government, and His authority.

Countries do not pick ambassadors that are children. They're trained. They're diplomats. They've been schooled, and they know exactly what that government they're representing will do and what it won't do. When they go out, they have full authority to speak the word. They have full authority to make binding agreements. The government that sends them will (or used to) back them up. Honored them! My God still honored them. **I'm His ambassador. You're His ambassador (2 Cor 5:20), but He's sending out mature sons that know Him which IS from the beginning.**

Isaiah 9:6 ...and the government shall be upon His shoulder: (and I want you to notice something about this; these words are all capitals letter words.) ***His name shall be called WONDERFUL...***

WONDERFUL is a word that means **GREAT, MIRACULOUS**, but it's also a word that means **RISE UP (Conc. #6381,6382)**. It's the same word that's used in **Isaiah 60. ARISE!** It's a word that God has given to you and me.

The first thing that we have to recognize the **Lord** as being is **WONDERFUL**. If **He's** not **WONDERFUL** to us, **He's** not anything else to us. If **He** has not honestly become **WONDERFUL** with us, and we're not identified with His wonderfulness, the rest of it really doesn't mean much. If we're not really believing that He is able to do all that He said He would do, if we don't believe that **He** is the **MIRACULOUS, the GREAT, the WONDERFUL LORD**, then there's no reason for us to go on, because sooner or later we're going to find another God. **If God isn't everything, if Jesus isn't the LORD**, we're going to have to make somebody the LORD, either ourselves, or somebody else.

Here the **LORD** is talking to our heart; there's a point of identification. Is our God really that wonderful to us? Is He really a **MIRACULOUS God**? Is He a God that will arise on our behalf? Does He say, **"Let God arise and His enemies be scattered" (Psalm 68:1)**. It's the same word He uses for Wonderful. "Let our God be Wonderful, and His enemies be scattered." **When the Church begins to glorify the Lord and praise Him and exalt Him, the enemies of God will flee. They will come in against you one way, but they will flee from you seven ways (Deut 28:7). You won't have to do anything except praise the Lord and exalt Him.**

God hasn't changed His program. The way you fight against the enemy is through praise and through the word. **Psalm 22:3** says that He inhabits our praises. When we begin to praise Him, the Holy God of heaven, the Wonderful God of heaven and earth, flows out from us, and He begins to cause the enemy to be scattered. His government comes against the government of darkness, and darkness cannot stand against light.

Darkness doesn't put the sun out; the sun just moves on, doesn't it. Did you ever notice how the sun always pushes the darkness back when it comes. At first you see a little glint of light over there, even before you can see the sun. It just begins to cause your heart to rejoice. You might have had a bad night, but something about the rising of the sun makes the day wonderful, doesn't it. It kind of cleanses everything. Praise God!

The first thing He is called is WONDERFUL. He is MIRACULOUS. He is GREAT. He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we're able to think or ask of Him according to the power that worketh in us (Eph 3:20).

Isaiah 9:6...and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor...

The next thing that we find out about Him is that He is **COUNSELLOR**. That's His name, that's His office, that's His position. No person should ever assume to be a counsellor without the Head Counsellor speaking through him. No person should ever

be speaking about his own imaginations or vain thoughts. He is tampering with the office that Jesus Christ has. **HE is the COUNSELLOR.** When we speak, we should speak as an oracle of God (**I Peter 4:11**). We should tell people what is written; we should not add to it nor should we interpret it. **WE SHOULD LET THE HOLY GHOST OF GOD PUT THAT WORD INTO THEIR HEART.** That is the answer to their problem. **JESUS IS THE COUNSELLOR.** We counsel under His authority.

Any time a man or woman is picked of God to counsel the things of God, first of all they must humble themselves, and submit themselves to the will and the Spirit of God. Then when they counsel, it must be the Holy Ghost that speaks through them. It's amazing that Jesus said, "When the Holy Ghost is come He will not speak of himself..." (**John 16:13**). He wasn't talking about the Holy Ghost talking about the Holy Ghost. He was talking about the Holy Ghost not talking or speaking by His own permission. He would only speak by the authority of God. God would give Him the authority to speak, and He would speak whatever the Father would show Him to speak. That's the way we ought to be. We should not say, "Well, **I think** if you do this it would turn out right."

The whole Church, the body of Christ, is going to have to come together under the COUNSELLOR, that when they speak, it will not be them in the natural that speak, but the Holy Spirit of God will speak through them and they will receive the words that are life. Amen!

He is **WONDERFUL!** He is **COUNSELLOR!** That's His office. Now notice again, all of these titles are capitals. They are nouns. They are names that are in the name of the **LORD JESUS CHRIST.** They are offices that are in **Jesus,** so if you are in the **LORD JESUS CHRIST,** you have the right and the authority to counsel men and women to turn from their sin; first of all repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand (**Matt 4:17**). Repent, and be saved. Hallelujah! You have that counsel. Every Christian that is saved can give that pure and true counsel. You can be five seconds old in Jesus, and become a counsellor, but you can always only counsel according to the ability.

As you grow in the Lord, instead of being a child, you grow up into sonship. You grow up into the fulness of what God has for you. You're going to find that more and more you can counsel in different types of situations but **you must study the Word of God. You must spend time in prayer. You must spend time before the Lord. You must take that word and get it off the paper and ink, and put it into spirit and life through the power of the Holy Spirit.** Then when men and women come that need counsel, you will **not** be saying, "I think" or "It is my considered opinion." **You will say, "It is written."**

Did you ever notice how Jesus counselled people? **He said, "The prophets have said... It is written..(Matt 4:1-10). This is the way, walk ye in it (Isaiah 30:21). I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).** Never once did He give a vain imagination. He was telling men true counsel that would give them the opportunity to repent and to follow Him. He was giving them something more than just a theory and a

doctrine. **He was giving them true and righteous counsel, and that's what God expects His body to do - to give men and women true and righteous counsel.** You cannot bend the Word of God. You cannot subvert the Word, but you can subvert the hearers of the Word. You can lie to them, you can deceive them, you can tell them all kinds of things that your vain imaginations have brought to your mind; but **our identification mark with Christ is that we speak truth, that our counsel is "yea and amen" (2 Cor 1:18-20).** It is true; it is not of our vain imaginations.

I like the word **counsellor**. According to the dictionary it means a lawyer, and especially a trial lawyer. Isn't that what Jesus said He would be for us. **He'd be our advocate (or lawyer) with the Father (I John 2:1).** He would take our case to trial. Hallelujah! **He took it to the pit of hell one day, and won the case. He came out of there victorious. Glory to God! Stamped it with His own blood: paid in full.** He never charged me a dime for lawyer fees.

People are running around the world paying huge sums to get worldly counsel. What they get is something like this: "Well, you've got to learn to live with it. You've got to learn to exist with it." **No!** You don't learn to live with it. You don't learn to exist with it. **Jesus said, "I will give you power to get rid of it. I'll give you power to lay it down. I'll give you power to walk away from it" (Luke 10:19).** It isn't going to cost you anything. It isn't going to cost you 150 visits. The Word of the Lord, the true counsel of God, speaks the word, and there it is.

He is called our GUIDE (Isaiah 58:11). That's what counsellor also means. Counsellor means He guides you in all your affairs. No wonder He was saying in **Matt 6:33: "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."** The word "**first**" there, is not a word so much in order of one, two, three, four; it's a primary word. It means "in all of your decisions". In all of your decisions seek the Kingdom of God, and when you seek the Kingdom of God in your decisions, everything else will follow in order.

When you seek God's will for your life in every decision, whether great or small, if you seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, all of these other things will be added unto you. So we have a **COUNSELLOR**. We have an **ADVOCATE** with the Father. We have a **GUIDE**. **We have one that knows the will of God.**

We studied about the Holy Ghost who makes intercession for us according to the will of God (**Rom 8:26-27**). Now we're going to have to realize our identification is with the Spirit of God. We do not walk as men any longer (**I Cor 3:3**), but we walk as God walked. We talk as God talks, we think as God thinks, and we move as God moves. It's a good way to stay out of trouble.

John 16:13 says, "The Spirit of truth (the Holy Ghost), when He is come, He will guide you into all truth..."

Jesus is identifying Himself right here. He's identifying with the Spirit of the Lord. Jesus went to sit at the right hand of the Father to be our living High Priest (**Heb 8:1**), but He sent a **Comforter (John 14:1,17,26; 15:26; 16:7-15)**. He sent another Comforter that was just like Him, only he couldn't be seen like they could see Jesus. Everything that Jesus was, the Holy Ghost is.

The Holy Ghost comes to move **into** us, not **with** us, but **into** us (**I Cor 8:16**). **He guides us into all truth. He is a counsellor. He is an intercessor. A counsellor will give purpose to your life. He will give a determination to your life.** That's what a counsellor does. He makes a decision. A lawyer or judge makes decisions according to what is right and what is wrong, according to the facts. Man's decisions can vary, depending on how much money he gets from whose side. Those facts can be changed or the thing can be bent around; **but you can't buy God's word. You can't influence God with your personality, or anything else (Acts 8:18-25)**. God has made a determined counsel (**Acts 17:23-28**). He has made a determination and we must walk in His decisions.

The Word of God said that Jesus was crucified. There was a pre-determined counsel that Jesus should be delivered over to the hands of these men and He should die (**Acts 2:22-24; Rev 13:8; Isaiah 53**). It was the pre-determined counsel of God. It was the decision of God. If the decision to allow Jesus to die was true, then the decision that causes us to live overcoming lives is just as true. His pre-determined counsel for us is that we would identify with those that are more than conquerors; that we would identify with those that always triumph in Christ.

Isaiah 9:6...and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God...

The next thing we see is that **He is the MIGHTY God. Zeph 3:17 "The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy, He will rest in his love, He will joy over thee with singing."** Glory to God! That's what God wants to be to you and me - a **MIGHTY God** that rejoices over us, has joy over us, and He does it with singing. If I'm going to identify with that kind of a **MIGHTY God**, there had better be some joy in my life. There had better be some singing in my life. There had better be some praising in my life (**Psalms 100:1-5**). If I'm going to identify with a **MIGHTY God**, I'm going to have to be like Him in His attributes.

The word **MIGHTY** in Hebrew is a beautiful word. It means powerful, champion, valiant warrior (**Conc. #1368**), and it also means ability according to the Dict. What we could say here is: A God that is able. The God of ability. **"Our God is able to deliver us,"** the three Hebrew men said in **Daniel 3:17**. Our God is **MIGHTY** in the midst of us. He is able to deliver us. **He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we think or ask of Him according to the power or the identity that works in us (Eph 3:20)**. You can never really believe Him for more than you're identified with Him.

So the God that was in the midst of them, **He is MIGHTY**. He is able, so we ought to be a people that are able to live overcoming lives. We ought to be a people that are able to live in the realms of God's presence. We ought to be a people that cannot be defeated. We ought to be a people that are able to do the things God commissioned us to do. Why? Because He is in us by His Spirit (**I Cor 3:16; 6:19**). He's not only in the midst of us today; **He's IN us**. Hallelujah! He walked and talked with the prophets. He spoke and sent His word to them; but He is in you and me with all that He is; all the glory, all the honor, and everything that God is.

He is in us and His ability is in us. "Not by might or by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord" (Zech 4:6). When God did something, He did it by His Spirit. He spoke the Word, and His Spirit performed it.

We have been given ability, the power, and authority. We have been given dominion. We have been given the right to represent Him. We have been given the right to speak of Him. We have been given the right to expect the same ability, and the same power that was in Jesus Christ to be in us (**John 14:12**). It doesn't glorify God for us to doubt Him. It glorifies Him for us to believe Him. **He is the MIGHTY God, or the God of ability. He is the everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6)**. When we speak the word, the Spirit goes out with that word and performs it (**Isaiah 55:11**).

The fathers of the faith are they that know Him which is from the beginning (**I John 2:13**). Which **IS** from the beginning. Not WAS, or WILL BE, but **IS** from the beginning. The fathers of the faith have grown up. They're not in the argument stage anymore. They're not in the physical realm of trying to do it in their own strength. They have moved into a realm of **"by the Spirit."** They're not struggling to perform; they're not struggling to do something for God. They're simply speaking the word, living by the word. **They're performing through the Spirit of God, and things are getting done.** People are separating themselves unto God, because the word of the Lord is beginning to prick their hearts, and they are making decisions!

The next name that we see in **Isaiah 9:6** is **The EVERLASTING FATHER**. That was one of His names. That was one of His offices. He was in the beginning. **The Word was in the beginning with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1)**. The Father has a Son named Jesus, but He is in the bosom of the Father. **"No man has seen God at anytime; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared Him" (John 1:18).**

John 1:18 (Amp. Bible): No man has ever seen God at any time; the only unique Son, the only-begotten God, Who is in the bosom (that is, in the intimate presence) of the Father, He has declared Him...

A Christian brother and I were talking about Lazarus. The rich man had died and had gone immediately to hell. Lazarus had gone to a place called the bosom of Abraham (**Luke 16:22-23**). We don't go to the bosom of Abraham anymore. When we leave this world, we go in to the bosom of the Father. Hallelujah! We can also declare

Him because we were chosen **in Christ** from before the foundation of the world (**Eph 1:4**). If Christ was in the bosom of the Father, I was with Him.

The Lord says to us that we have an **EVERLASTING FATHER**. Not just a temporal Father, not just someone that is here today and gone tomorrow, but **we have one that's the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8)**. He took on all the attributes of His Father when He came. We should take on that divine nature (**II Peter 1:4**). The attributes of God should be in us (**Phil 2:5-8**). The everlasting Father should be present in our lives continually. That simply means that we don't have to go to someone else to get the answer. We have a heavenly Father that has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness (**II Peter 1:3**).

"Yeah, but Brother Krider, you know God doesn't want me to enjoy life." Where do you read that in the Bible? He said, "He hath given us all things that pertain to life and godliness." John was so caught up in it, he wrote an epistle. **"Beloved, I would above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers"(III John 2.)** If your soul doesn't prosper, you're not going to prosper anywhere else. When you're prospering in your soul, you don't really care where else you prosper. You're so in love with Jesus, it doesn't make much difference.

Let's go back to Isaiah 9:6.

Isaiah 9:6 ...His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

He is called **WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, the MIGHTY GOD, the EVERLASTING FATHER**. Then He sums it all up and He says He is called the **PRINCE of PEACE**. Isaiah 26:3 says: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." He keeps them in perfect peace. He is the giver of peace. Not only is He the giver of life, He is the giver of peace. He is called the **PRINCE of PEACE**.

He became the **KING of PEACE** when He arose from the dead. His Father gave Him a throne forever. **"Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom "** (**Heb 1:8**). God gave Him a kingdom, and He said, "Now divide it with the children. Divide it with the family because they're going to be heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ Jesus. If so be we suffer as He suffered, we shall also reign as He reigns (**Rom 8:16-18**).

The first thing you have to know about God, is He is **WONDERFUL**. That's the first step. That's the first thing that most people say when they're saved. **They just fall so in love with Jesus that He is WONDERFUL. He is just WONDERFUL**. If they are really raised up right, they are taught that when they seek counsel, don't go to the world, but seek the Lord; seek the Kingdom of God, seek His righteousness (**Psalm 1:1-3; Matt 6:33-34**). Get the word of the Lord. Make decisions based only on the Word of God (**Psalm 119:11**). Then they're taught that our God is able to do exceedingly

abundantly above all that we're able to think or ask. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but they are mighty. They have ability to pull down strongholds (**II Cor 10:3-7**).

We learn that we are an eternal being. We have an everlasting Father; therefore our Father is eternal. **The product of an eternal Father has to be an eternal son.** We finally wake up and say, "I don't need to fight anymore in the flesh. I can cease from that. I can be at perfect peace now, no matter what happens, and that perfect peace can surround me as long as I keep my mind stayed upon the **PRINCE of PEACE.**" Isn't that great? Those are the identifying marks with us.

We should be going around telling people how wonderful God is; telling them to seek the Lord and live. That's counsel when we go and tell men and women that they need to repent and accept Christ. One sister was wondering what her boyfriend would think about it. We told her, "Don't worry what your boyfriend thinks about it. **This is an eternal thing.**" The true counsel isn't to worry about what flesh and blood thinks about it (**Col 3:1,2**). What does God say about it? God doesn't think about it. He has already had a pre-determined counsel. **He said, "This is the way it is. There isn't going to be any change. This is the way it's going to be now, this is the way it's going to be tomorrow, this is the way it's going to be forever (Psalm 119:89. I change not" (Heb 13:8).**

We're talking about identification. We're identifying with every thing He is so we can be as He is. **He said, "As He is, so are we in this present world" (I John 4:17).** Whatever He is like, we should be like. **Look at Heb 1:1-2 "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds..."**

Do you believe that? Then you're going to identify with somebody that owns everything. **Paul said in (I Cor 3:21-22 "All things are yours. The world is yours."** We should use it wisely.

Let's go to Romans 8:15-17

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Now notice this in the next verse. There's a connecting word called **"and"**. He said that there's something that goes along with being a child of God.

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.

We shall reign with Him. We shall be manifested with Him. Our life is hidden away, but when Christ is made manifest and He appears, then our life will also appear with Him.

But here in Romans He is saying, "**right now you are the heirs.**" Joint-heir isn't fifty-fifty. Joint heir means each one that is a joint-heir together, owns exactly the same amount as the other one does. A joint-heir is one that has the right to everything. Do you really believe that? That's what it says. Then in **Hebrews 1:2** where it says He was made the heir of all things, then I'm also the heir of all things. I can't change it. Romans didn't have another letter written that would change what it says in Hebrews. It was the same Spirit saying the same thing. If I'm a joint-owner, or a joint-heir, it means I own the joint. I won everything that's in that joint-heirship.

We're going to be studying in Revelation the seven steps to the final throne of God - **PERFECTION**. But here He is telling us something very clear and plain. **THE WORLD IS OURS**. When He raised us up into heavenly places in **Eph 2:6**, He made us to sit down together with Him. He made us for that purpose: to sit down with Him on His throne, so we could have dominion with Him over all things on earth, whether they be principalities, or powers, or dominions (**Eph 1:21-23**). He has given us power over all the power of the enemy (**Luke 10:19**), but we have been identifying with the world more than we have God. We've identified with failure more than with success. We've identified with numbers more than God.

That got David in trouble. When he was young, he was strong and he'd go out and kill his ten thousands. Later after he was King, he said to Joab and the rulers, "Let us number Israel to see how many there are." They told him, "Don't do it, David. Don't do it." David numbered them anyway, didn't he, and God became angry with him. I'll tell you, it repented David that he ever numbered Israel (**I Chron 21:1-30**). He was doing fine as long as he trusted God, but the minute he trusted flesh to see how many were with him, God became angry.

It's nothing for God to save by few or by many. It's up to God how many He wants to use. He has one Son that came and conquered the whole world, conquered Satan and all the powers of hell, and they couldn't stand against Him. He created a Church just like Him, and He said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (**Matthew 16:18**). We should begin to identify with the heir of all things. If somebody asks you what you're worth, say, "Man, I don't know. I've only seen a portion of the Kingdom."

The entire world belongs to the Lord. That's why I don't worry about it when I buy gas, because it's mine too as a joint heir. I'm just paying to use it while I'm here. See, it's a foreign world. I'm of another Kingdom, praise God! If I have to drive across this

country, I'm not going to worry about how much it costs to get gas in a tank. I'm not going to worry about whether it's a penny higher this end of town or a penny cheaper the other end of town. It's mine anyhow. I'm an heir and a joint-heir with the Lord. I identify there.

We've identified with the wrong power and we've given everything to a power that has no power. We've given it to a defeated enemy. We keep confessing, "I wish I had this...; I wish I had that..." Isn't that true? "I could do more if I..." God said, "You got it all!" (**2 Peter 1:3**). What more can I give you? There isn't a thing I can give you, Son. I've given it all to you. Now just start using it. Start appropriating it. Realize that it's all yours. I can't move it through you anymore than I have. I've given it to you, but if you won't use it, how can I give you any more. There isn't any more to give. I've given it all to you." We're going around identifying with the world by saying, "I wish I had more. If I had more..." What we're really doing is we're telling the Lord, "We don't really believe what You said You did. Now, Lord, if I only had what that man's got." No! I've got more than that man's got.

One day we'll wake up and we'll see this scripture coming to pass, **"...and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just" (Pro 13:22)**. The Lord said in **Ecc 2:26** **"... to the sinner He gave travail, to gather and to heap up, that He might give to him that is good before God."** You see, we've got to identify with righteousness, not sin; not death, not dying, not flesh, but **RIGHTEOUSNESS!** He became sin for us. **"He was made sin for us...that we might be made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus" (2 Cor 5:21)**; but He can't give it to the righteous unless the righteous know who they are.

The Church is identifying with the wrong people; identifying with the wrong things. It is ours, because our Father sent His Son to redeem it. God is going to start loosening the finances to the righteous. Not to church members. Not to the sinners. Not to people that don't know who they are, because they won't know how to handle it. He's going to give it to the people that realize they have a great responsibility for every dime, every nickel, every dollar that's given to them. They're going to have to be identified with Jesus as a faithful steward (**Luke 16:1-12; Matt 25:14-29**). So when these heathen are making lots of money, just pray for them. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they'd get converted before they lost it all?

God has a system that's worked out just right. It's right on time. God has to get a people together that can identify with righteousness more than failure. Identify with victory. Identify with being able to do what God said we can do. Either the Word of God is true, or it's a fallacy, and if any one portion of this Word is not true, then you couldn't trust the rest of it. If all that God said is not true, then salvation could be questionable.

Let's go on in Hebrews 1:3-4. Isn't this good?

Heb 1:3 Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His

power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Heb 1:4 Being made so much better than the angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

We have a name that's above Michael, above Gabriel. It's the name of JESUS. It is His name. But the WORD of GOD is even above His name. We are in the WORD, In JESUS, in HIS NAME. You can't be anywhere else.

Let's go to Hebrews 1:13:

Heb 1:13 But to which of the angels said He at any time, sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

He said to Jesus, "Sit on my right hand. I'm going to make all of your enemies your footstool. I'm going to subdue everything under your feet." Psalms 47:2-3 tells us that He shall subdue the people under us and the nations under our feet.

Heb. 1:14 Are they (angels) not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.

That's what an angel is. He is a ministering spirit. He has a commission. He is sent forth to minister **FOR**, not **TO**, but **FOR** them. That means they go out ahead of you. They bear you up lest you dash your foot on a stone (**Psalm 91:12**). They live and encamp around about you, (**Psalm 34:7**) and we're afraid of some pipsqueak that's been walked on, trampled on, stepped on, squashed. **Read it in Ezekiel 28:18,19 and Isaiah 14:16:** "People will narrowly look upon you..." God's people will be ashamed in that day that they were afraid of that guy. Jesus made an open show of him, triumphing over him (**Col 2:15**).

Let's look at Hebrews 1:14 again:

Heb 1:14 ..sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.

I happen to be an heir of salvation. Jesus made me that. I had nothing to do with it except to say "yes." God sent the invitation out. He sent the Christ of glory to die for me. He sent everything He could send; now I must respond to that. I cannot come on my works, my righteousness, my goodness. I must come totally on what He has done. I must come in the Spirit of the Lord. When I began to live in the spirit, walk in the spirit, things began to happen in my life that never seemed to happen as long as I went by what I had, or what I could get, or what I could do. Nothing miraculous ever seemed to happen until the moment I came to a point and said, "Lord, You live in me. I will live in You, and from this day on, help me to walk in the spirit; not depending on

what I have in the natural or what I don't have, but let me operate on Your riches." It wasn't long until God let me operate on His riches because they're my riches also!

Someday we're going to understand this scripture where it says, **"My God shall supply all of your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:19). His people are HIS RICHES. He calls us His jewels in Malachi 3:17; His pearls in Matthew 13:45-46.** You're His riches. You're His storehouses now. He doesn't want to have to send an angel to do it. He wants the body to minister to one another. He wants the Church to support itself by its own riches **(Acts 4:31-35)**. You take up an offering. You don't go out and ask the heathens to support you, do you? The tithes aren't paid by the heathens. They're supposed to be paid by the Church, to support the ministries to do the work of the Lord, to take care of the widows and orphans **(2 Cor 9:6-14; James 1:27)**. We have walked around identifying with bankruptcy. Many of the body are destitute and in need because the riches that God could have opened up, He couldn't open up, because they were identifying with having nothing.

You're called PEARLS OF GREAT PRICE. Jesus is the PEARL WITHOUT PRICE. He came and purchased you and redeemed you and brought you in to His riches, and into His glory **(Acts 20:28; Gal 3:13; Rev 5:9-10; I Cor 6:20)**. He said, "Now be a faithful servant over all that I've given you **(Luke 12:42-48)**. Be one of My riches, and through you I will bless others." He said that through the seed of Abraham all nations will be blessed **(Gen 12:1-3)**.

You're the riches of God! You're His banks. You're His storehouses. You're His vaults. That's why He said, **"Bring all your tithes into the storehouse saith the Lord, that there may be meat in my house" (Mal 3:10)**. Well, what IS God's house? We are! He said, **"You're the temple of the Holy Ghost" (I Cor 3:16)**. Begin to love one another. Begin to care about your pastors, and begin to care about those who are feeding the flock. Begin to care about your brothers and sisters in the congregation! Don't let them have to go outside to have their need met. Meet the need right there. Become concerned.

Paul said, "I've learned how to be abased; I've learned how to abound. I've been instructed in all things. Not that I desired a gift from you, but that it may abound to your account, that there'll be more in you to give to somebody else. That God will meet your need now. Because your riches have been invested in me, someone is going to invest their riches in you. You're the riches of God." You need to read the whole context in **Phil 4:10-19**.

We need to have a little brightness, don't we. He said, "You are the light of the world." **(Matt 5:14-16)**. Isn't that what it says? "You are the light of the world." You are the brightness of the world. You're all that God hath said you are. You're everything. So God said, "I want you to identify..." Notice this in **Heb 1:3**: "Who being the brightness of His glory..."

Let's go to Isaiah 60:1-3:

Isa 60:1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Isa 60:2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people...

He didn't say, "Go hide!" Don't go hide and get scared, for then He said:

Isa 60:2 ...but The Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.

Isa 60:3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Is the word **BRIGHTNESS** there? Then we're to identify with **BRIGHTNESS**. Not only light, but **BRIGHTNESS, EXCELLENT LIGHT, EXCEEDING LIGHT!** That will dispel the powers of darkness wherever you walk. You ought to say, "In the name of Jesus, I command every unclean spirit to get out of the way." There's an angel going before you anyhow. The unclean spirits already see you coming. They're running and hiding in the bushes. Why don't you just run them on out of the property. Then somebody is going to start talking to you about Jesus, you see, because there won't be an unclean spirit to hang onto him. **"...THE BRIGHTNESS OF YOUR RISING."**

Jesus was the BRIGHTNESS of His glory. He was the illumination of the glory of God. He was the BRIGHTNESS of the presence of the Lord. He was the light that revealed the presence of God, and so are you. You're the vessels in which the **BRIGHTNESS**, or the presence of God is; and we're to reveal that presence of the Lord by the life that we live, the words that we speak, the power of an endless life working in us. Let this get down into your heart, and sooner or later it's going to take root. It's going to grow up in you in a great way, and you're going to be able to walk out there and not be afraid of anything; being able to go anywhere God sends you and not worry about it. Just get up and go. God is saying to us that we've got to come to some things of identification, or we're always going to be afraid in areas of our life that we don't need to be afraid in. Amen?

Now notice this in Hebrews 1:5-7

Heb. 1:5 For unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art my Son...

He didn't! **Jesus was NOT an angel**, as we think of Him being an angel. **He was THE WORD!** We write all kinds of books on who Jesus was. **He was THE WORD.** It's that simple. **He WAS and IS THE WORD (John 1:1,14).**

Heb.1:5 ...this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to me a Son?

Isn't there a lot of identification there for you and me. We were never angels. We weren't something else and then brought into this body. We are begotten children of the Lord. We are children that He loves, and we have a Father. We have an identification. We are not as the word says "bastards" (Heb 12:8) but we are His. We are not a people without a Father. We are not an offcast. We are precious in the sight of the Lord (Isaiah 43:4). We are His sons by His CHOICE. We have a Father.

What we have been studying is the meat of the Word. This is what the Lord said we haven't done, but we should do. The availability is there. All we've got to do is believe it and walk into it. When somebody says, "Who do you think you are?" say, "I'm what my Father says I am. I'm His son." Amen!

Heb.1:6 And again, when He bringeth in the first begotten into the world, He saith, And let all the angels of God worship Him."

And let all the angels of God worship Him. Praise God!

Heb.1:7 And of the angels He saith, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

There is another point of identification - **A FLAME OF FIRE!** On the day of Pentecost, what was on their heads? **Cloven tongues of fire (Acts 2:3). Flames of fire.** John the Baptist said that Jesus would baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire (**Matt 3:11**). He would make you a light. He would cause that fire to illuminate. He would cause that fire to burn away the dross (**Isaiah 1:25**). He would cause that fire to guide your path (**John 16:13**); to light it for you. To be a lamp and a light unto your feet (**Psalms 119:105**).

WE NEED IDENTIFICATION. WE DON'T NEED TO BE SAVED AGAIN. WE JUST NEED TO BEGIN TO APPROPRIATE WHAT'S IN THE WILL FOR US. THIS IS MY FATHER'S WILL THAT HIS SON GAVE ME. HE DIED FOR THIS WILL AND TESTAMENT. HE SAID, "IF YOU DON'T USE IT, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT."

When a person in the world dies, and leaves a member of his family or a friend ten million dollars, he has to go get it or he has to receive it. He has to acknowledge the gift, doesn't he? The man died; he gave it. It was real, but if the other heir died in poverty because he wouldn't pick up the ten million dollars, whose fault was it? The one that left it or the one that didn't get it? The one that didn't get it! Now Jesus died, rose again, and gave us everything. If we live in any less than that, don't blame Jesus, and don't give the devil credit, because he couldn't get in the will. The will was read by the lawyer, Jesus himself.

Let's look at Hebrews 1:8-9:

Heb. 1:8 But unto the Son He saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

Heb. 1:9 Thou hast loved righteousness...

That ought to be our cry. That ought to be our sign of identification. **WE LOVE RIGHTEOUSNESS. WE LOVE RIGHTEOUSNESS. Hallelujah!**

Heb. 1:9 ...and hated iniquity...

In **Matt 7:21-23** Jesus called them workers of iniquity, didn't He. Iniquity means wickedness, unrighteousness, unrighteous actions or practices (**Conc. #458**). **God said to Jesus, "You hated it." Jesus would say to them, "Depart from me all you that work iniquity, for I never knew you." Glory to God!**

We're a people that are supposed to **HATE iniquity** and **LOVE righteousness**. If I really love righteousness, I am going to love those that are righteous. I have to, because I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, and you are the righteousness of God, so I'm going to love you as a sign that I love righteousness. **"And by this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if ye have love one to another"** (**John 13:35**). When you love one another, you love righteousness, don't you? If you don't love one another, you don't love righteousness. **So the point of identification is that we love righteousness, we hate iniquity.**

Heb. 1:9: ...therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

He is the head. He's above the fellows. But the same anointing that is upon the head runs down the beard, even to the garments, and seals the body (**Psalm 133:1-3**). We could come into that part also. We have been anointed of God (**Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18; 2 Cor 1:21**) because we love righteousness, and we hate iniquity.

Amen!

IDENTIFICATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Chapter 4

We are talking about the identification with the Spirit of God; how we are to identify with His brightness, with His glory, to be like Him, to move in realms of the spirit in new ways.

Let's start with Hebrews 2:9.

Heb. 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

I want to make a point of identification here: we are not to taste of this kind of death. We are not going to know a separation from God by the spirit. Our souls will never die. We have been made alive because of this. This being true then, we ought to begin to speak life. We ought to begin to live life. We ought to begin to project life. There should no longer be any death thoughts in us at all. Death should not even be in our vocabulary. We should not speak of death as some horrible thing in the natural, but rather a place of the changing of garments.

This kind of a death that He talks about there, is the death that He would suffer of total separation from the Father for a season, that He might be tested with His soul, in His body, and in His Spirit. That He might be able to enter right into the very pits, the lower parts of the earth, and begin to preach to them the power of God (**Eph 4:8-10; I Peter 3:18-20; 4:6**).

The Lord wants us to identify with Him, but He doesn't want us to identify continually with death thoughts. We should begin to identify with live thoughts. Living water. Words of life. Creative words of power. If you don't get anything else out of this study, remember you have the power of creation speaking through you. **You're CREATING circumstances. You're CREATING things around you. You're CREATING faith in hearts. You're CREATING healing in bodies. You're CREATING life in bodies. You're CREATING the very power of God into the hearts of men and women.**

The ministry of a teacher is one that most of us really have in a way, because we're to be examples. We're to be those that teach others. We're to be those that instill faith. One thing that we should do as a teacher is to relate to people that they are not dead, but they are alive. They are all that God said they

are. They're the power of Christ unto salvation. Never preach to the flesh man. Never talk to the flesh man, because the flesh man is dead. We are of the Spirit, and the Spirit is life (**John 3:5-8; 6:63**). Hallelujah!

The Spirit is life, and we should radiate that kind of life to every person we meet. When they have a discouraging report, when they have a report of how bad it is, let's speak life into that situation. Let's speak life into that time. Let's have a positive confession of faith, not out of our head, but because we have studied the word of God and we have found the scriptures that prove we can have that kind of a confession. Why we can really believe what we're believing, is simply this: Jesus tasted the separation once and for all for all men that we would never be separated from Him. That ought to make us happy enough to testify of Jesus Christ. That ought to give us enough of a point to identify with Him.

Let's go to Heb 3:1-2. If you want to be religious, if you've got to have an Apostle, if you've got to have a High Priest, we've got one.

Heb. 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

Heb. 3:2 Who was faithful to Him that appointed Him...

Now notice this: **He was FAITHFUL to Him that APPOINTED Him.** He has appointed to us a kingdom (**Luke 22:29-30**). We have been appointed. We have been anointed (**Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18; 2 Cor. 1:21**). We have been set aside for the great work of God, so there ought to be a point of identification of **FAITHFULNESS**. **That ought to be one of the greatest trade marks that the Christian has, the trade mark of being FAITHFUL.**

Jesus said, "Thou good and **FAITHFUL servant**; ... enter into the joy of the Lord" (**Matt 25:21**). **NOW!** He can continually go from glory to glory (**2 Cor. 3:18**), and the joy of the Lord is continually revealed to him. The power of Christ makes him alive from sin (**Rom. chap. 6**), alive from death, alive from the powers of this world, until he has been found faithful in all things (**I Cor 4:1-2**).

We sometimes pick out the things that we want to be faithful in. The big things, you know. We want to be faithful in the **BIG** things. It's the little things that cause trouble. It's the way we think. **"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he"** (**Pro 23:7**). We need to have a purging, don't we. We need to allow the word of God to wash us (**Eph 5:26-27**), until even the thoughts that we think are life (**2 Cor 10:5**). **They are right thoughts. They are Jesus Christ's thoughts. They are faithful thoughts. They are thoughts that cause us to continually overcome in this life.**

We find that the Lord said, "The little foxes are those that destroy the vine" (**Song of Solomon 2:15**). It isn't the big things that we see, but it's those thoughts in our mind. We say something with our mouth, but our mind is thinking something else. We

need to get the mind of Christ where our mouth and our mind are lined up; where our heart and our mouth are lined up (**Phil 2:5; Eph 4:21-32; Psalm 19:14**). Not just confessing something because we find it written, but we're faithful to believe that it's true (**Mark 11:23-24**). Therefore we confess that because it's a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance (**I Timothy 4:9**).

So the Lord is saying that another mark of identification is that we are FAITHFUL because we have been APPOINTED.

A lot of people don't realize they are appointed to the Kingdom. They don't realize they are appointed to an office. Do you realize that from before the foundation of the world Jesus Christ chose you (**Eph. 1:4-12**) to fill high offices in the Kingdom of God to come (**Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6**). Judas had an office appointed unto him and because he was unfaithful, he lost the Kingdom. He lost his place in the office of eternity. He fell from his office. The word of God says he fell from the office of the bishoprick (**Acts 1:15-20**).

God has elected you and me to a high office. Paul said, "I want to attain that high office. I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling. To be faithful to do that, I must forget those things which are behind me (**Phil 3:12-15**). I must forget my failures. I must forget my mistakes. I must forget anything that is behind me. I can't press on while I'm looking backwards. I can only be faithful in one direction at one time. I'm either faithful remembering the bad, or I'm faithful to look forward to the good."

So here He says, "Let us be faithful. Let us be faithful even as the Lord Jesus Christ was faithful to him who appointed him." You have been appointed. You have been elected. You have been chosen (**John 15:16-19**). You have been set aside and God said, "I have prepared some great and wonderful things for you but they only belong to the faithful, to those that are full of faith." When He spoke to people, He said, "As your faith is, so be it unto you" (**Matt. 9:29**).

The importance of commitment to studies like this, is that you're being washed by the word. You're reading the word of God, not theory, not doctrine, not men's philosophy (**2 Tim. 2:15**). It may not seem right now that you're getting a whole lot, but that word is going into your heart. It's being hidden there, then when faith is needed, that faith will leap out of your heart, and you won't even know it existed. It will be recalled to your remembrance by the Holy Spirit (**John 14:26**). The word will make you strong in faith (**Rom 4:20**). It will cause you to be powerful in the things of God.

Jesus was faithful to Him that had appointed Him. We have been appointed as children of God to the Kingdom of God, and we're to be faithful to Him. Faithful in the little, as well as in the great. Faithful in the small as well as in the large. Faithful in every area of our lives (**Matt. 25:21**). The main thing that we need to do is to line up our thoughts and our mouth. We should not say something because people expect it of us, but to know what we're saying, and believe what we're saying.

You can say, "Well, I'm healed," all day long, and it won't heal you until you believe it in your heart. Or you can get people to come up for salvation, and you can say, "Well, let's pray now. You're saved," but a man can pray a prayer and not believe what he's praying, and he's not saved.

You must believe it in your heart (Mark 11:23,24). You must confess it with your mouth (Romans 10:9-10).

Here is a principle God put into effect for all of our lives. Whatever we really believe, we will speak it; but beyond that, we will live it. Jesus was faithful unto the Father even unto death, the death of the cross (**Phil 2:8**). Do you know why He could be that faithful? Because He had faith to believe that the Father said that He had given Him power to lay His life down and to take it up again (**John 10:18**).

God has given us that same guarantee in every area of our life. If we're faithful to do what God tells us, He will be faithful to restore us. He will be faithful to bless us. He will be faithful to minister to us. We have been so long identified with flesh religion, that it is hard for us to realize that we are not of flesh and blood. We are born of the Spirit of God (**John 1:12-13; 3:6**), and whatever we say, we should say it under the influence of the Holy Spirit of the power of Christ.

We ought to get excited. We have been chosen to be like Him. We have been chosen to talk like Him, walk like Him, think like Him. Hallelujah! To speak creative words of power. To speak the very glory of God into the things that are in need today.

Let's go to Hebrews 3:2-3:

Heb 3:2 Who was faithful to Him that appointed Him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

Heb 3:3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.

We have been putting a lot of honor on flesh. We have been putting a lot of honor on man, on personalities, on names, on people, and we are doing them a misjustice. We're not glorifying God. Our honor and our glory should go to Him that built the house. We should be faithful always. When someone tries to give us the glory, we should be faithful like Jesus and say, "I do not do this of myself, but of my Father. He doeth these things" (**John 8:28-29**). Jesus continually gave the glory to Him that built the house. He was faithful! He was faithful to turn the glory to God. **When you honour God, and are faithful to identify with Him, and give Him all the glory for everything that happens, then He will begin to honour you, and satisfy you with long life (Psalm 91:14-16).** Our identity point then is with God himself.

We can be identified with the CREATOR of heaven and earth. We can be identified with the CREATOR that spoke all things into existence. We can be identified with Him that triumphed over death, hell, the grave (Rev 1:18; Col 2:14,15), destroyed him that had the power of death and sat down with God in His kingdom and rejoiced in it (Eph 1:19-23). Hallelujah! Faithfulness!

We need that kind of faithfulness, don't we. That's a tremendous mark. As far as I am concerned, one of the greatest marks of a Christian's life, other than love, is faithfulness. You cannot trust a person who is not faithful. You can't trust a person who says, "I'll be there," and doesn't show up. You can't trust a person who says "I'm going to give you a hundred dollars," and never gives it to you. I'm just using these things as examples. You can only trust a person that says a thing and lives up to it; then his walk and his talk match. His thinking and his mouth are lined up, and when he says something, that's the way it's going to be. When he speaks a word, that's the way it is.

The thing we don't realize in our identification is that the words we speak create. They can create havoc or they can create good (**Pro 18:21**). When you tell a person you're going to do something, you have made a vow. You have said, from the very throne of your heart, "I'm going to do a thing." That's why James said, "Don't say you're going to do a thing. Say, the Lord willing" (**James 4:13-17**). You have bound yourself with a vow to do that thing for that person, and when you don't do it, you have been found to be a liar, and you have created it. God had nothing to do with it. Satan had nothing to do with it. You spoke yourself into a predicament, and you didn't live up to it. That's why He said not to vow a vow. It's better not to vow a vow, than to vow one and then say to the angel of the Lord, "I didn't do that." When you've done that, you have caused your flesh to sin (**Ecc. 5:4-6; Deut 23:21-23; Num 30:2**). We should be faithful with our words, shouldn't we.

Jesus was not a man of many words; talking about various subjects. He only spoke of the Kingdom of God. He was faithful to keep His conversation in such a way that it would glorify the Holy One, His Father.

We're going to come to a place where I believe we're going to be more faithful in the words we speak. We're not going to be quick to make a vow and then not perform it, because we'll realize we have sinned. You see, it's written in the word of God, so you're safe to preach all the word of God. You can teach the word of God and not apologize for it.

Faithfulness should be one of the greatest marks of a Christian's life. If he's vowed a vow, he should even do it to his own harm (**Psalms 15:4**). Have we made those kind of vows in years past? You know, quickly somebody would say, "Well, are you going to do something?" And we say, "Yeah! I'll do it." Then we get over there in the corner and start thinking about it and we don't do it. Right? We don't realize what we've

just done. We have caused our flesh to sin. We have entered into a realm that has separated us from that fullness of God's Spirit.

No wonder that continually through the word of God, man was warned to let his yea be yea, and his nay be nay (**Matt 5:37**). He said not to have a conversation that could bring in a multitude of words where sin would enter thereby (**James 5:12**). Amen! Somebody says, "Are you coming to church tomorrow night?" You should say, "The Lord willing." "Are you going to give in the offering?" "The Lord willing." Let everything be the Lord's will. The Lord knows where He wants you. You may think that you know where God wants you, but God really knows, and if we're faithful to Him, we will not speak words that put us in bondage. We are not able then to do God's will, but we have to fulfil that vow, because it's to our own harm that we've said it.

People all across the country say, "We're going to give to your ministry, and we want to pledge so much." I say, "The Lord willing, you can do it. The Lord willing! If that is God's will, fine." But one month you may give one hundred dollars to our ministry, and the next month the Lord may speak to your heart to give a hundred dollars to another ministry. You can't because you've already locked yourself over here, and you lost the blessing of God that you would have received by giving to the other ministry. You still had to pay the vow that you made.

You see what harm we do by the little programs we initiate. I'm teaching you the word of identification; how we're to walk free from these snares, and that's a snare. When we make a pledge to somebody to do something, we have to do it whether we want to or not. We could have spent that effort, that time, that money, or whatever, for the Kingdom in the area where God wanted it. If a minister needs your pledge to continue in the ministry, he's in trouble already. **If the ministers source is anyone but Jesus Christ, he's got a problem.** If your ministry is anyone but the Lord, you're going to have to finagle how to please people, so they'll keep paying off. If you don't have anything with strings on you, you can be faithful to teach the word of God like it's written. People can say, "I don't like it. I'm not coming back anymore," and you can say, "Well, the Lord bless you. Go on and find a place that's suitable for you."

Faithfulness is great but we should be faithful with the words we speak. So Jesus taught us a lesson that if we're going to identify with Him, one of the identification marks that is so highly regarded with God is **faithfulness**. Faithfulness is regarded highly with God but it's also regarded highly with man (**3 John 5; Luke 16:10-13; I Cor 4:2**). A man that is faithful has favor with man.

A man that is faithful on a job or is faithful in different things and areas that he's put in charge of, usually has favor with his employer because there's something about faithfulness you don't find in many men (**Pro 20:6**). The reason is because they say what they want to say to get the pressure off of them, or get somebody to agree with them, or to get favor with somebody. Then they turn right around and do what they want to do, and they don't realize what they've just done. They've put a snare out there, and they've stepped right in it and looped it around their leg, and there's not a thing they can

do about it. They've been taken snare by the words of their own mouth (**Pro 6:2; 18:7**). No wonder he would write that you must be quick to hear but slow to speak (**James 1:19**). Seek the Kingdom of God before you jump into it.

Sometimes you see a need, and right away you try to take care of the need yourself, and maybe God wasn't wanting you to take care of that need. He might have wanted to send somebody else over there to take care of that need. You jumped right in there without considering the Lord, or considering the cost, or considering anything, and you locked yourself into a situation that you had to be faithful to. Then it seemed like you were in a sand box; grind, grind, crank, crank, sift, sift. Everything was going wrong, and everybody else around you was getting blessed. Well, you jumped to a place that God had for somebody else so He had to let you go through that, and then when it was worked out, He could put you where He wanted you (**Psalms 37:23-24; Pro 16:9**). Amen?

When people ask me to come to a place to speak anymore I just say, "I'll pray about it. I really mean it. I'll pray about it. I'll consider it. If the Lord is willing, I'll be there. But if He's not, I'm not going to come. I don't care what you offer me. I don't care if you guarantee me a million dollars, I'm not coming across the street if God's not in it." If God is not in it, that would become a weight to me. It'll become a sin to me. It'll become a snare to me. God may want me to go a block farther down the road where there are two million dollars waiting for me.

There's an identity here that we should be faithful in all we say, in all we do, and in all we think (**Col 3:17**). Everything should line up; our thoughts, our words, and our life. When a man says, "Yes," there shouldn't be any argument with it about why he said yes. Have you ever seen that? A guy, when you ask him to do something, says, "No, I'm not going to do it, and this is the reason I'm not going to do it." He'd give you a half-hour discourse on why he wasn't going to do it. Then you probably forgot what you asked him to start with. I'm saying to you, if somebody asks you to do something, say, "Yes (or No), the Lord willing." Does that sound a little easier? It gets a lot of weight off your back. You can just walk right on through the things of God, and your mouth will line up with your walk and you can be faithful in all that you think or do.

Now notice this in Heb 3:4-6:

Heb 3:4 For every house is builded by some man; but He that built all things is God.

Heb 3:5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant...

He was faithful in his house as a servant. We are not servants in the sense Moses was; we are sons. **WE ARE SONS (Rom 8:14; Gal 4:5-6; I John 3:1-2)**. If Moses, a servant of God, was faithful, how much more faithful ought we to be?

Heb 3:5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

Heb 3:6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we...

If the head is faithful, the body ought to be faithful. When people look at you and me they ought to be able to say, "Well, there's a faithful person. They're like God. They're just like the Lord. They're faithful. If they tell you something, you can stack all the money in the world on it, that's the way it's going to be. Even if it costs them their life, that's the way it's going to be."

It'll cut your conversation way down. It's like foolish jesting. You've got to be very careful that you don't say something even in foolishness because it holds great power you see, and it can destroy you. It can get you into a snare that there isn't any way out of, until you've learned and paid the price, and gone on to do it. I'm not talking about losing your joy. I'm not talking about losing your personality, but there's a lot of people that just foolishly ramble on and on. They say things they don't even realize they're saying, but they're still creating. Once you become a child of God, you're still creating, whether you're just foolishly rambling on or just holding conversation to hold conversation, you are causing a situation to be created.

If you would have your heart and your mind faithful to the Lord, when you spoke you would know what you were saying, and you would consider it diligently and then you would speak (**Pro18:13**). That's why He said, **"Guard the heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life" (Pro 4:23)**. If I'm faithful to guard my heart, that means that I'm going to allow only in my heart that which I want to come out of it (**Psalms 19:14**). **I will think on those things which are pure, lovely, honest, of a good report, if there be any virtue in these things, think on them (Phil 4:8)**. **I want to put things in my heart that when spoken out they will bring liberty, they will bring freedom, they will bring salvation, they will bring healing, they will bring deliverance, they will bring prosperity.**

I don't want to fill my life with idle gossip; foolishness. I want to fill it with the Spirit of the Lord, with the word of God, so that when I speak, the Lord can say, "My good and faithful servant. You have spoken it, you have created it, now enter into the joy of the Lord." That's why some people can't dance, because they don't have any joy. They've been unfaithful in their life, and when they come to enjoy the presence of the Lord, they just can't get loose. They've created a snare for themselves, and they're held by that snare. They can't do anything about it. It's because they have allowed themselves to be unfaithful in what they took into the vessel, in the way of words and the things of the world, and they have filled their heart.

David said, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word" (Psalm 119:9). Then in verse 11: "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee." The word was there. He

realized when he spoke with his mouth, it would either be a snare, or it would be loosening to him. He realized that the word of God had become a light to his path and a lamp to his feet (**Psalm 119:105**), and we speak those words out of our hearts. That either ensnares us or loosens us, for the power of life and death is in the tongue (**Pro 18:21**). Then it behooves us to be faithful to put life in here, doesn't it. It's faithful for us to put life in here, so that love will come out. We need to be faithful to the things of God so that we can enter into the joy of the Lord continually.

Paul could say, "I lie not. I tell the truth" (Rom 9:1; I Tim 2:7). Isn't that great? He said, "I'm no liar. Everything I tell you is the truth. You can believe it." Why? Because he was a faithful man. He said to Timothy, "Commit this gospel to (what kind of men?) **FAITHFUL** men, who shall be able to teach others" (**II Tim 2:2**). He said, "Be sure that you give this to men who are identified with Jesus Christ; men that are faithful." He didn't say, "Men who could work miracles, or have signs or wonders, or could do any great works, seemingly," but he said, "to them which are faithful." **He said, "Commit this gospel to faithful men."**

The identity mark that Paul looked for was faithfulness, wasn't it. **FAITHFULNESS!** I wouldn't give a job to somebody I couldn't trust to do it. If a man had proven himself, when he was faithful to do what he had been told to do, then I could give it to him with confidence in the Christ in him, that the work would be done. It wouldn't come back half finished with an excuse that he couldn't do it. He would accomplish it; even if it harmed him to do it, he would accomplish it (**John 4:34**).

Many men have died for the gospel's sake, because they made a commitment and were faithful to that commitment, and went where God told them (**Rev 2:10**). But they received a crown of faithfulness. They received a crown of righteousness (**II Tim 4:7-8**). They were faithful. Hallelujah!

You know, a lot of times we associate greatness with things we see in the natural. God associates greatness with faithfulness. He did not say, "Well done, thou good and great servant. Thou good and miracle working servant." He said, "**Thou good and FAITHFUL servant.**" If I only have a small portion of the field to work in, and I'm faithful in that portion, I will receive just as much as the man who's been faithful in three or four fields. That's all the ability I have, just a little portion, and if I stay faithful in that, God's going to reward me with the same reward as the man that had hundreds of fields (**Matt 20:1-16**).

So the Lord said that the great thing that He is looking for in our life, so He can bring this last Kingdom move of God, is **FAITHFULNESS**; because the man that is faithful, will be **obedient**. He will take what the Father gives him. He will be faithful and obedient to put it where God wants it. Obedient to apply it when He wants it; to be where God wants him to be. **He will be obedient.** He will not question God and say, "Why this, Lord? Why that, Lord?" He'll say, "Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. I want to be obedient" (**Deut 4:30-31; Heb 5:8-9**).

Saul was unfaithful to God. He was identified with the flesh realm, wasn't he? The first thing we notice about him is that he was head and shoulders above every man (**I Sam 9:2; 10:23**), so he was identified then with man. He was identified with his size in man. He was a man that, when they looked for him, was hiding (**I Sam 10:21-22**). That should have been a clue right there, that he was going to be a rascal. He wasn't even faithful when the calling of God came. He wasn't obedient when the word of the Lord came, so Samuel told them, "This man will just ravish you. He'll ruin you." But they said, "We want a king like everybody else" (**I Sam 8:10-20**).

God was saying, "I'm your faithful King. I'm faithful. I have taken care of you. I delivered your ancestors. I brought you into this land. I've been faithful to you. I have proven myself faithful to you."

They wanted somebody they could see, and he proved unfaithful (**I Sam 13:13,14**). He proved that he never loved God. He was disobedient. When Samuel caught him down there, he said, "Don't you realize to obey is better than sacrifice" (**I Sam 15:22**). But because he was unfaithful, he couldn't obey. An unfaithful person cannot obey God. He must be faithful, because when he becomes faithful, he will be identified with obedience. **Jesus was obedient, wasn't he. He was obedient to the Father, so we that are faithful will be obedient. Greatness is a sign of faithfulness.**

The Lord said in **Heb 3:6** that He was the Lord over the house, whose house are we. Now if Jesus could say these words, "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father" (**John 14:9**), then certainly we ought to be able to say by the style of life that we live and the words we speak, that we are God's children. People shouldn't have to wonder about it. They shouldn't have to wonder whether we belong to this or belong to that. They should know by the life that we live, **(the faithfulness, the obedience, the love, John 13:35)** that we are the children of God.

We are identified with Him through these things: creating life, creating healing, creating deliverance. Whatever the need might be, the creation power of God is there to create life. God created both good and evil (**Pro 16:4; Col 1:16**), so with your own speaking, you can do the same thing (**John 14:12; Pro 18:21**). **It's not His desire for you to create evil. It's His desire for you to create good. It's His desire for you to speak the word of life that will touch people and be identified with Him by power.**

It's a tremendous responsibility that we all have, realizing that the words that we speak are words of creation, so you need to be careful what you say. It's pretty nice to walk free from all the bondages. If all you do is talk about Jesus, you are not creating the wrong thing. If all you talk about is the Lord, and heavenly things, and the kingdom of God, and to love one another, you are creating good things (**Isaiah 26:3**). It's when you start talking about people, judging others, speaking evil of them (**Psalms 15:1-3**), you're creating a snare for yourself, because the same judgment you judge withal, you've already laid it out in front of your path (**Romans 2:1**). You walk into it, and thereby you're utterly destroyed many times, because of that judgment you have spoken (**Matt 7:1-2**).

That's why God puts the emphasis that He does, that we should not speak as men. We should not speak the way the natural man speaks, with envy, strife, hatred, and jealousy (**2 Cor 12:19-20; James 3:13-18; Eph 4:29-32**), because every time we do that, we have created a snare for our own feet. Then we go out and blame the devil and he didn't have anything to do with it. You spoke what you spoke because you wanted to. Isn't that true?

Nobody cranks me up and says, "Now, you say what I want you to say, or I'm going to kill you." I just say what I want to say, because I want to talk about the Lord. That's all I know anything about. My life has been pretty good since I found out that I have creative power, so what I want to create is good situations and good things in my life. Amen! When I have to go through a hard place, there's the goodness of the Lord there to go through it with me (**Psalms 23:4**). When I have to go through the sifter, He goes through it with me (**Luke 22:31-32**).

David created himself a good place, believe it or not. We keep quoting this, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil..." He had created a place in his life for Jesus, for the Lord, for God. He said, "...for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." **Thy word and thy Spirit they comfort me.** How about that! You see, David's confession was a good confession, that even though he had to go through a situation, there would be one that would walk through it with Him. There would be a comfort and a strength with him.

Most people get in a bad situation and they say, "Woe is me. Bad things are happening to me," and sure enough, bad things are happening to them. You talk to people in the wintertime, and they'll say, "I can't go to church, because I'm coming down with something." You call the next day, and they came down with it. God has to honor your word. He has to honor your faith, and your faith has said, "I want that, whatever it is that's going around; I want that bug" (**Matt 9:29**).

God has to honor your faith, and He takes you at your word. When you speak something, sure enough you're going to get it. God says, "All right, you have confessed it, that's your faith; here Don, have it. In fact I'll let you have a double dose just to really show you how to talk next time." Isn't that great? God has to be faithful to our word, and we must be faithful to His word. We are going to have to start lining this thing up so when we speak; we're going to start speaking a little different than we've been speaking. **We're going to start speaking what God would say, what the Holy Spirit would say, and do what Jesus would do in a situation like we might find ourself in.**

Jesus Christ never bewailed the circumstance He was going through. **When He was being crucified, He said, "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34).** Hallelujah! He never reviled them because He was creating a place for them. He was creating a place of repentance. Just after He said that, the centurion soldier and those with him said, "Surely this was the Son of God" (**Matt 27:54**). They already found repentance working in their hearts, didn't they. Stephen, being stoned to death, created a place of

repentance. He didn't bind the sin to them but loosed heaven to them. He said, "Lay not this sin to their charge" (**Acts 7:59-60**). He created a place of repentance. Paul repented also, didn't he, and became one of the great apostles.

Don't you realize that you have tremendous power with God. Don't you realize that when you really line up with God and identify with the Lord, that when you speak, things begin to happen. The angels of God begin to minister the minute you start talking, and it's not because you're a big shot; it's because the Holy Ghost in you is speaking to them (**Heb 1:14**). It's the Spirit of God that raised Christ Jesus from the dead, created all the heavens and earth, speaking through you to unseen forces such as the angel of God, and they go out and minister for you. When the enemy would come about you, when the enemy would try to get you, the angels encamp around about you (**Psalms 34:7**) and the Spirit of the Lord raises up a standard against them (**Isaiah 59:19**). The weapons of our warfare are not carnal (**2 Cor 10:4**). Of course not; they're spiritual angels. They do the battle. **"The battle is not yours, but God's"** (**2 Chron 20:15**).

You can begin to rest in this. You can begin to enter into the joy of the Lord. The angels of God are waiting there for your assignment; for you to speak the word of faith. They go out when you call against that spirit of infirmity in somebody's body, and healing comes. You've created a situation in that person's life to bring faith into their heart, and you don't have to have a pulpit to do it. You can do it in your home. You can do it in the grocery store. You can do it in the highways, the byways, anywhere you are. You can speak creative words of power that will restore people to Christ. You don't have to have a degree behind your name. All you have to do is be born again (**John 14:12**). Amen!

Jesus created a place of repentance for all of us, or none of us could have repented. "Forgive them." Those were His last words. **"Forgive them for they know not what they do."** Think about it. **He created that place of repentance. Stephen created that place of repentance.** Then you and I can create things in people's lives when we don't bind them with condemnation, but rather we speak the words that loose them from that.

When we speak about them and we condemn them, it means that we're creating a condemnation situation in their lives, and binding them with that judgment. Somebody said to me, "You're either crazy or this is right." Well, it's right, and I'm not crazy, **"For He hath not given me the spirit of fear and of doubt, but of love and of power and of a sound mind"** (**2 Tim 1:7**). He has given me a sound mind. He has given me a mind to know Him, a mind to love Him, a mind to walk in the things of God. Hallelujah!

Let's go to Hebrews 4:14. I want to show you something else that we need to identify with.

Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Another mark of identity. A man that will not compromise. A man that will not be double minded, a man that will not be unstable (**James 1:8**), but a man that is holding fast his profession or confession. You say, "Well, you ought to start changing your ways. You're getting a little overboard in this Jesus thing, you know. You ought to kind of cool it down a little bit." You start thinking with your own natural mind and say, "Yeah, well, maybe if I did, people would accept me more and I'd get the message across. Or maybe I ought to start reading a little more worldly literature like one lady said, and then I can talk to them on their level." Do you know what you're doing? You're creating a situation, not for their level, but for your feet. Once a sinner can get you talking on his ground, you've lost your authority. Amen!

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8-9). The only way we can ever get into that realm is to come up, not Him come down. He came down that we might come up. So the Lord says, "You're going to have to hold fast your profession." He said that's a mark of faithfulness. That's a mark of the Christ identity in our lives: that we are faithful in our profession. We do not compromise it. We do not lukewarm it. We do not change it. We're the same. We're locked into a profession that whether we live or die, it's going to be the Lord (**Romans 14:8**). It's going to be the Lord whatever happens in my life. When something seemingly evil begins to happen in your life, there's no use to try to rebuke it. **The word of God says "resist not evil" (Matt 5:39). You call it evil, but God has an end to that thing that's going to bring glory to himself.**

Job never resisted the evil that came upon him, and look at the end of that man. He was faithful in his profession that he would yet see the Lord; that no matter what happened, it was the Lord that giveth, and the Lord that taketh away (**Job 1:21**). His friends could never get him to change his profession, and the end of that profession was twice as much as he'd ever had before (**Job 42:10**). Do you know when he got it? The Lord instructed him to pray for his friends, (those guys that had been advising him wrong) and when he prayed for his friends, God heard him, and God began to restore all things. You see, Job was creating a place for his friends to be forgiven. He was not binding them with all the malicious judgment they had put on him, and the bondage they tried to put on him, but rather, because he was faithful to his profession, he spoke the word that set them free.

That's why God said you're to love your enemies, pray for those that spitefully use you, and bless those that curse you, because you're creating a situation of repentance (Matt 5:44). You're causing by the words of your mouth, a place to be created within their heart to repent. Isn't that great? That's why Peter said that a woman could win her husband without the word, beholding her chaste conversation, beholding her godliness (**I Peter 3:1-2**). In other words, he could look at her and see that her profession, her life, the way she did things, her faithfulness, was something to be desired. She didn't preach to him all the time, saying, "You're going to hell if you don't quit drinking. You know, you're going to quit this running around or else

you're going to be lost forever." No! **That meek and quiet spirit is of great price in the sight of the Lord (I Peter 3:4).**

My spirit has gotten a lot meeker and quieter in the last several years. I began to realize that the words that I was speaking out of my mouth were causing me a little trouble. When I found out I couldn't blame the devil because he was defeated, and God didn't have anything to do with it, there was only one guy left. I was the one giving me trouble, not either one of the others.

So He said in **Hebrews 4:14**, that we have a high priest and that we're supposed to hold fast to our profession. That's a mark of identity. **Jesus never wavered on His way to the cross. He had His face set as flint towards Jerusalem, the word of God said (Isaiah 50:7; John 11:7,8). He wouldn't be changed. The garden couldn't change Him, the judgment hall couldn't change Him, the crown of thorns could not change Him, the ripping of His sides and the wounding of His body could not change Him. He had professed a good profession.**

A lot of times we never profess anything. That's our problem. We never profess that we love the Lord, that we're walking where God wants us to walk, and we're going to serve the Lord no matter what it costs. Or we make a profession from our own lips that we're going to serve God no matter what it takes, and the first little trial that comes along to try the word in our life (**Psalm 119:165**), we say, "Oh! I don't think I'll go back down there anymore. I'm going to find another church. I'm going to go somewhere else." And it's the Lord allowing you to have your profession and your confession tried. You've spoken it, now you've got to live it.

Let's go on to Hebrews 4:15:

Heb 4:15 For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

The identification point here is that we try to get men to pray for us, to take God's place, and our faith many times has been in a personality rather than in our high priest. We deny sometimes the very thing that Jesus came to do, to give us a personal relationship with God. It's good to pray for brothers and sisters that don't have the faith really to reach out and grab hold of it. But God's raising up some leaders quickly in these last days that can go directly to the high priest, that can come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy (**Heb 4:16**).

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

That mercy is not for themselves because we that are merciful obtain mercy (**Matt 5:7**).

We need to begin to realize that we have a high priest, and He can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. But then we want to lie a little bit and say we never have any. See, we're taught to confess that we never have an infirmity, so we cover it up. God said, "If you'd just tell the truth, I'd heal you. If you'd just tell the truth, I'd set you free from it." **Psalm 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.** We have a high priest who is designed to help us in the time that we have an infirmity.

The Lord says, "Why do you want to cheat me out of the opportunity of having a personal relationship with you, because you won't identify with me? In your weakness, then I am strong" (**2 Cor 12:8-10**). That's where my strength comes from when I'm really weak. Sometimes I just can't get out of bed. My body seems like it's just falling apart on me, and I want to get it out of bed, and I can't. I just say, "Lord, you're my high priest; put some strength in it." The grace begins to flow, and the strength begins to come.

We were in a camp meeting a few years ago, and a young lady came to me. She said that awhile back she had been fasting and praying for her healing, and she said to the Lord, "As soon as this brother comes (another brother in the Lord), he's going to pray for me, and I'm going to get healed. But the Lord told me I don't have to wait; He'll heal me right now." All those weeks she had gone through all that torment, all of that suffering. All of that was unnecessary, because she was waiting for some man to come along. **All the time Jesus was standing there saying, "I'm your high priest; I can be touched by the feeling of your infirmity. Right now, I can touch you, if you will profess that profession. If you will accept that touch, you can be made whole right now."** She was made whole that afternoon, NOT because of anybody, but because of the high priest of her profession. Because He was touched with the feeling of her infirmity, she didn't have to have it any longer.

She identified, didn't she. She identified with the word of God. She identified with the One that could care and be touched with the feeling of her infirmity. She was immediately healed and rejoiced the rest of that camp meeting. Do you know why? Because she had identified with the word of God. She told the Lord she had that infirmity, but He knew it all the time.

You have not because you ask not (James 4:1-3). There are things that God withholds from us because He wants us to learn obedience to His word, and we have to ask for them. Then when we ask, we receive them so we might be healed. Hallelujah!

The teaching of God's holy word, in the way that it is written, has set me so free. Not the way many people preach it, but the way it is written, line upon line, precept upon precept. It means exactly what it says. It means it, and we need to appropriate it. We need to begin to live it and enjoy it. We need to begin to go throughout the whole community and share it. "By what authority do you think?" "It's written in the Bible."

I'm not just confessing something because somebody told me to; it's written in the Bible. It is written that He provided a high priest that could be touched by the feeling of my infirmities. Then why should I lay around in bed with it anymore? Why should I wait for some man to come by and do something for me? Why don't I just take my profession and go to my Father, and say "Father, You know I've got a need here in this body of mine, and I thank You for the healing that You appropriated for me."

One of the greatest things that ever happened to me in my life was that I got the mumps, double. I looked like a squirrel with six months of acorns. I confessed my healing, but I was in terrible shape. Finally I couldn't stand up any more; I laid down in bed. This brother who had a tremendous ministry, (I had gone to Brazil with him, worked with him, and saw all kinds of miracles) came to my house. After he drank all my coffee, he came to my bedroom door, and I said to myself, "Surely this man is going to come over here, he's going to lay his hands on me, and he's going to pray the prayer of faith, and I'm getting out of this bed." Thank God for what he did. He came to the door and he said, "How are you?" I said, "I'm terrible." I was just waiting for him to come and lay hands on me, and he said to me, "You can lay there as long as you want to. See you later." He turned around and walked out and drove off to Los Angeles.

Now immediately my mind wasn't, "Bless the Lord, O my soul." It was, "What kind of a rotten guy are you? Doing a thing like this to me, your friend who has gone to Brazil with you. This is the way you treat me?" I began to feel sorry for myself, but those words kept coming to my spirit: "You can lay here as long as you want to. You can lay here as long as you want to." I would throw the covers off and I'd jump out of bed, and the devil would say, "I'm going to kill you," and I'd jump back in. I did this about three times, and finally it quickened to my spirit. It was up to me, but whether I lived or died, it would be the Lord. I was healed. I got out of bed, got dressed and went back to work. The bumps were still there when I got in the pulpit that night. But the moment I stepped into that pulpit, they dissolved and were gone immediately. That man spoke a word of faith into my heart. "You can lay there as long as you want to."

You've got a high priest that can be touched by the feeling of your infirmity. You have to do something. **You have to take His word and act on it and believe it (James 1:22).** Identify with Him. I wasn't going to identify with that infirmity. I was going to identify with Him that was able to deliver me from that infirmity. So when people ask me if God can heal, I know He can. I can tell people He'll baptize you with the Holy Ghost because I know He will. I can tell people that I know He'll provide for your needs because I know He will.

He wants us to identify, doesn't He. **He doesn't want religious people; he wants saved people.** He had several bunches of those religious people, running around all over the desert, and in the wilderness, and all over the land of milk and honey. **He wants some saved people. He wants some kids that look like Him and act like Him. Entering into the joy of the Lord, being faithful, being obedient, identifying with Him, having the word of God steadfast in their hearts, holding fast the profession of faith, realizing they have a high priest that can be touched by the**

feelings of their infirmities. We need to do that more often, don't we, instead of looking for some man to do it for us. It's all been done for us. Now we can begin to walk in the spirit. Hallelujah!

Let's look at Hebrews 4:16 again

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace...

How can we come? **BOLDLY!** "But Brother Krider, I'm just a poor little old sinner, you know; I've been saved 20 years, but I'm a sinner." It doesn't work that way. You can't be a sinner and a saint at the same time. He doesn't have any saved sinners. He's got saved saints. There are only two kinds of people in the world: saints and aints. You can't be both of them at one time.

I am a saved saint; therefore I have a right to come **boldly** to the throne of grace. I don't have to come as a beggar. I can come with a humble spirit, with a right heart. I can come with the right attitude. I can come on what He's done for me, but I can come **boldly** because I am one of His children. I can identify as being one of his children, coming to Him **boldly**, making my wants and petitions known unto God (**I John 5:14-15; Phil 4:6**). I can receive the grace and mercy that I need to help, in the hour that I need it.

God is saying we need an identity here; not an apologizing people, but a people that are bold in faith. In **Acts 4:29-31** the apostles and the disciples prayed for **boldness**. They said, "**Lord, give us boldness. Grant unto thy servants boldness that we might declare the word of God.**" You have an identity mark today of **boldness**. Don't creep out of Church, like "I'm a Christian and somebody's going to attack me or they're going to ask me something." Go out **boldly**. Say, "Praise God, I've been meeting with the Lord and His people. The best meeting today that's happening is happening right here, because it's eternal. Everything else around us is temporal" (**2 Cor 4:18**). **The Lord said, "Come boldly."**

I used to go into hospitals and I'd go up to the counter, and I'd whisper, "I'm a minister and I want to see so and so." They'd say, "What did you say?" "I want to see so and so." "Why?" "Because I'm a minister." (Whisper). "You're what?" "Minister." "Why didn't you say so?" I finally got so I'd just walk into the hospital and I'd say, "I want to see so and so." "Oh, right down here on this floor. Yes sir." They didn't know whether I was a doctor, they didn't know whether I was a minister, they didn't know what I was, but I had authority. They were afraid to question that boldness that came into that room, because it might have been one of the hospital staff that gave it.

The identity mark: Jesus went about boldly doing His Father's work. He changed the water right into wine (John 2:7-10). He healed the sick right out in the street. He didn't say, "Well, let's go over in the corner here. I want to talk to you about the gospel, but let's go over in the corner here so nobody will hear us." He'd preach it right in the middle of the street and tell them, "Hey, look, here it is if

you want to get saved." If somebody came and asked Him a question, He'd answer them wherever He was. He was bold in the spirit. He wasn't apologizing for being the Son of God. There were no apologies to make. He had come to save the lost. He had come to die for the world. He had come to give His life a ransom for all (Matt 20:28; I Tim 2:6). He wasn't apologizing for anything.

That's where you begin to see your authority in Christ. When you walk in the Spirit of Christ, in His boldness, not in your own flesh realm, but in His boldness, you can feel the difference. I mean it. People don't know where you're coming from when you're bold. I used to work for a man who was bolder than a lion and when he told me to go, I went. He never asked me, "Would you like to." The centurion saw one thing about Jesus, didn't he. He said, "I'm a man in authority like you are. I say 'come' and they come; and I say 'go' and they go (**Matt 8:9**). I recognize authority, because you're bold about it. You know who you are." One thing about authority and boldness, it makes other people know where you are, and you know where you are. They recognize authority. Identification, isn't it?

I have a friend (a highway patrolman) who was my co-pastor for years. He said, "Brother Krider, I can step out in front of diesel trucks and stick up my hand, and that badge is on me, and those trucks will stop. It's not because I'm anything, because they could squash me, but I have authority. That badge identifies me with the State of California, and whenever I say 'stop', they stop, and when I say 'go', they go." That triggered a thought in my heart. God has sealed me with His Spirit (**Eph 1:13; 2 Cor 1:22**). He's given me a badge of authority that I'm to identify with.

God can use all of us. You don't have to have a pulpit to use the authority. Wherever you are, you can say, "go" to the devil, and he has to go. He recognizes authority. Remember the seven sons of Sceva that were going to practice their 'demon casting out business'(**Acts 19:11-16**). They watched Paul do it for a long time, and they wrote it all down in a formula of how Paul works. Can't you see that? "You got it down?" "Yep, right here. This is the formula." "OK, let's go and practice it."

They practiced it and practiced it, and pretty soon they walked up to this old boy who had an evil spirit and they said, "In the name of Jesus whom Paul preacheth, we conjure you to come out." The evil spirit said, "Jesus I know, Paul I know, but who are you?" No authority! No authority! He tore them up; sent them out bruised and naked. But when you have the authority of the Holy Spirit of God, and you apply it, the devil goes out naked. He goes out torn up. He goes out punched out. Why? Because you have authority. You can come boldly. It's a point of identification. You're not to be walked on by every demon. You're to walk on them.

You wanted this course, didn't you? Then one of the points that we have to identify with the Lord in is **boldness**. Walk out there and talk to one another; don't start whispering about Jesus. Don't go out and just whisper, "What do you think about that meeting?" "Oh, Jesus is wonderful." Let it out. Let's go out talking about Jesus. Let everybody know we've been in a meeting with Him. Let people know that we're

identified with Him. Because of what He's done for us, we're not ashamed of it. Christ is here. We're in the presence, we're in the boldness of God.

We have authority. We say to those devils, "go", and they have to go. I don't doubt that when I tell them to go, they have to go. It isn't a question of if they want to. They don't have any reason to ask me; they know the authority of the word of God (**Luke 4:18; 9:1-2; Isaiah 61:1**). They know the authority that God has given to you and me. You can be a little kid five years old, and say, "Get out devil," and he's got to go, if you know Jesus. I've had little kids pray for people, and see them immediately healed, because the little kid didn't doubt. He said, "You devil, get out," and they'd go. He didn't work up a big prayer like, "Our Father, which art in heaven, if it be thy will, O Lord, if you can possibly do anything at all, would you mind working on this brother now, and working out this dirty old devil." They say, "Get out devil," and they're healed. Why? Because they believe what they have received is real, and they identified with that mark.

Isn't that great? That's better than belonging to anything else, isn't it. Well then, let's let the world know that we're identified with Christ and we are not ashamed of Him. The apostles were not ashamed to be identified with Jesus. The man that was lame for forty years was walking around leaping and dancing and shouting, and praising God (**Acts 3:1-8**). The rulers and elders couldn't deny the notable miracle that had been done, so they said, "We're going to tell these people to shut up and quit preaching in the name of Jesus. They can go out and preach something else, but they better not preach in His name any more." **Peter said, "You decide for yourself whether it's better to please man or God, but as for us, we're going to please the Lord" (Acts 4:16-19).** He wasn't afraid of them, because he had authority. **When you walk in the boldness of the Lord, in the authority of God, you know that nothing can happen to you that is not ordered of the Lord (Psalm 37:23).**

Let's go on now in Hebrews 4:16:

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

You can eliminate a lot of your pity parties right here in this one verse. When you feel sorry for yourself, just run right into the throne room and say, "Father, I've got a problem. I'm not going to tell everybody in town. I'm just going to tell you, Father. I've got this problem. It needs to be taken care of. Amen! Now put enough grace on me, and give me enough mercy, and I can go out of here with the knowledge that this thing is taken care of." Then watch what happens. Because you've been faithful to do that, you will enter into the joy of the Lord. You will go out singing and praising God because you know He heard you. You know that you have the petition that you asked of Him; it is settled, it is taken care of (**I John 5:14-15**). You don't need to bring it up again. You just go on rejoicing in the great and mighty things of God.

Being a Christian is the most fun thing in the world. It's the only live thing in the world. It's the only thing that has any real joy to it. It's the only thing that has any peace

to it. It's the only thing that has any real righteousness to it. It's knowing Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, and being identified with Him. It's being really identified with Him in all that He is, so that when we speak those words of power, they create good situations. They create situations in hearts for repentance. They loose men and women. They set them free. It looses the Kingdom of God to men and women. By the very words of our mouth we can cause great things to happen in people's lives. By the words that we speak, we can create a situation that will bring glory and honor to God. Amen!

In Hebrews 5:5-6

Heb 5:5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made a high priest; but He that said unto Him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee.

I want you to notice this. Jesus was a begotten Son of God. He was the only begotten Son of God, but He was obedient in all points, wasn't He? He was faithful in all points. Jesus would be said of by the Father, **"This is my beloved Son; hear Him" (Luke 9:35). This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Matt 3:17).**

He said He didn't become a high priest by His own glory. He didn't do that by His own strength. That's the point I want to bring right now: **if we're going to identify with the Lord, we're going to do it by His Spirit. We're not going to try to change ourselves by giving up this, or getting rid of that, or trying to do this. We're going to begin to realize that the change comes by the Spirit. We are changed from glory to glory as by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor 3:18).** No matter what you do to this flesh body, it's still failing. No matter how well you feed it, no matter how well you clothe it, no matter how well you keep it, it's still disappearing. It's like grabbing a shadow; it just keeps going. You can't stop it; it goes. But you can enjoy the passage, knowing that your identification is that you will be glorified with Him.

As long as you remain in this physical body, the glory of God can never be manifested in its' fulness. But when you leave this body, you can be glorified together with Christ. Now, there's a glory that can work in your physical body when you have identified it to Jesus Christ. **When you quit trying to make it godlike, and begin to let the Lord show you what areas He doesn't like, and you lay them down, and what areas He wants you to work on by His Spirit, and you begin to yield that to Him, He is glorified, isn't He?** Jesus didn't do it of Himself. He did it of the Spirit. The Spirit took Him from the cradle to the grave, and then raised Him up again.

The Spirit of the Lord has taken me from 33 years old to this present day, hallelujah, and He'll take me right on **through** the grave. I won't even have to go into it, because as we learned in the first part of this study, He was the one that tasted death for all of us. I won't have to go **IN** that thing. I'll go right past it. Amen! You will too; therefore let us glorify God in our body and in our spirit **(1 Cor 6:20). Let us move in the realms of the Holy Spirit so we can be identified with Him, not trying to do it.**

Isn't it hard on your body when you **try** to be a Christian? It's tiresome. I tried it. Maybe you have to. You know, you're just trying so hard and you fail, and you just try harder the next time because you failed, and you fail harder the next time. Finally you woke up one day to the fact that you didn't make yourself. You didn't even give yourself new life. **HE** did. You were **HIS**. **HE would change you from glory to glory. HE would perform that which HE had begun in you until the day of Christ Jesus (Phil 1:6).** All you had to do was keep your hands off of it and let Him change it by His Spirit.

I tell you, this is so much fun. All He wants me to do is be identified with the creator of all heaven and earth. He wants me to be identified with eternal life, with healing power, with delivering power, with the very power that raised up Christ Jesus from the dead. I can't find one bad thing He wants me to be identified with. He doesn't even want me to identify with death. He wants me to identify with life. Isn't that great?

Let's go to Philippians 2:5-7. I want to show you something about obedience and the things that God has for you, the things that are in store for you. This is a tremendous truth.

Phil 2:5 Let this mind (or this identification) be in you, which was...

Underline the word **WAS** in your Bible, please. It's important! The word **WAS** means it **WAS** a mind which was in a mortal man. **Jesus did not take that mind off to heaven. He left it here for other mortal men that would follow Him. The identification point - a mind that knew the mind of God. A mind that knew the desire of the Father. A mind that knew how to please God. It was a mind that was in a mortal man. He is no longer a mortal man so He doesn't need that mind. He has given that mind to you and me.**

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Phil 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Phil 2:7 But made Himself of no reputation...

That's another problem we have, isn't it. What about my reputation? Well, if you don't have one, you don't have anything to protect, do you? Sure saves a lot of work, not having a reputation. You can run around with anybody. It doesn't make any difference. You haven't got anything to protect, have you. You've got nothing to lose.

We're always worried about how it's going to look on us. We never worry about how it's going to look on God, do we. "Well, how is this going to look on me if I do that?" Have you ever asked anybody, "Well, how is this going to look on God if I do that?" We don't ask that because our reputation is still there, you see. The point of identification is

that we simply don't care anymore. If it pleases the Father, if it's a point of obedience, we're going to do it. If it's something that will glorify God, we'll go ahead and do it.

Phil 2:7 But made Himself of no reputation, and took on Him the form of a servant...

When Jesus was talking to the disciples and the multitude, who did He say would be a ruler? Who would be great among them? **It was a servant, wasn't it (Matt 23:11).** In **Mark 9:35; 10:35-44** the disciples were asking Him, "Who is going to be greatest among us?" He said, "The servant would be greatest." **A servant is the man that has the servants heart to take care of the flock, to meet their needs, to pray for them, to fast for them, to love them, whatever price it takes to pay it. You see, a servant is the one that will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.** Isn't that good?

So He took upon Himself the form of a servant. He had no reputation! If any man could have made a reputation as a minister, He could have made one, couldn't He. He could have bought a tent and been the greatest, hottest evangelist in the world. I mean, there wasn't anybody doing the things He was doing. He was opening blind eyes and healing everything. Miracles flowed like water with Him around. He could have built the greatest reputation, but no, He kept denying Himself. **He kept saying, "I'm not doing this, My Father is doing it." That's when you don't get a reputation; when you don't let people give you the glory; when all the glory continually goes to God.**

So He became a servant, and listen to this:

Phil 2:7 ...and was made in the likeness of men:

We have to realize something, friends; we're still in the likeness of men. Even though we have the form of God, the image of God, we should still be able to be touched by the feelings of other people. We should never get to the place where we can no longer cry when somebody is hurting. We should no longer not be able to feel that pain and that hurt in their heart. Jesus was made in the likeness of man, and we also are in the likeness of man, even though we are in the form of God. We should never lose that ability to care for one another. We should never lose that ability (in our sense realm) to even feel that infirmity and the weakness of another; to feel their hurt and be able to enter in as a faithful minister, and minister to spirit, soul, and body.

It bothers me sometimes when a person says, "I love your spirit." My body is hurting and my spirit isn't helping a lot. **I need somebody that loves me all the way - spirit, soul, and body.** When my body gets hungry, it won't do any good to feed my spirit. I'm hungry. See what I mean? But we get so super-spiritual sometimes in our own mind, not in Christ, but in our own mind, we don't even have a physical body. We've almost made it immune to everybody else's feelings. We made it almost immune to somebody being able to reach out and say, "Help me, help me, I'm hurting," and remember what that hurt was like.

Isn't it great that our Saviour and Lord would do this - take on a body that could be touched and could be torn and could be hurt. God couldn't be thirsty. God couldn't know what it was like to be tempted. God couldn't know what physical hurting was like. He never hurt. But when He took on that human body, He knew what thirst was like. He knew what tired was like. He knew what hurt was like. He knew what reproach was like. He knew what temptation was like. He was tempted in all points even as we are, yet without sin (**Heb 4:15**). **Heb 2:18 says: For in that He himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted.** Isn't that great? Then we should also be able to succour others. We should also be able to say, "Yes, I know what you're talking about (and mean it). I feel what you're talking about; I feel it." **I thank God that we have a God like this. Amen!**

Let's go to Philippians 2:8-9

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself...

God will not humble you, friends; you have to humble yourself (**James 4:10**). **He that humbleth Himself, God shall exalt him in due season, but he that exalteth himself God SHALL abase him (Matt 23:12; I Peter 5:6).** He shall be abased. Humbleness has to come from your heart, from your will, from your desire. He can put you in situations where you wish you had humbled yourself and then you will, but He won't make you.

Phil 2:8 ...He humbled Himself and (underline this) ***became obedient*** (a mark with the Father) ***unto death, even the death of the cross.***

Because of His obedience, because He did what He did, verse 9 says:

Phil 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:

Oh, Hallelujah!

So you see, when we identify with the name of **JESUS**, we're not identifying with the president's name, or the ambassador's name, or the governor's name. **We are identifying with the highest name. "There is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby you must be saved" (Acts 4:12). The name of Jesus should be revered in our lives.** The name of **Jesus** isn't something we should just throw around. We're identified with that name. Every demon in hell knows that name, and he sees you identified with it, and he doesn't want anything to do with you. He has to be forced to even talk to you. He sees that name. That's the name that whipped him. That's the name that defeated Him. That's the name that forever has confined him to the pits, and will cast him into the lake of fire. It's that name, and you and I should identify with the name of **Jesus**. **"Whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks unto God and the Father by Him" (Col 3:17).**

I used to be the kind of person that would slide a little remark in. It was a cutting remark; it was meant to be a cutting remark. Then the Lord said, "The next time you do that, do it in my name, would you please." I never could do it. Then I had a friend that worked on a county rig with another man; they were surveyors. This man had a drink habit, and he said to my friend, "Is it a sin to drink?" Oh, I love what my friend said. Wisdom of God! He said, "Well, all I know is what the word of the Lord says." He didn't say, "Thou shalt not drink!" He took him to **Colossians 3:17**, and said, "**Whatever you do in word or deed, do it heartily as unto the Lord Jesus.**" He said, "Now tonight when you go home, you take that beer, or whatever it is, and offer it to the Lord and say, here Lord, I thank you for this in the Name of Jesus. I just thank you for giving this beer to me. I'm drinking it for your glory."

This man went home that night, and he popped it open, and he stuck it up there, and he said, "I couldn't do it. I dumped it down the drain, and God delivered me right there." **God delivered him! Why? Because he identified with the word, didn't he?** You can't do a thing that doesn't please God in the name of Jesus. It will convict you. It will put you in hurt.

We need that identity that will set us free. We need the identity that will cause us to rise up above all these things. We need the identity of boldness, we need the identity of obedience, we need the identity of faithfulness. We need the identities of all that God has given us today.

Do you feel like you're coming into something good? Do you feel a little freer now? Feel a little liberated? Now remember, if you can't do it in the name of the Lord, and give Him thanks for it, don't do it. It's that simple. Identify with the word. If the word says it, identify with it. If the word says not to do it, don't do it. You'll find yourself very happy.

I feel that God has taught us some things. He has taught us about the words that we speak. The identity of our lives! The obedience of our lives! The faithfulness of our lives! How God looks at us and how the world looks at us! Can the world identify God with us? Can they see faithfulness in our lives? Can they see obedience in our lives? Can they see humbleness in our heart? Can they see that we can be touched by the needs of others? Can they really see these things in our hearts? They should! Can they hear the words of our mouth and say, "That's how Jesus would speak. That's how the Lord would speak." Can they see our love one to another and see an identifying mark there? Can they really see these things that we've studied about in our lives?

They could, they must, and they will, because we are in the final move of God. We are in the great and final day of the Lord; a time when Jesus Christ is going to usher a Kingdom in, and I want to be in that Kingdom. I want to be a part of all that God is today; not tomorrow, but today. I'm not going to try to do it tomorrow. I'm going to live it today, so I can rejoice in it. So I can be identified with Him. So the old man is dead, and the new man is alive. It's a great point when people can look at you and say, "You know, they're just like the Lord. I can't get them to talk bad about anybody. Can't get them to

worry about anything. They're just not afraid. They're bold people. They're always talking about Jesus." Wouldn't that be great?

The Bible says in **Acts 17:6**, that everywhere Paul and Silas went, they turned the world upside down. They came preaching in the name of Jesus, the name of the only begotten Son of God. It was raising havoc with their religion. It was tearing up their synagogue attendance. There were people getting converted to Christ, because they walked in the streets, they talked, and they lived, and they acted like God. Men and women were turning from the synagogues, emptying them out, to follow these men. Finally the priests went to the Romans, and said to them, "They've come in here, and they're turning this city upside down also." They said, "The whole world's gone after them."

You see, when you start identifying in your walk with God, you're going to find people just coming after you. They are seeing something in your life that they haven't seen in religion. They are seeing something they have not seen in a program. **They're not coming after you; they're coming after Jesus.** They're seeing an identification with the Christ that is able to make men right. Able to make men strong. Able to make men bold. We've got it! What are we going to do with it?

You say, "Well, Brother Krider, there's not very many of us." How many did Jesus have? One of them was a devil (**John 6:70-71**). One of them wanted to cut off ears (**Matthew 26:51**). Two wanted to call fire down from heaven (**Luke 9:54**). The disciples wanted to find who was the greatest in the kingdom (**Mark 9:33-37**). What a bunch to run around with. Yet He changed the course of the world through eleven men that had given their life to Him. When He arose from the dead and sent the Spirit of God back, there were one hundred and twenty people gathered in the upper room. In all of Jerusalem, one hundred and twenty was all they could find (**Acts 1:12-15**), and the Holy Spirit came and He began to multiply, and multiply, and multiply (**Acts 2:41**). **Hallelujah!**

I want you to know something. There is a people that are going to turn cities right side up. They are going to invade them simply by walking down the streets talking to people, loving them, loving one another, sharing this great Kingdom. Being identified with Jesus Christ in power, and in authority.

WE HAVE SOMETHING SO PRECIOUS TODAY. WE DON'T REALIZE WHAT WE HAVE. GOD SAID, "I WANT YOU TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH ME. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU. I WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW. I WANT EVERYBODY TO KNOW. I WANT YOU TO SHOW FORTH THE PRAISES OF HIM THAT HAS CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS. I WANT YOU TO LET THEM KNOW BY YOUR LIFE, BY YOUR CONDUCT, BY YOUR SPEECH, BY YOUR WALK, BY EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU."

HALLELUJAH!

IDENTIFICATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Chapter 5

In this chapter we're going to be studying on what Jesus Christ identified the Church with in His pre-existent form with God. Jesus Christ the man was manifested Word.

JOHN 1:1 "IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD."

JOHN 1:14 "AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US, (AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF THE FATHER,) FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH."

For us to identify with Him, we have to go back beyond the cross, beyond His childhood, back to the beginning of all time. We have to identify with a pre-existent Christ.

First let's go to Revelation 1:1-5.

Revelation, the final book of the Bible, is not all just things to come. The book of Revelation is the total revelation from the beginning of time until the end of time. The prophets Ezekiel, Isaiah, Zechariah, Zephaniah, Daniel, all saw many of these things we see in Revelation today, and many of them have already come to pass. I want you to remember this because it's important. It's a key to your identification.

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him...

It is God's revelation that He gave to His Son Jesus Christ.

Rev 1:1 ...to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass...

He gave this to His servants to show them things which would come to pass from the beginning of time to the end of time. You cannot read the word of Revelation as something that is totally to happen after the death of Jesus Christ. It is a book that identifies the Church from the beginning. It is a book that identifies the body of Christ from the beginning.

I John 2:13 says to the Fathers of the Church, "**Ye are those that have known Him which IS from the beginning.**" In other words, the Christian that has entered into the eternal realms with God, into the spirit world, that knows the Lord from Alpha to Omega, he knows Him from the beginning to the end. So Revelation really is a book written to the maturity of the Church. It is a book written to tell you what happened, what is happening, and what will happen. It helps you to read the Bible like it's written.

So here He begins to explain some things:

Rev 1:1...and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John:

The last servant that would receive the Revelation would be John. **The Lord told him in Rev 1:19 "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter."** Is that what Jesus said He was? It was He that was, and is, and will be. **Rev 1:8: "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."** **Rev 22:10: "Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand."**

The book of Revelation is not something to be read like all this horrible stuff is going to happen to us now, and we don't have a chance. That isn't it at all. The early Christians were terribly persecuted. The accounts are true in the "Fox's Book of Martyrs." **So the book of Revelation is not written about something that's just coming to pass. It is those things that were, those things that are, and those things that will be. The Lord writes Revelation to the mature grown-up Christian. He sent it by His servant John.**

Rev 1:2. Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Not only the people in the last day are going to be blest. Abraham was blest, his seed was blest, and we are blest with faithful Abraham. He knew this revelation of truth! He knew that there would come a Messiah. He knew that everything was going to be just like God had said it would be.

It helps us when we begin to realize that we're not reading only a book of future tense, not only of present tense, but a book that much of it has already come to pass. The Church has walked around in such fear, fearing the things that are coming upon the world. That's all they ever talk about. You can make a fortune writing books and selling books on all the terrible things, and use prophecy to do it. But that's not what God said the Church should walk in. **The Church should walk in power, in victory, the Spirit,**

the blood of Jesus, triumphing, over-coming every day of its life. We need an identity not with fear, but with faith. We don't need an identity with flesh, but with Spirit. We need to realize that we are not going to overcome; we already have, through Jesus Christ (**Romans 8:37**).

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches, which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come: ...

The eternal God! Jesus is called the everlasting Father in **Isaiah 9:6**. It means He takes on the full identity of His Father. So the revelation was from Him which was, which is, and which is to come. Everything has to be put in its right perspective.

Rev 1:4 ...and from the seven Spirits which are before His throne;

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth.

Notice this! **He rules all the kings of the earth. All power and dominion and authority has been put under Him.** These kings that He's talking about, are the kings of the earth. They are the unclean spirits. They are rulers of darkness, and dominions, and powers, and principalities, but He rules them.

We need to begin to identify with the God who rules everything. Everything is in His control. It is perfectly in control today. If He did not want Iran to exist, or if He did not want Persia, or any of these countries to exist, all He'd have to do is take His hand off that country for a second, and the entire population would die. **He gives power to whomsoever He wills (Daniel 4:17).** He works through these kings that are ruling over these principalities, and they move on the hearts and lives of other men, and they rally around this individual, and he becomes their king. They think, "We have done it. We had a successful coup and we've thrown him out and raised him up," and all the time the Holy Ghost of God was directing every portion of that work.

God gives power to whomsoever He wills. He puts down and He raises up. There is no power except that which God allows to be, so He is the ruler over even the kings of darkness. They do nothing without His permission. They never have. God never lost control of it. Man lost control of it through the fall, but God didn't lose control of it. When Jesus Christ came, He restored it all back to man. Then He said, "Now, I want you to rule over the kings of the darkness."

Let's go to Ephesians 6:10-12.

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood (or those things that are seen; that's not where our warfare is) but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Principalities = Conc. #746 = the beginning;

Powers = Conc. #1849 = authority;

Rulers = Amp. Bible = the master spirits who are the world rulers of this present darkness;

Spiritual wickedness = Conc. #4152 & #4189 = supernatural, regenerate, religious depravity, malice, plots, sins, iniquity by top spiritual powers.

Jesus said, "I have given you power over all of them, and NOTHING shall by any means hurt you (Luke 10:19).

The word "**wrestle**" here means "to make your enemy absolutely helpless; to throw him down." (**CONC. # 906**) It doesn't mean you're out there wrestling with him; it simply means that you have him pinned. Jesus pinned him; now keep him down. As long as you've got him pinned, he can't do anything to you. Walk on him, take your rightful position, and move by the power of the Holy Spirit, and move against these powers. **Jesus is the ruler.** These powers have no powers except they be granted to them.

Rev 1: 5 ...Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

Rev 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests...

He hath made us kings and priests. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords (Rev 17:14). He has given us the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of life that is greater than all the kingdoms of satan. He has given us power, dominion, and authority.

Let's go to Daniel 2:43-44. This is identity we're talking about. You're not identified with some hopeless, helpless mess. God has identified you with something wonderful.

We know that Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, and he saw four kingdoms: the gold, the silver, the brass, and the iron, representing four ages. Representing four powers in the spirit world that would exist at certain times. Notice what he says in the 43rd verse. This is where they made the big mistake, in the last part of the 43rd verse.

Dan 2:43 ...but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

Why? Because just before that in vs. 43 **"...they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men..."** The unclean spirit and man cannot hold together. The seed of man is flesh, and those unclean spirits try to raise up authority through flesh, and it cannot stand, because Jesus Christ came and tore down all the kingdoms (**Col 2:15**). Anything that stands has to be of the Spirit. God's eternal Spirit has brought all other spirits into subjection to Himself (**Heb 2:8**).

Dan 2:44 And in the days of these kings..

"And in the days **OF** these kings..." Does it say in the days **OF** these kings or **AFTER** them? It means that while these four kingdoms are in existence, there is another kingdom ruling them.

Dan 2:44 And in the days of these kings, shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom...

It is not a kingdom afar off; this kingdom has been here. The parable in **Matt 13:44** said that the treasure was hid. Jesus Christ spoke to the Jews in parables, that seeing, they would not see, hearing they would not hear, lest they believed in their heart and were converted (**Mark 4:11-12**). They rejected the Kingdom. It was hidden. Jesus Christ came, uncovered the Kingdom by His life, by His death, by His burial, and by His resurrection. That Kingdom destroyed all other kingdoms.

Dan 2:44: And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Let's look at the last portion of Dan 2:35:

Dan 2:35 ...and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

That stone that was cut out without hands, Jesus Christ, came forth, and crushed all these other kingdoms. These kingdoms tried to rule in their own power and could not. In **Rev 17:12-13** you will see how ten kings come together, and they give their power to the beast. But their power won't work because it is only flesh power, and that ungodly spirit could not stand in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ when He came.

He became that stone cut out of that mountain without hands (Dan 2:34-35), and that stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. Hallelujah! The word of the Lord says that in that day shall the knowledge of the Lord cover the earth as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9). That mountain is Mount Zion, which is already here, which has already defeated the enemy through Jesus

Christ, and the mountain is like the chief cornerstone, Jesus Christ (Eph 2:20; I Peter 2:6). Amen!

The Holy Ghost does good work if we'd listen to Him. That takes out fear, doesn't it. It takes out that element of some big horrible monsters running around upon the earth gobbling people up. **Dan 7:21-22** says that those unclean spirits, that the anti-christ, works against the world, works against the saints, until the Ancient of days comes. When did He come? The book of Revelation isn't to bring fear and horror to people. It's to bring a revelation of what was, what is, and what shall be, but you've got to read it in the light of the rest of the word of God, or you'll get into a panic situation. We not only win. **WE WON!**

WHEN JESUS CHRIST CAME AND DIED, WAS BURIED, AND ROSE AGAIN, THE VICTORY SHOUT WAS HEARD THROUGHOUT HEAVEN.

Remember, you're kings and priests. You're ruling over the kings of this world. You have power over principalities. You have power over darkness. You've been translated out of the power of darkness (**Col 1:12-14**) and you have been brought into the kingdom of His dear Son. Hallelujah!

I'm not looking for bad times. I'm looking for good times. The Church is going to wake up one day, and it's going to say, "What in the world have I been doing all these years, running from a devil that's been defeated. Afraid of powers that don't have any power." We need to say, "It's time now that we stop. We're going to reverse this thing." That's right. People are going to get converted, because they're going to see the Church walking in the glory of God and in the beauty of His Holiness. Walking in Him, and all they're going to hear is **JESUS**. All they're going to hear is the goodness of the Lord. All they're going to hear is the mercy of God.

Several years a young man was sitting in one of our services, and the Holy Spirit was speaking to his heart of better things. Better things! He got up and came down front, along with the others, but the reason he did was because the Lord was showing him the love of God. He was showing him a greater God in the midst of us that is mighty (**Zeph 3:17**). A God that has already conquered death, hell, and the grave (**Rev 1:18**), rose triumphant on the third day, and stood up and made an announcement, "**It is finished.**" It's a victory shout. Hallelujah!

Rev 1:7 Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen.

He cometh! Glory to God! And every eye shall see Him!

Somebody said to me one time, "Brother Krider, isn't it great that we're getting all of these television cameras and satellites out there so we can see Jesus around the world when He returns." I said, "When He opens up that eastern sky and steps through

it, there won't be anymore sun or moon. The whole universe will light up with His presence, and He will destroy the son of perdition in the brightness of His coming" (**2 Thess 2:8**). Hallelujah!

In the **14h Chapter of Zechariah**, the word says that the Lord shall go forth and fight against every nation that has come up against Israel, and when He steps down on that Mount of Olives, and it splits open, war will be over. It'll all be done, praise God! Then every nation that is left, those that have survived, will come up to Jerusalem once a year to pay homage to him, and those that do not come, they will have no rain in their land. Read it. The next thing I'm waiting for is the shout from heaven (**1 Thess 4:16**).

I've been told, "We had better get more arms over in the far east, because all these nations are going to come against us." You can't stop the coming. It says in the word of God that He will draw them down. He's got an appointment with some ungodly spirits that He's drawing down there. He's going to annihilate them (**Ezekiel 38:4**) right in the eyes of all of heaven, and all of the power and glory and majesty will be His. He is drawing them down, and He's going to send out the shout, and the fire of His mouth will devour them (**Rev 20:9-10**).

I'm identifying with a Christ that is able. Jesus said, "Behold I give you power over all the power of the enemy (**Luke 10:19**). Over all the kings of this world, I give you authority (**Psalm 46:4-11**). I have seated you in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (**Eph 2:6**).

Rev 1:8: I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Identifying right back with the beginning, isn't it. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (**John 1:1**). He said, "From the beginning to the end, I am the Almighty." Nothing has ever been out of control. Satan tried to rear up his ugly head with pride, and he was going to take over heaven, wasn't he; but the Lord just cast him down, and he fell like lightning to the earth (**Luke 10:18**), he and a third of the hosts of heaven (**Rev 12:7-11**).

God has always been in control. Man lost control, but God never did. Jesus came to restore control back to man, but they would have to be men and women born of the Spirit of God, that could hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying to the Church. Amen! It's time the Church stood up with one voice and with one shout and said, "Our God, He is King. The Lord Jesus Christ is King. He is the Lord and beside Him there is none other. He is Alpha and Omega. He is everything. He is the God Almighty."

That's the kind of identity I want to leave with you. I want to leave you with an identity of realizing the words of your mouth are creative words. They have power. You have authority. You have dominion. You are with Him, and all the powers of this world cannot touch you.

Let's look at Daniel 2:43 again.

Dan 2:43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men; but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

"They were mixed with the seed of men" means they realized that they could not work with the Spirit of God, so they had to get the next thing, the nearest thing to God, which is a flesh man. "Iron mixed with clay" simply means ungodly nations or kingdoms ruled by spirits of darkness would mix with the seeds of man, but would not be able to cleave together. The Holy Nation (**1 Peter 2:9**), ruled by the Holy Spirit, would eventually overcome the unholy nations.

The reason is easily found in Genesis when Satan tried to destroy man, God's crowning creation. Satan succeeded in destroying the fellowship and relationship that God had created with man, but Christ restored it all at the crucifixion and the resurrection. He was that stone that was cut out of the mountain without hands and broke in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold (**Dan 2:44-45**).

The Church went into what they called the Dark Ages, and it was being persecuted because they did not know who they were. Because of the power, it seemed that the flesh man had to rule and dominate men. (Halley's Bible Handbook gives an account of the Dark Ages on page 816, and pages 776-777 give a record of the Inquisition; years where Christians were tortured, burned alive, and imprisoned for life.) But oh, thank God for men like Martin Luther (Halley's Bible Handbook gives an interesting history on him on pages 787-788). Thank God for men that said that it's by faith and not of works (**Rom 3:28; Eph 2:8-10**), and that the seed of the ungodly must begin to fall and crumble with that flesh.

You and I must begin to bring the flesh under subjection and keep it there (**I Cor 9:27**). We must begin to take people out of the flesh realm and into the spirit realm, so they can be totally victorious and go forth in the power of the Almighty God of heaven and earth; walking in the name of Jesus, triumphing every day of their lives over the powers of darkness.

Let's look at Revelation 1:9:

Rev 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom...

"**IN** the kingdom" How could John be in the kingdom, if it wasn't here? It's here! Then what was that stone that came out of that rock doing? Was he setting up something? Did he establish something? **He established the Kingdom of God.** He brought it forth. He destroyed every other kingdom under it (**Dan 2:44-45**), and the

kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our God and of His Christ (**Rev 11:15**). We just don't know it, that's all. We don't want to talk about it. We want to glorify a defeated enemy. We want to give power to the flesh.

The enemy has no power unless we give it to him, and the only way he can ever get you to give him that power, is by trying to put fear on you. But how can a defeated kingdom bring fear into a Kingdom that has no fear in it. It can't! If there is fear in me, I've not been made perfect in love, have I? (**I John 4:17-18**). If I'm still in fear, it means a part of me isn't pressed into the Kingdom. That's where the enemy can attack you. He cannot attack you once you're in the Kingdom. He can only attack you while you're pressing in. He'll say, "Look back over there; it was better back there. Remember, it was good in those days. And here, look at the people around you." That's all he can say to you. You should say, "Knock it off; I'm moving in. Get behind me, Satan. I'm going to step on you. Don't try to get in my way. I'm pressing into this Kingdom."

The Kingdom is already here in the spirit. It's in the Holy Ghost (**Romans 14:17**). If the Holy Ghost is here, the Kingdom is here. That prophecy in **Daniel 2:44-45** was the day that Jesus Christ would come as the chief cornerstone, and He would fall and destroy the powers of darkness. It wasn't anything new. He had it in **Genesis 3:15**, didn't he. He said, "The seed of the woman shall bruise your head, Satan." This is the word of God! God did not come that you would be overcome. He came that you could overcome, and the only thing He left you to overcome was self. That's all there is left. He crushed the other kingdom, but that seed is still mingled with flesh. That's the only place Satan can talk to you now, is in your flesh.

He is a liar (John 8:44), a deceiver without any power, and the only power he can have is what the flesh will give to him. But it won't stand; it's already been judged.

If you'd get out of that flesh, and get into the Spirit, you'd walk in the Kingdom. It wouldn't make any difference anymore what goes on in the world, because you're only passing through. You'd realize that you passed from death unto life, just like Jesus said, out of darkness into life, out of bondage into freedom. Those were all past tenses; you **HAVE** been passed. I've been passed, you've been passed, we've been passed from death unto life (**John 5:24**).

As long as we let the power of darkness mingle with the seed of man, the flesh man, we're not going to have any triumphant victory. We're going to look at what we see, and hear what we hear, and we're going to be defeated; and the enemy didn't have anything to do with it. We defeated ourselves. That's like going in the ring and knocking yourself out and giving the victory to the other guy.

Let's go back to Revelation 1:9:

Rev 1:9 I John, who also am your brother and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in

the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

God had separated him. He put him over there so He could talk to his spirit man, and begin to show him the full revelation, just like He showed Ezekiel. The throne that we'll find in **Rev. 4** Ezekiel declares in the **1st chapter of Ezekiel**. It's the same color, it's the same way, it has the rainbow. Daniel saw it also (**Dan 7:9**).

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness. God gave the WORD a revelation of what would come, what is, and what was; and He put it all together and He put it in a book called The Revelation.

We need to grow up. We need to look at this picture as it really is. God raised up this generation of time, set us on the stage, and said, "Play out your parts. I'm going to show the enemy My people. I'm going to show the world My people. I'm going to make them kings and priests unto Myself, that they might show forth the glory of Him which hath called them out of darkness, into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (**1 Peter 2:9**).

We are kings and priests. We're a royal priesthood. We're not the Aaronic priesthood. We are the royal priesthood, and Jesus Christ is the Chief Priest, and we have a job to do.

I Cor 6:20 "Ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's".

That's all you have to do. While you're doing that, the enemy is running seven directions.

Rev 1:10: I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day...

I was in the Spirit, not the Spirit was in me. It's one thing to have the Spirit in you; **it's an entirely new thing to have yourself in the Spirit**. To be in the Kingdom you must walk in the Spirit. Christ in you is the hope of glory, but **you in Christ are a new creature. 2 Cor 5:17: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature..."** Put on Christ until He seals your mind, your heart, your body, and everything about you is sealed by the Holy Ghost; then you become a new creature. **Your hope of glory is Christ in you (Col 1:27)**. That is a conception of the Word or the seed of the Word of God. Inside of you, you've conceived. But when you have put on Christ, when you walk in the Spirit, you're walking in the Kingdom and the world appears for what it really is: fallacy. There is nothing real in the world. **Those things which appear are temporal, but those things which are not seen are eternal (2 Cor 4:18)**.

Here He is bringing the things which are not seen to revelation sight: the things which were hidden, the things which were revealed, and the things which shall be revealed. Prophets desired to look into the day we live in now. They saw them, they

knew about them, but they couldn't get them because the Holy Ghost had not yet been given. There was no connecting force. There was no way.

Hebrews 10:5 says that when Jesus came into the world, His father had prepared a body for Him. He said to one that wanted to follow Him, "If you follow me, you have to realize something: the birds have nests, and the foxes have holes in the ground, but the Son of man hath nowhere to lay His head" (**Matt 8:20**). Why? Because the body had not come alive yet. He was the head without a body, so when He came, the body was prepared for Him. God made Him the head of the body, put it all together, and said, "Now rise up body, we're going to war. Rise and shine, for your head is come" (**Isaiah 60:1**). That's right; your light has come. The head, Jesus Christ, is risen upon thee. The Lord is explaining something to us that we need to understand. It should challenge us to grow up into God.

Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day...

Every day is the Lord's day when you're in the Spirit. That's the only kind of day you'll ever have in the Lord, is the Lord's day.

Rev 1:10 ...and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

"And heard **behind** me..." Every word in the word of God is valuable, and means something. John heard the voice **BEHIND** him, meaning it was something that had already happened. Well, when was Christ? **IN THE BEGINNING!** John was on the Isle of Patmos about two thousand years ago. What he was going to receive was a revelation of some things that had been, that were, and that would be.

All you have to do is read the word of God like it's written, and let the Holy Ghost of God quicken it to your spirit. If you try to quicken it to this mind, it doesn't make sense. Anybody can read this in the natural and all they get is times, dates, and big beasts. They don't get the triumph. They don't see the entire picture. They only see a piece of the picture. They look through a glass darkly (**1 Cor 13:12**), but that which is perfect is come. To you that are mature in Christ, He is come in the Spirit, and you no longer look through the natural eye. You no longer look through that dark glass; you look clearly through the Spirit of God, and you see things clearly.

Jesus didn't come to do something in a corner. He came to reveal it to the Church. In **1 Cor 2:9-16** He says He hath revealed them unto us that love Him. He hath revealed them by the Spirit, but the natural man can't see Him. It had to enter into this natural eye; it had to enter into this natural ear, and all the natural man can see is fear, frustration, and confusion. But He hath revealed them by the Spirit, and my Spirit man can see them perfectly.

We can see the picture from the beginning to the end. We can see the panoramic view in Revelation of Jesus Christ, the Almighty God of heaven and earth, who triumphed over satanic powers; who brought kingdoms subject to Himself, and then

gave the Church its rightful place again to go out and subdue what He's already subdued. When Satan fell from heaven, He subdued him. Satan trespassed, lifted himself up in pride (**Isaiah 14:13,14**). God told Adam to go out and subdue him (**Gen 1:28**). He is telling us, "I want you to go out and show them the glory of the living God."

Rev 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last...

THE FIRST AND THE LAST. "I AM FIRST. I AM LAST. I AM ALPHA. I AM OMEGA. I AM THE BEGINNING. I AM THE END."

This book explains the eternal plan of God for our lives. Paul wasn't afraid of prison because he saw the end of the thing. Jesus did not fear the cross, or the shame or reproach of it, because he beheld the joy that was set before Him (**Heb 12:2**). He remembered what it was like with the Father. He knew what He was now, and He knew what He would be. We need to get the right perspective that this isn't us; this is just a clay vessel we're travelling around in. The treasure is in it (**2 Cor 4:7**), and that treasure will be revealed in the last day when He returns and manifests Himself to the world; then we will also be made manifest (**Col 3:1-4**). Thank God, He didn't leave us helpless and hopeless while we're here. He said, "I give YOU power over ALL the power of the enemy" (**Luke 10:19**).

Rev 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Rev 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks.

When He turned and faced the voice, everything went into the Spirit. He was no longer hearing; he was beginning to see. He was beginning to understand. He was beginning to see the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Rev 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Rev 1:14 His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire;

Rev 1:15 And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters.

I was reading that one time, and I said, "burned in a furnace," and it reminded me of the account in **Daniel 3: 20-25**. He was in the furnace with the three Hebrew men,

wasn't He. I know that isn't where He got those feet, but it just reminded me that He was always there. He was in the lions' den with Daniel. Wherever the children of God were, He was always there. Finally we see the revelation. He isn't on the cross anymore. He isn't in a hole in the ground anymore. **He has risen.**

Some of the pictures of Jesus hanging on the cross make him look like a puny little person. He was a man! He worked. In His own physical strength He endured the cross. In His own physical strength He endured the beatings in judgment hall. In His own physical strength He endured the crown of thorns. He'd lost so much blood then that He finally stumbled and fell, and they had to give someone else His cross (**Matt 27:32**). I'm telling you, He did it as a man. He was a strong man in the natural, as well as He was in the Spirit. He was not a sissy. Most of those that had ever been beaten in the Roman halls died and were carried out. He walked out. He didn't ask for any help. Beaten, bloody, and battered, He walked out in the power of God.

Rev 1:16 And He had in His right hand seven stars: and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword...

"A sharp two-edged sword," (the word of God). Hallelujah! He was there in the beginning with all of those things: seven spirits, seven candlesticks, seven stars. It wasn't something He just all of a sudden thought of doing. This was God being manifested. This was the Word that was made flesh. This was that man raised from the dead, taking back again His rightful place that He had always had in the beginning with the Father. He had become a man. He had taken on a body of human flesh and died for us. When He rose again, He was restored back to His rightful place with the Father. Then He began to move through God's divine plan to reveal all things to His body, so there would be no fear in the body of Christ.

We should warn men to flee the wrath that is to come (**Rev 6:16-17; Romans 2:5-9**). We should warn men that hell is real, but **we should love them into the Kingdom of God**. If the warning is there, there ought to be an escape, and there should be enough love in that escape to draw men to Jesus Christ.

Here we find that Jesus Christ is revealing to the church those things that were, those things that are, and those things that will be. No Bible college, or any man, can teach you this. You have to get this from the Holy Ghost. You have to get this when you're praying and reading and studying the word of God, and God begins to reveal the word to you. If it doesn't agree with the word throughout the word, leave it alone. If you can only find it written in one place, and there's no fullness of explanation, leave it alone. God's word is simple. That's why we miss it. We try to get more education, more intelligence, to try to understand the word of God, but it's not a thing of the head, but the heart (**I Cor 3:19**). God said, "I will write it on your heart and in your mind (**Heb 8:10**). Just accept it, and the Holy Spirit will reveal it to you" (**John 16:13**).

Rev 1:16 ...and His countenance was as the sun shineth in His strength.

The Amp. Bible says, "His face was like the sun shining in full power at midday."

Rev 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.

He's trying to tell us through the Spirit, the key, right here. **"I AM THE BEGINNING. I AM THE ENDING. I'M ALPHA. I'M OMEGA. I AM THE FIRST. I AM THE LAST. I AM HE WHICH WAS, WHICH IS, AND WHICH WILL BE.** This Revelation is the total picture of Me. It isn't just a portion of the end-time; it is the total picture of all that I am and have ever been. And it is a total picture of the enemy in his try for victory, and his fall to defeat."

Rev 1:18 I am He that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Put that in your heart. Jesus took the power of death, but He didn't stop there; He destroyed him that had the power of death (**Heb 2:14**). He said, "I destroyed him so he could have no power unless you give it to him." It's written, so we can believe it.

Rev 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

I want you to underline **the things which are**, (that means already done, established) and then the **things that shall be hereafter**.

Rev 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

In **Revelation, chapters 2 and 3**, we will see that there are seven areas of our life to overcome. There are seven steps into the fullness of God. **Angels** = Conc.#32 = messengers or pastors.

The Lord said to John, "I want **YOU** to write to the seven angels." That's why we have to be in the Spirit to understand this book because it was written while John was in the Spirit. If you read it in the natural, all you can see is fire, brimstone, tragedy, and horror. He is talking about writing to a spiritual church. **He said to the Church in Rev 3:21 "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame and have sat down with my Father in His throne."**

Angels aren't going to sit on the throne of the Lord. To no angel hath He ever said at any time, "Thou art my son" (**Matt 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22**). The angels are ministering spirits; (pure, lovely, clean, and holy) sent forth to minister for them who

shall be heirs of salvation (**Heb 1:14**). God said, "John, I want you to give the angel instruction." Glory to God!

Let's look at Revelation 2nd chapter:

Rev 2:1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

Rev 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Rev 2:3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

He talks about the positive things: their works, their labours, their patience, how they could not bear them that were evil, how they had checked out the apostles, and found those that were not. He said that they had borne, they had patience, they had laboured, and they had not fainted. That sounds great, doesn't it?

Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

This is the first piece of negative confession against the Church. Miracles won't get it. Signs and wonders won't get it. We're going to have to be identified with something so far beyond miracles. We're going to have to be identified with Him who creates the miracle, Him that is the healer, Him that is the deliverer. We're going to have to begin to identify as John did, and speak the **WORD** to the Church. **He said, "...because you have left your first love." The Amplified Bible says: I have this one charge against you, that you have left (abandoned) the love that you had at first - you have deserted ME, your first love.**

There is a danger. Paul realized it and he said, "I don't want to know anything among you save Christ, and Him crucified. I preach unto you Christ, a stumbling block to the Jews but the power of God unto salvation to them which believe" (**I Cor 1:23-24**). Many can work miracles without Christ being among him (**Matt 7:22-23**).

Now notice this in Revelation 2: 5:

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent...

The remedy is repentance. There is no other way back into the righteous place with God without repentance. Even if you're a Christian, even if you're saved, and you walk away from that first love back to your flesh realm, you must repent. It's love He's

showing them there. If He didn't love them, He would never have given them the way back into His presence again.

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works...

He said, "You've got to start at ground level again, by repenting and bringing forth again those good works of God." The works of repentance. A right heart. Glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ. Having your mind stayed upon Him continually. There are many people that have fallen, but thank God, there's also the grace to bring them back, and all that behind them is forgotten. They're restored back to a rightful place in the Lord. Isn't that good?

Rev 2:5 ...Or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Even though a person might have been able to do all these things: had good works, had good labors, had good patience, and everything, God's Spirit will not always strive with man (**Genesis 6:3**). He said, "Listen, there is a way back in but I'm not going to fool with you forever. You've got to repent. You've got to accept me back as the Lord of your life, and do those good works again, and then I'll restore you. But if you don't, you'll be cut off!"

The Jews had the light, and they would not repent. They hardened their heart against God, and through unbelief they never entered into the promises of God (**Heb chapters 3 & 4**). This is a condition that has always been there. You absolutely do not find in the word of God that the Jews would ever repent, unless there was a righteous king raised up. But they wouldn't repent in their heart. He said, "With their lips they praise me, but their hearts are far from me (**Matt 15:8-13**), and because of that, I will cut them off."

He said to them, "There will be a day when you will come to the Kingdom and you will see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob sitting down with others in the Kingdom, but you yourselves will be outside" (**Luke 13:28**). Why? Because their heart was not to repent. It hasn't changed, has it? This is the condition the first man was in. This is the condition all men are in with rebellion in their heart.

Rev 2:6 But this thou hast, (you've got one good point) that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Rev 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

"To him who overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life." This is the first promise to us. The first step.

The first thing you'll get then, is salvation. You will have eternal life. That's the first promise. It's the first one everybody has to have, isn't it? But it's he that endureth to the end that shall be saved; that man who knows that there is an eternal life to lay hold of (**Mark 13:13**). Not he that starts and then falls away and goes back and does what he wants to. Jesus appeared once in the end of the world to put away sin (**Heb 9:26**). He defeated it! There are people today that do not want anything to do with salvation, even though they all have an equal opportunity as long as they have a breath in them.

They had one thing against them: they lost their first love, and their condition was that they were fallen. They had left the presence of God. A man that is going to walk uprightly before God, must have the Spirit of God within him. The Spirit is your light. **"The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord" (Pro 20:27)**. The candle of the Lord! The presence of God in that candle will give you light. It's God's candle. The candle of the wicked shall be put out. **"...the candle of the wicked shall be put out" (Pro 24:20)**. As long as a man walks in the presence of God with a repentant heart, and walks in a desire with God to live right for the Lord, there's light there. But when he continually goes out and continually fights against the presence of God, his candle goes out.

Jesus was giving them time before He took the light out, wasn't He. When that light goes out, there's no more space for repentance. They don't care anymore. The darkness has consumed them. Their light has gone out. I tell people everywhere, "If that light is still there and you feel a desire to serve God, you better get in and start serving God." The first thing that will happen if they don't, is that the light is gone and it makes no difference to them. Only the power of God can restore a man back to his rightful position in Jesus Christ through the blood of the Lamb, through the name of Jesus, and by the grace of God. But when a man continually fights against that and goes on and does his own thing, he's fallen. Oh, thank God for the grace.

Do you know the last tree that appears in the Bible is also the first tree; the tree of life, which was in the midst of the garden (**Gen 1:9**). It appears the last time in **Rev 22:14**. God told the man that he could not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (**Gen 2:16-17**), but He never said you couldn't have the tree of life.

Many times right through the Old Testament the Word of the Lord came to the prophets to speak to the fathers. **In Heb 1:1-3 He said, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, ... Who being the brightness of His glory..." The true Light! Hallelujah! The brightness of His glory expressed among us, greater than any of the light He gave to the prophets.**

The prophets would bring the word of the Lord to the fathers and they would reject it, so the Lord records this against them. When the books are opened one day, there'll be a place there where it says, "Your light went out."

Didn't Jesus say, "You're guilty, because you are as your fathers were who killed the prophets between the temple and the altar, even unto Zacharias. You have built their tombs. You have been a partaker with them together. You condoned what they did, so the blood of all the prophets will be unto this generation" (**Matt 23:29-39**) You can fight that light, but there's a spirit in man that desires to be like the Lord. That light is there revealing Jesus to us. If we keep fighting against Him, eventually we put Him out. He doesn't come again. As long as the candlestick was there, there was room for repentance. Awesome, isn't it?

Rev 2:8 And unto the angel Of the church in Smyrna write; these things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Rev 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)...

God said, "You're rich! You may live in a country that is destitute of everything, you may be in dire circumstances, but you are rich."

Rev 2:9 ...and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Romans 2:29 says: "But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." They that have the circumcision of the heart. This is written to the Church. I'm a true Jew. Moses, Abraham--true Jews. Not a race of people. They don't even want to be called Jews. They like to be called Israelites. The nation of Israel. The true Jew is one inwardly.

There are people today, running around talking and working and doing things that look godly, and they say, "Oh, we're of the Lord," but they never give the glory to God. They never give the glory to Jesus. They never praise Him. We're living and dwelling among them right now, and God said, "Don't worry about it. I know them."

Let's look at the parable in **Matt 13:24-44**. This is a parable of the saved and the unsaved. The man who owned the field had gone out and sown good seed in his field, and then somebody came in at night and threw some tares in there. His servants went out and found wheat and tares growing up together. Wheat and tares are hard to tell apart until they come to head. The tare is worthless. The wheat has life in it and it heads out, and when it finally comes to a head, you can tell the wheat from the tares. The servants came in and said, "Somebody has sown these tares among the wheat. Shall we go out and dig them up?" He said, "No! Let them grow up together, but when the day of harvesting comes, I will come. I will send my servants. I will send my reapers, and they will gather out the tares first (not the Christians), and I will bind them and cast them into the lake of fire. **But my wheat I will gather them together and garner them into my barns.**"

Verses 37 through 43 explain the parable. Don't read that parable unless you're ready to blow your mind away about all your theories. **Verses 41-42: "The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His Kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire:..."** The Kingdom will be established on the earth, no matter what we've been taught. The word of God doesn't lie! Read it now with that Light in your heart. Amen!

Let's look at Rev 2:9 again: I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know (I know! That's all that's important) the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

This sounds exactly like Jesus talking here, doesn't it. He said in **John 8:33-47:** "If your father were Abraham, then you would believe me. Ye are of your father the devil." Oh, those proud stiffnecked people. We have to be careful that we don't get the same way. God gives us a little light on the word of the Lord, so we feel the rest of the Church is all wrong. No! The rest of the Church is still the Church. They may be only in the first step, but they are still the Church. There'll be some in the second step, some in the third, some in the fourth, some in the fifth, some in the sixth, and there'll be a few in the seventh step with God. But I'm telling you, they're all the Church. When they confess Jesus Christ as their Lord, and believe in their heart that God raised up Christ Jesus from the dead, they are my brothers and sisters. I will not make light of them.

This is revelation truth to cause men and women to desire to grow up, to know Him which is from the beginning. God knows His own, and His sheep hear His voice, and another they will not follow (John 10:4-5). He is talking here, praise His Holy Name, about the counterfeit and the real. He is saying, "Don't worry about the counterfeit. I know them. Don't spend a lot of time fighting against them and knocking them. I know my own. They're marked; I'll do the separating. I'll send the holy angels to do the work. Don't worry about it; it'll get done. Don't concentrate fighting against this movement, and fighting against that movement, and writing books about who are the good guys and who are the bad guys, because there might be some good guys in with the bad guys. The crop hasn't come to maturity yet. They look a lot alike."

Paul had the wisdom of God in **Acts 17:22-23.** He came up to Mars hill and he found these philosophers who were talking about religion. That was the big thing to talk about in those days, just like it is now; religion, Buddha, Mohammed, etc. He looked around at all these gods and they had one for Pluto, one for the sun god Apollos, and Jupiter, but there was a blank one. It said, "unto the unknown god." Paul didn't say, "Look you knuckle heads. Those gods are all wrong." Right then he would have built a wall that he couldn't have climbed over. **He said, "I see that you're altogether too superstitious with all these gods. Let me talk to you about the unknown God. I know Him."** He got some attention right then. They wanted to know because that was their whole life.

They spent all their life philosophizing about this god or that god, but there was one that nobody knew anything about. Paul said, "Let me tell you about Him. He's the true God."

We've gotten so wrapped up in looking at everybody and saying, "Well, you're this, and you're that, and that, and that. You're a Jehovah witness, you devil. I'm going to kill you." But in there, there might be some tender wheat, and you are over there choking the wheat. God's not going to be pleased. That isn't our job. **Our job is to glorify Him. To grow up. To grow up into the image and the fullness and the stature of the Son of God, glorifying God in my body and in my Spirit (I Cor 6:20)**, and these steps tell me how to do it. They tell me what to avoid, and tell me what to get rid of so that I might fully glorify Him. The first thing I must have is the light, eternal life, and then the rest of it begins to make sense. We shouldn't be fighting with everybody in the country. **We ought to be preaching Christ.**

Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shall suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison...

Do you know whose permission he has to have to have to do it? **God's!** He had God's permission to have Paul thrown in jail a few times. God wasn't going to throw him in jail, but He was going to allow a powerless king do it, and because Paul had surrendered himself to the Lord, it didn't make any difference. He would let men do unto him whatsoever they wanted to (**Acts 16:16-33**). He didn't resist it.

Nobody else was going into prison to preach to those captives, so the Lord worked out a beautiful set of circumstances whereby Paul and Silas got put in jail. He got them into a place where they could start singing in the middle of the night. They knew that the devil didn't have the power to throw them in there. God had to give him permission to do it. This is my thought on this thing, but it's good, it's valid; I can see old Paul and Silas sitting down in the jail. Old Paul is all beat up, and old Silas is all beat up, and old Paul says, "Boy, we've got a captive audience. Look at that. They're all caged up. They can't go anywhere. Hallelujah!"

That'll help you begin to realize that **Romans 8:28** is really alive. **"All things work together for good to them that love the Lord and are the called according to His purpose."** It doesn't make any difference where you are or what's happening to you; it's working for your good. If you get out of line, God begins to let you be miserable. Sometimes when you serve the Lord with all your heart, you get thrown in jail for it. Just open your eyes, and look around you. There's a whole captive audience. They aren't going anywhere. Preach Jesus to them!

Rev 2:10 Fear none of these things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried...

The sifter! Grind, grind, crank, crank, here I go again; right down through the sifter, out into the bin. Isn't that what He told a man named Peter (**Luke 22:31,32**). "Simon, Simon, Satan hath desired to have thee, that he might sift thee as wheat." He didn't say, "I'm not going to let him have you." He said, "But I've prayed for you, and when thou art converted, (when you've been through the jail, when you've been through the sifter, when you've been tried) then go out and strengthen the brethren." Read it like it's written. We look at jail, and we think of prison bars. Jail is anything that holds you captive.

Job had a jail. God tried him, tested him, but he came through like fine wheat, didn't he. If you haven't been tried, haven't been proven, haven't been tested, haven't been ground, how are you going to be made into that one bread, (**I Cor 10:17**).

Rev 2:10 ...and ye shall have tribulation ten days...

He says, "There is a limited time to it. He won't go beyond my time. I have set a timetable on all your trials and testings, and you'll be delivered out of it." Amen! He says ten days because ten is the number of completeness. Perfect! Complete! He said, "You're going to be in there until you're complete; completely out of the lumps, completely out of self, completely out of whatever is hindering you. You're going to stay in there until I get it all ground out and you come out in completeness."

Hebrew and Greek words are amazing. They have number structures, every one of them. They have numerical power. Every word that the Hebrew language or the Greek language had, was a word power system. When they spoke, it was a number system, and it held certain power. So when you read these things, you have to realize the background of these writers. ("Biblical Numerology" by John J. Davis, page 122, Baker Book House. "Number in Scripture" by E.W. Bullinger.)

Rev 2:10 ...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

There is an interesting comment in Halley's Bible Handbook, page 703, that says even though this promise about the crown of life is meant for overcomers, Smyrna, as a city, has been given a crown of life. It has survived through all the centuries and is now the largest city in Asia Minor.

Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but to all those that love his appearing." Those that are faithful to finish the race (**2 Tim 4:7-8; 1 Cor 9:24-27**).

Jesus, after His discourse with the lady of Samaria at Jacob's well, began to tell His disciples something. They came back with food, and meat, and drink, and they wanted Him to eat. They offered Him some meat, and He said, "I'm not hungry. I have meat to eat that ye know not of." They began to wonder who fed Him, and He said, "**My**

meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work" (John Chapter 4). Paul said, "I have finished it. Not only have I done it, but I've finished it." To get that crown we have to finish the work God gives us to do. Amen!

Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

"He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." This is the second promise. The second step. There won't be any separation. There won't be any lake of fire for him. It'll have no power on him. We have been through the first death; He tasted death once for all men (**Heb 2:9**).

I have been passed from death unto life. This second death is where you will be eternally separated from God. I've already eaten of the tree of life. Now I'm enduring what is laid upon me. So the second thing that happens to me is that I have a crown of life. **Not only do I have eternal life; I have a crown of life.** I must be tried. I must be tested. We all must be. But if we're faithful, there will not be any separation from God. The first step canceled the second one to the believers.

The Spirit speaks to the Churches here. Whenever He speaks, He speaks to the whole body, doesn't He. Not just to one step, or two, or three, or four steps, but He speaks to everybody. He said, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to all the phases of the Church." To every age of the Church. The Church in Smyrna. The Church at Ephesus. And He said, "If you'll be faithful in this step, this step, and this step, these are your rewards." I want to get all seven of them. I want to make it all the way to the throne and sit down with Him.

Rev 2:12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; these things saith He which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

We've already found out who that was. We saw him back there in **Rev 1:9**. The Lord, the Almighty one, He which is from the beginning. He didn't come out of heaven expecting to go back defeated. He knew He was going to win when He came. He knew He had to fight a battle, but He knew He would win if He stayed faithful to the Father.

Rev 2:13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is:...

This world is Satan's seat. Amen! God had decreed a time when all the power of Satan would absolutely be thrown out, when he would hit the lake of fire, but God in His goodness and mercy, had left him with power, but limited by God to do whatever he could do. His seat and his home is not in heaven with God now. It's upon the earth among men.

Paul said, "You are carnal, and walk as men" (**I Cor 3:1-3**). **We're to walk as God walks (I John 4: 17)**. The devil doesn't have power. He's got a throne but he's been stripped naked of it. He's sitting up there on that throne and trying to scare everybody to death, with that big microphone amplifying system all around the world, yelling "THIS IS THE DEVIL," and everybody is shuddering because of wars and rumors of wars.

JESUS SAID, "AND WHEN THESE THINGS BEGIN TO COME TO PASS, THEN LOOK UP, AND LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, FOR YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWETH NIGH" (LUKE 21:28).

HALLELUJAH!

IDENTIFICATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Chapter 6

The word of God is so simple when we read it like it really is written. Instead of letting people teach our minds, and teach what we're to know, we have to let the Holy Ghost teach us what the real truth is. That's why Jesus said, "**If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed**" (John 8:36). Now that's one thing to be free, but He also said, "**You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free**" (John 8:32). In other words, you shall understand the truth, or have the knowledge of truth, and it shall make you free. It'll make you know how to enjoy the freedom that Jesus Christ has set you into. So in Revelation, the Lord gives us the revelation of all that God is from the beginning, all the way through to the end.

Let's begin again with Revelation 2:12

Rev 2:12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith He which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

Rev 2:13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is...

We stopped there in Chapter 5 and expounded on Satan's seat being this place. The world is his throne now. He has a short term operating capability that God has given him, limited by the power of God. He can only do what God allows him to do now. He cannot come against the Church. He cannot prevail against the Church (**Matt 16:18**). He cannot raise havoc with the Church. His realm is darkness. The Church is the light of the world (**Matt 5:14**); so he has no power in the Church.

Rev 2:13 ...and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr...

He said, "Even though there were men that were killed and martyred, your testimony never changed." After this was written, Fox's Book of Martyrs records some of the tragic deaths of the believers; documented truths of how they were sawn asunder, how they were ripped and skinned alive, for the name of Jesus Christ. But they never denied His name, because they were not walking in flesh, but in spirit. **They had already reckoned themselves dead unto the power of**

sin, and dead unto the power of the devil, and they had come alive unto Christ (Rom 6:11). They realized that Satan could do nothing to them that God did not allow. In other words, Satan had become the tool in the hand of the Lord to do whatever God wanted to perform. It's an amazing fact that the Lord says in Judges 10:7-8: 13:1 that He raised up the Philistines to afflict Israel. The devil did not raise them up even then, back in the times before Jesus Christ came in the flesh. God limited his power even then. His power is nil and void now. He can do nothing to you and me.

Rev 2:13 ...who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

"Where he dwelleth." Where he lives. Where does he live? Does he live in heaven? **No!** He lives right here in the world, doesn't he? This is his existence. This is the realm to which he is limited. Now we are in the world, but we are not of it (John 17:11,16). There's a shield around us (Psalm 3:3; 5:12; 28:7; 144:2). We find that He will be a wall of fire around her, and the glory in the midst of her (Zech 2:5). The angels of God encamp round about us (Psalm 34:7). We are sealed by the Spirit of God (Eph 1:13); therefore the enemy cannot do anything to us. We have power over him (Luke 10:19), to begin to trample on him. Praise the Lord!

Now notice this in Revelations 2:14:

Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel...

"I have a few things against you." He said, "You are allowing sin to operate (ungodly doctrines, unpure doctrine) to operate in the church, which has not only condemned that individual, but it has brought to you a rent; it has brought to you a spot and a blemish in your garment" (Jude 23). He said, "I've got that against you, because I have commanded you to keep yourself pure and clean from this present world (Titus 2:12); but you allowed it to come in among you, and you've allowed it to even propagate itself. It takes just a little leaven to leaveneth the whole lump" (1 Cor 5:6; Gal 5:9).

The perfect example of what He's saying here was Achan (Joshua 7th chapter). Joshua led the army victoriously through Jericho and wiped it totally out. Later they went against Ai, a little city of less men than they had, a small city in comparison to Jericho, and they couldn't win. It cost the lives of thirty-six men of Israel. Joshua began to pray and seek the Lord to find out what was wrong, and God said, "A man has broken my commandment. I told you not to take any silver, or gold, or any change of garment. I told you not to take anything out of Jericho." Achan had brought that little piece of stuff into the camp and hid it under the floor, so nobody would know it was there.

BUT GOD KNEW, and God said, "There is sin in the camp." God had them purge that sin out. Now notice something: God didn't purge it out. He had THEM purge that sin out, and had them take Achan, and his wife, and children, their whole family, all

their livestock, and stoned them to death, and burned them. That's what God thinks about sin. It just cannot be in the body of Christ. It cannot be allowed in the congregation of the righteous. This account shows us that even in those days they had those things happening among God's people. Years later Paul would write a letter to the Corinthian Church, and he said, "You have a man there that wants his father's wife, and you've not mourned about it but became puffed up, and it has festered the whole body" (**I Cor 5: 1-2**).

God said, "I'm going to have a pure bride, a bride without spot, or blemish, without wrinkle (**Eph 5:27**). I have given you the power to cleanse yourself from these things (**II Cor 7:1**). I have given you the power to separate yourselves from these things. I'm not going to do it for you. I will reveal it to you by my Spirit, but you must take it out." Isn't that great? The free will again. God lets us identify with His power to lay sin down. Now we're going to have to really begin to believe that God doesn't like sin. He doesn't even allow it in the camp, because it destroys people. Amen!

Rev 2:14 ... to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication.

The Lord was saying, "You let that doctrine come into the church." When you know people that want to live in the flesh and satisfy the lusts of the flesh, and you come against them to purge the church and cleanse it, they're going to revile against you and they're going to go out and say all manner of things about you. "They're not of God. They're preaching a phony doctrine down there. They think they're better than anybody else. They're just a bunch of holy rollers. They're not of God. God is love and they threw me out of the church." Sound familiar?

Any time you take a stand for God and identify with the book of Revelation, and stand up and say, "Listen! We're going to have a pure body. We're going to have a body that has a right mind, and a right heart. We're going to have right attitudes, and we're not going to allow sin in the camp," that's when God will start multiplying. That's when God will start adding. That's when God will start doing a tremendous work in your life; when you will not let sin in, but you'll stand against the very entrance of any doctrine that is not of God, and you will say to that doctrine, "OUT!".

They allowed this thing to come into the Church. A lot of ministers have stood against this stuff, and people have risen up against them and spoken evil against them, and almost brought condemnation in the ministers hearts. They had stood up for God, and dared say, "That's enough sin. We're not having it in this camp." Amen! It's great, because God is getting His bride together, and how is she going to be? With spot, with blemish? **NO! NO! She's going to be WITHOUT spot, WITHOUT blemish, and WITHOUT wrinkle (Eph 5:27)**. She's going to be a pure fanatical bride that just loves The Lord, and hates sin. Loves, righteousness, and hates iniquity. Like we read earlier, the oil of gladness is for that people that love righteousness and hate iniquity (**Psalms 45:7**). They will not allow this to happen.

He says, "I know your works. I know where you dwell, even where Satan's seat is. And you hold fast My name. You've not denied My faith." He's got some good things going, hasn't he? **But let's read on in Revelations 2:15:**

Rev 2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans which thing I hate.

He said, "You've allowed the doctrine of Balaam, and the doctrine of the Nicolaitans to come in, but I have a remedy for you."

There is a saying that a lot of us use, and we shouldn't use. I had to repent of it. "This is a revival for all faiths. Let all faiths come together and worship together." ALL FAITHS! Have you ever heard that? That's a lie, you see. That's a slick way for the enemy to slip it in, and then anything can come in. There's only one faith, one Lord, one baptism (**Eph 4:4-6**). There's only one in God, so you can't invite all faiths to have a revival. We would get off into all kinds of strange things, and then the pure doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ is messed up in man's sight. He can't see what's right and wrong.

God said, "You can't have that happen." "Well, we don't want to throw out anybody." You don't have to throw the person out; you just throw the doctrine out, then they'll go with it. That's why John said in **I John 2:19** that "they went out from among us for they were not of us." They had come in but they couldn't hear the pure doctrine of Christ, so they had to take their doctrine and leave. That's simple, isn't it? They go build another church and they get themselves a people that believe the same doctrine they believe. It looks like they're prospering. Their church is growing and they're really looking great. They have a big building, and they've got all kinds of wonderful things happening. They've got all these doctrines. They've allowed everything to come in. They could believe anything they wanted to believe. They could live any way they wanted to live. The only problem is, they had just separated themselves from God.

Look what He says in Revelation 2:16

Rev 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

See what happens? The sword of His mouth is the word of God, isn't it. The flaming sword, Hallelujah! It goes right out of His mouth, and it cuts to the marrow, the dividing asunder of the marrow and the bone, right down to the soul and spirit (**Heb 4:12**). God doesn't allow sin in His camp. If you think that God is allowing it in your church, just because He's not looking at you, it may be He has already departed from you; and He has fought against you ever prospering anymore in the things of God. I'll take a man or woman any day that will stand up and say, "The word of God declares that we will not have this kind of a mess in our church. Amen! If you want to do what you're doing, then you can get up and walk out that door, or else repent. That's it." No argument about it. No discussion. You don't need a discussion when you read the word of God. It means what it says. The church that is going to prosper is that church that

has repented of those things and gotten those other doctrines out, and all that is left is the pure doctrine of Christ.

He said "Repent!" Now notice the promise if you'll do this.

Rev 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, (not just a manna, but the hidden manna) and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

I want you to look at these things for a minute. You've got the tree of life (**Rev 2:7**); eternal life has come. You came to the second reward, and He began to tell you that you wouldn't be hurt in the second death (**Rev 2:11**); there would be no separation from God for you. Now He begins to tell you how to build on that. So in this verse He said, "I'm going to give you the hidden manna." It's exactly what He told the disciples as they followed Him. He said, "I speak to Israel in parables, but it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God" (**Luke 8:10**).

Many Christians are satisfied with the first two. "I've got eternal life, OK? I know that I'm not going to hell. I know that I'm not going to be lost." So their whole life is concentrated in that area. But the Holy Spirit begins to speak and say, "Wait a minute. I want to take you on into more things, and the first thing you must have is meat to eat that you know not of." You see, you have to have that hidden manna. You have to have that real manna. You have to have the knowledge and the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. It doesn't just fall on you; you have to press into it. "The Kingdom of God is preached and every man presses into it" (**Luke 16:16**). There has to be a desire in my heart to know that which only the Holy Ghost can reveal to me.

In this promise, He begins to talk to the depth of spirituality. The first promise is the realm of salvation; the second is the assurance of that salvation. The third one begins to talk about growth. He said, "I'm going to give you hidden manna, and then I'm not going to give you a purple, or a pink, or a yellow stone; I'm going to give you a white stone. I'm going to give you a stone that is alive, a lively stone. **White means THE LIGHT, so I'm going to give you THE LIGHT, or STONE OF LIGHT, a white stone, and in it you're going to have your name written.**"

In the old priesthood, when the priest would come once a year to make the sacrifices in the Holy of Holies, the breastplate had upon it twelve stones; and upon those twelve stones were written the twelve names of the tribes of Israel (**Exo 28:15-30**). According to Jewish tradition, when the priest would come into the presence of the Lord in the Holy of Holies, those stones would light up. That white stone that you are, lights up. Peter said, "**You are lively stones, or white stones, being built up together, a spiritual habitation unto God**" (**I Peter 2:5**).

In **Rev 2:17** He said, "You are a people that are to partake of the hidden manna; to walk into the realm where there is that conversing in the spirit with the Lord. Hallelujah! Where you can understand what He's saying, and He can understand what you're saying, and you can have a conversation. You can sit down and eat with the Lord." He says a little farther on in **Rev 3:20**: "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, (not my knock, but my voice) and will open the door to me, I will come in to him, and I will sup with him, and he with me. We're going to have a dinner, but it will have to be that you will open the door to me." He was talking to the Christian; He wasn't talking to the sinner. He was talking to the Christian about bringing that manna into his heart, and feeding him with the things of the Spirit. The spiritual meat, praise the Lord, hidden to the eyes of the natural. Only open to the eye of the Spirit.

So God is saying, "I want to make you something special. My bride's going to be just like me." Many people stop before they ever get to the throne. They stop, but the one that overcomes sits down in the throne with Him as His bride (**Rev 3:21**). Glory! I'm shooting for all I can get. I'm not going to be satisfied with any less. Amen!

Rev 2:17: ...and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

A NEW NAME. He's going to write the name of His God and the name of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem (Rev 2:12).

God says, "OK. Here's another step up; here's another change in your life. I'm going to give you something. This is your reward. I'm going to give you the hidden manna, and I'm going to give you a white stone, and in that stone there's going to be a new name." When you get into the presence of the Lord, He isn't going to call you by the name that you have now. He's going to call you by that new name. Praise the Lord! Everything about you is temporal now in that physical body (**2 Cor 4:18**), even your name, but He's given you an eternal name, and it's in a white stone, a lively stone.

Back around the time that this was written the Greeks had games that they played, and they were called the Olympics. The winner got a white stone with his name in it, and anywhere he went with that white stone, it gave him the authority to ask anything he wanted. That was the prize of the game. He could ask of a merchant, or he could ask of anybody anything he wanted, and they had to give it to him because he had that white stone with his name. If he met an enemy and had that white stone, the enemy had to bow down to him. That's just recorded history.

The Lord spoke to my heart, and He said, "I've given you a white stone. The enemy knows you have it, but you don't. Anything you ask in my name, I'll give it to you (**John 14:14; 15:7; 16:23-24**). When you begin to realize that stone is there, the enemy has to bow down when you go by." The Lord has a beautiful way of putting things together, doesn't He. We've always lived so much in the past, or "someday that's going to be wonderful," when it really depends on how far we've overcome in this life. It depends on where we're walking in the Lord.

Let's go to Revelation 2:18-29

Rev 2:18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These things saith the Son of God, who hath His eyes like unto a flame of fire, and His feet are like fine brass.

Rev 2:19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Rev 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee...

Oh Brother! You know sometimes we just think, "Well, I'm in Jesus now, and hallelujah, I'm saved, and I'm perfect. I've made it. I've arrived." You might be a perfect baby, but God isn't going to marry a baby. The Lord's going to marry somebody that has overcome and is grown up.

Now look at this fourth step. He said, "Now you've done some great things, there's no doubt about it. They're all recorded; the works, the charity, the service, the faith, the patience, and the works; and the last to be more than the first." But then He said:

Rev 2:20 Notwithstanding, I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel...

He said, "There's a spirit of Jezebel in the church." The spirit of flesh, imposing it's own will on the children of God. He's talking here about a church allowing these things to happen.

Rev 2:20 ...which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Rev 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication, and she repented not.

Whenever you let flesh start teaching the people of God, you're in trouble (**2 Tim 4:3-4**). Whenever you revert to your flesh to teach the people of God, you're in trouble, because it's just like the spirit that Jezebel had. It's flesh. Everything is "Mine! I will rule by my own power. I will rule by my own authority. I will take what I want by force." And anything goes, right? Whatever looks good, or feels good, or sounds good, that's OK. God understands! You can do anything you want to in the flesh, and you can still get in. **No! You don't get in (Rom 8:8; Gal 5:16-21). You're going to get in trouble whenever you allow people to say, "God knows I'm under grace so I can live in sin." Paul said you couldn't live in sin, God forbid (Rom 6:1-2).**

We're coming to an area where we've got to stand up and begin to say, as elders over the church and over the flock, "That's enough of that stuff. You're not preaching that junk in here. You had better repent," and show them these scriptures. If a man comes up to you and says, "I can do anything I want to in the flesh. I'm pleasing God. God understands, and God's going to let me get in," take him right over here and say, "Hold it! Wait a minute! You commit fornication, you're out, unless you repent." God says you cannot allow flesh to rule in the church. You cannot allow anyone in your church to teach that they can do anything that they want to, and just go on doing it willfully, and continue to live in it. He said, "That is death!" That was the accusation He had against them.

Rev 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

Rev 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

What does the Bible say about sowing to the flesh? You reap corruption (**Gal 6:7-8**).

Corruption = Conc.#5356= destroy, perish.

That's why there are so many Christians that are so unhappy today. They have sown to the flesh continually, even though people have warned them and told them they're going to pay a price. There is no place for wilful sin. The price has been paid once for that sin, and for you to go back and wilfully live in it, you've got to transgress the blood of Jesus Christ (**Heb 10:26-31**). You will pay the price for that sin yourself, while you're still alive in this body.

The more you grow up, the more sin appears to be exceedingly sinful (**Rom 7:13**). Amen! At first, when you're a little guy in the Lord, it doesn't make any difference; you're just in love with Jesus! Anybody can do anything they want to, right? But you begin to grow up and you get your spiritual eyes. You begin to get your spiritual ears tuned up. Pretty soon, sin is ugly! Sin is ugly; it isn't pretty. Sin is not pleasing; it's displeasing.

God is raising up a people today that's going to be the bride, so He warned her. He warned the Church. He said, "Listen, get rid of Jezebel. She didn't repent, so I'm going to cast her into a bed; and all those that agreed with her doctrine, I'm going to throw them in with her and they're going to have great tribulation." Whew! They're going to have great tribulation.

Rev 2: 23 And I will kill her children with death;...

Anything that is produced of sin will die. Remember David and Bathsheba? Remember the sin? Remember the child? The child died. (**Read 2 Samuel 11th and**

12th chapters). God's pattern never changes. Anything we produce of our own efforts in trying to look or sound like the Kingdom of God, will die. It will come to nothing. Any time we wilfully teach what we want to teach, because it will puff us up and get us in the limelight with people, it may look good, it may seem to endure twenty or thirty years, but eventually the fire of God will come on it, and it will be devoured. We will go through tribulation to pay the price for what we've sown, and all the product of that will be death. It will be total loss, and all those rewards that were supposed to be received when that work is tried by fire, will be nothing (**I Cor 3:13-15**).

That's why it's important to be a lot quicker to hear than you are to speak (**James 1:19**). Not to look in the natural, but to look in the Spirit, because when that Jezebel type spirit (that flesh type spirit) is around you, it looks good. She must have been a beautiful woman, as far as the world was concerned, but everything she did was always death. Somebody had to die for everything she did. Isn't that right? Finally she died (**2 Kings 9:30-37**), but I'm saying to you, that spirit never quit operating. It just changed bodies, and it's operating today in the Church. It's a flesh spirit, and it's saying to us, "Do anything you want to; it's all right." Don't ever let that doctrine start in your church. Don't even let it get a grip in that church. Tell them, "Wait just a minute! The book of Revelation says ..." Take them to the word. If they don't repent, then let the Lord throw them in a bed with all their believers together. When they start going into tribulation, don't pray for them (**I John 5:16-17**). Just let them go on through. Amen!

Rev 2:23: And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

There's another scripture in the word of God that locks in here. **1 Tim 5:20** says if you see a person sin, you're to rebuke him openly. I'm not talking about being overtaken in a fault. There's a lot of difference between a fault and a sin. But He said if you see one that sinneth, rebuke him openly so the church will learn not to sin. Stand them up and let them know that there's a God that searches the hearts. Let sin appear exceedingly sinful (**Rom 7:13**). God is saying, "Let sin really appear to be what it's like, then let My people learn that they cannot fool with sin. They cannot desire to be in it. They must be changed to walk in the holiness and the pureness and the love of God."

There are a lot of what I believe would have been good ministries, that came to naught because of the fact that they sowed seed to the flesh. It seemed like the end of their life was just tribulation and turmoil, and all kinds of stuff going on in their life, and it wasn't anything to do with God. It wasn't anything to do with Satan. They had let the spirit like unto this operate in their lives, and they sowed everything to "me", to "my", to "our", instead of to **HIM**. All the seed that you sow to the flesh will die (**Gal 6:8**). It will not profit anything (**John 6:63**). It will die, and everyone that you have cooperated with and worked with, they'll die too. I don't want to go through that. Read it again in **Revelation 2:22**. I want you to get it.

Rev 2:22 ...and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

Whenever something happens in your life, repent of it right there. Throw it out and go on. Don't try to build on a false doctrine because it appeals to your flesh. So the remedy again is what? **REPENT!** It's just flat repentance, that's all there is to it.

Rev 2:24: But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, (as many as are walking pure in the Lord) and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

"I won't put it on you. I won't burden you down with it if you've not been a part of it, if you've not okayed it." You see, when we've put our hand to a person and we okay them, and they're not living right and we're allowing them to teach a doctrine, we're just as guilty of their sin as they are. Unless we repent of it, we're going to get in that bed with them, and then we're going to get thrown in that great tribulation with them. Amen!

God is saying to us, "If you'll walk straight, My burden will be light." Isn't that what He said to us in **Matt 11:29-30**? "**Learn of me. My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**" We're trying to learn something today, aren't we? It ought to put a reverent fear of God in our heart that sin appears exceedingly sinful, and for a man to sow in sin, he has to sow in darkness, and they'll be seeds of darkness. That's all they'll ever be, and they will come to nothing but death (**Rom 6:23**). You'll get people seemingly born again, and what they are is they are born to your flesh. They're born to your doctrine. They're born to whatever you are preaching. If you're preaching anything but Jesus Christ, they're going to be converted to that thing, and they're going to die.

That's why Paul said, "I don't preach anything but Christ. I'm not going to fool around over here and tell you people anything else. I'm going to preach to you Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

(1 Cor 1:23; 2 Cor 4:5). I'm going to preach to you that you're going to have to die to self and come alive in Jesus." Hallelujah! It is said in history that the churches in Corinth had over sixty thousand members. That's a lot of people for those days. Paul came down there preaching the truth in love (**Eph 4:15**), didn't he. He came down there preaching a powerful gospel. "You're going to have to repent and get right with God. God demands some straight rules and discipline to make the Kingdom."

Rev 2:25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

The purity, the straightness, the goodness of God. Hold it fast.

Rev 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations.

Now look how we're growing here. Isn't it beautiful? The tree of life, eternal life, you get that first. Then He goes right on to build, and finally He gives you power over the nations.

Rev 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

He said, "Here is where I begin to share the Kingdom with you, but if you're going to sow to the flesh, you will not receive my kingdom. Even though you become saved, even though I've given you the hidden manna, even though I've given you a white stone, even though I've done all this, you will not receive My Kingdom if you allow flesh to operate in your life." The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy **in the Holy Ghost (Rom 14:17)**. You must press into it. You must live in it. You must walk in it **(Gal 5:25)**. Your flesh can't walk in the kingdom, so this becomes the separation point of pressing on. Here is the revelation of the Kingdom, of the power, and the authority over all things.

Let's look at **Rev 2:26** again: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations." I want to share a little thought I had by the Spirit of the Lord. When you have suffered in the flesh, you cease from sin **(I Peter 4:1)**. There comes an end of your flesh realm. When you have come to the end of your flesh realm and no longer desire it, as Paul did, then you begin to have real power with God. When you no longer desire to have flesh be preeminent in your life, there's an end to it, and then there's a new beginning. The power that God gives to you while you are yet present in this physical body is beginning to be manifested, because it doesn't make any difference any longer who receives the glory, except it all goes to the Lord.

Rev 2:28 And I will give him the morning star.

It's getting better all the time, isn't it? Who is the morning star? **Jesus Christ!** "I will give him the morning star." Daniel said, "They that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" **(Daniel 12:3)**. **God is wanting us to look just like Jesus, and Jesus ceased in the flesh.** Paul wrote in **2 Cor 5:16-17**: "Wherefore, henceforth know we no man after the flesh (but after the Spirit); yea, though we've known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no longer. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." That's where this scripture fits, right here. It is no longer just Christ in me the hope of glory, but it is now, **I am in Christ. I have received that morning star.** Hallelujah! You see, there comes an end to the candlestick age when you come into the Son age.

So the Lord said, "There's a remedy and there's a reward."

Rev 2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

He said, "To him that overcometh, will I give the rule, give power, give authority. He will rule over the nations." God is wanting some people today that He can give authority to. God is wanting a people today that have overcome. Those who have come to the end of their flesh and are not trusting their flesh any more. They have no confidence in the flesh. **"We are the circumcision which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh" (Phil 3:3).** The sign of us being the true circumcision is because we have the morning star now. We're walking around in His light.

Let's go to I John 1:5-7. These men had the revelation.

I John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

I John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.

If we aren't really walking in the light as He is in the light, the best thing we can hope for is relationship, acquaintanceship, or friendship. But notice **verse 7:**

I John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth or separates us, washes the sin away from us. Hallelujah! So there's the morning star. **He GIVES His Son to us in His fulness.** We walk in the same light He is walking in, then we have **TRUE** fellowship, because all of the very inner thoughts of our heart are in the light. There's no darkness in us.

Let's go on to Revelation 3rd chapter.

Rev 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

The seven stars are the seven angels; the seven spirits are the spirits of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, judgment, and burning (**Isaiah 11:2; 4:4**). The seven spirits belong to God so here He is saying that He has all control of these things. If you'll notice as you read along in these churches, you'll find the Lord even having a little more power in each one of them. Look at it just for a minute and let that speak to your heart. Then notice how many times He says, "I know thy works." He really puts it on all these churches, doesn't He.

Rev 3:2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain...

That is the same thing that Jesus told Peter in **Luke 22:31-32**, wasn't it. "Strengthen the brethren." Be strong, watchful, strengthening. Here in Revelation He said, "You have a name. You are alive, but you are dead." That's what Paul said in **Gal 2:20**: "**I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...**"

So here the Lord says to us, "You are alive, but you are dead." **We are dead and our life is hid in Christ in God (Col 3:3)**. God is saying to us that when He appears, we shall appear with Him in glory (**Col 3:4**). Hallelujah! We're supposed to be so far into Christ, that the world can't even see us. All they see is Christ. All they see is God. That's why Jesus said, "**If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father.**" His light was hid in the Father. They thought that when they killed Him, they'd get rid of God. They'd get rid of that pricking in their conscience. **But He said, "If you've seen me you have seen God. I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. My life is hid in Him" (John 14:9-11)**. That's the way it is with us. I'm in the Father, the Father's in me. Hallelujah! My life is hid with Christ in God. Amen!

Rev 3:2 Be watchful and strengthen the things which remain that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

He said, "Even with all this good stuff, I've not found your works perfect." Why? Because they were works that were trying to be propagated by the flesh, with other motives than love. Any work you do that is not motivated by love is not perfect. Whether you build a church, or become a missionary for God, or run a tape machine, or write songs, or preach the gospel, if it is not motivated by love, it is not perfect. It can't be. **You're only made perfect in love (I John 4:16-19)**.

We have many people today in the pulpits that are dead preachers. I'm not picking on them; it's a statement of fact. Their parents were Christians, so they sent their son to be a preacher because that's a respectable occupation, and if you're going to be a Christian, why not be the leader. They go to seminary, they learn all the right terms, the right words, the right phrases, and they speak words and preach out of the Bible, but there's nothing there. You can preach sometimes because you have a gift of speaking, so you're a preacher and you take it up for a living. If you're serving God for anything but love, then you're not going to be perfect, and your works won't be perfect.

God is telling us we are stepping into this Kingdom, and He's showing us that there has to be a perfect work. The Kingdom has to be perfection. It can't be flesh. It can't be blood. **It has to be Spirit!** So the Lord is translating us into that realm of knowledge that our works must be perfect before the Lord. We are dead, yet we live. We have a name that we live by, the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are dead to ourselves. Let's not resurrect ourselves and change what we started to do for God.

Galatians 3:1-3 tells us this: "Oh, you foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you... You began this work in the Spirit, do you think you shall be made perfect in the flesh?" They lost their perfect work and began to revert to the law. Paul was afraid of that one thing: that he would revert back to the flesh because he had so much knowledge of the law in the flesh (**I Cor 9:27**). The ones who are in the flesh think sometimes you're a little strange because you are running around preaching the gospel, and it doesn't bring you any glory. It doesn't bring you heaping rewards a lot of times in the natural. It may cost you prison, it may cost your life. It may cost you misunderstanding and everything else, but you're bringing a gospel of liberty that sets men free to worship God because they love Him. So it's easy to revert back to the system whereby you can guarantee yourself something. In the spirit there's not much recognition of men. God and Jesus get the glory! Hallelujah!

So anything that's not motivated by love, don't do it. If you give, give because you love (**II Cor 9:7**). When you give your tithes to the church, give it out of a good heart, not because you have to, but because this is the way you're going to propagate the gospel in your city. Support the ministry with love, not with just dollar bills, and things like that. When you put \$1 in there, or when you put \$100 say, "Thank you, Jesus, for the privilege of giving this to your work." When you pray, pray with love. When you fast, fast with love. Everything you do, let it be perfect (**Col 3:17**), because you only get a reward for what you do perfectly. The rest of it just wears you out. Any time **you** do a work, **you** have to hold it up. **Any time God does a work, He takes care of it (Psalm 127:1).**

He's showing us that you're not going to make this with your reverting back to the flesh. That's why He said in **Luke 9:62 "No man, having put his hand to the plow and looking back (not turning back, but looking back), is fit for the kingdom of God."** He can be saved, but never make the Kingdom.

We're talking about the church of Sardis here. God had sent His word, and He knew all about their works, and they had a name, that they were alive, but they were dead, and then He goes on to tell them, "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain." God is telling us that we need to strengthen the brethren while there is still time, while they still have breath in them. Don't discourage them. Don't give up on them, but strengthen them. Lift up the weak hands and the feeble knees (**Heb 12:12**). Lift them up. Help them and encourage them (**I Thess 5:11**). What we need today in the body of Christ are people like this, who are willing to strengthen the brethren. They may never be known, but will be a people that are ready to take a background and say, "You need help; I'm here to help you. You need strength; I'm here to strengthen you. If you need a blessing, I'm here to bless you. Whatever you need, I am here to fulfill the commandment of God." Praise God!

Rev 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent...

He did not find their works perfect, so there's that word again, "repent." The only remedy I can see in the word of God for sin is repentance, and then the healing power flows. The forgiveness flows. Amen!

Nothing works until we repent. God does not work in a rebellious spirit, He does not work in a fleshly spirit, He does not work in the things of lust, but He works in perfectedness. He works in pureness. He works in holiness. He works in a realm that the natural man cannot understand because **He is a Spirit (John 4:24)**, and the things of God are spiritual, and must be spiritually discerned (**I Cor 2:14**). Therefore, if we have fallen from the Lord, if we have turned from God in any way, we're going to have to repent.

Repentance is a word we just kind of throw around. People come down to the altar, and they make a confession, "Well, I'm on this, and I'm on that, and I'd really like to get off of it," and they go out and go right back into it. They didn't repent. They had a head knowledge that told them that they were under conviction, so get the heat off, go down to that altar, and then just go on out and live like you've always lived. **That's not repentance.** Then we wonder why in the world that person is in the shape they're in. It's because they never repented. It isn't a case of sliding or falling back; they just never got saved. The church accepted them right in and said, "Well, praise the Lord! You're saved now." **No!** You need to tell people they have to repent.

When a Christian comes to you that's caught up in this kind of stuff, tell them they must repent. That's the only step God ever gave back into the fullness of His presence, was repentance, or turning from that sin, and walking into the presence of God. The only door by which you can enter into that place of God, is through repentance. That's why John came baptizing with water unto repentance (**Matt 3:11**). True repentance came after the Holy Ghost had come. When the Holy Ghost had come and revealed to a man what He was really like, he could repent of that thing. Then he could turn, because God searches the thoughts and the reins of the heart (**Rev 2:23**), but only after the Holy Ghost reveals it to a man, can he repent. This is written to the churches. He's not writing to a bunch of people outside of the church. He's writing to the church.

You can preach to people, you can tell them they are going into the pit and everything else, and it never gets to their heart. It just gets in their head, and they think "Well, maybe I better get down there. I sure don't want to go to hell. I want to make it, you know." He doesn't believe anything, so he just stands up and goes down to the altar and does an automatic thing, and he goes out of church and he doesn't have the strength to stand. Why? He didn't have a heart conversion. You must have a heart conversion (**Romans 10:9-10**). You must have a repentance. You must turn around and go the other way.

Now look at this in Revelation 3:3

Rev 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast...

Remember what you've received. Remember how you've received it. How did you receive it? You received it by the Spirit. You received it by the Holy Ghost. You received it through the blood of Jesus. Remember how precious it really is, and how God gave it to you through His love. He gave it to you because He loved you, not because you were worthy, not because you merited it, not because you had it coming. Because of His unmerited love and grace for you, He gave it to you, and you received it as a gift. He said, "Remember how you received and heard, and hold fast..." "Take hold! Lay hold of eternal life" (I Tim 6:12). **But then He said, "You've got to repent."**

Rev 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent...

You know, when a man really gets caught up in sin, and he begins to remember the goodness, and the love, and the mercy, and the kindness that God has shown him, He can start repenting. But if it's just been religion he's been nailed to, and it's just been the bondage of religion, he can't repent because he has nothing to repent from. Then he has to be convicted of being an original sinner. Here he's talking about a person that once has received the love of God, has received the goodness, and has received the mercy of the Lord, and turns around the other way. Then when he begins to remember God's goodness and His mercy, it isn't long until he's pricked in his spirit and in his heart, and he turns to the Lord again. That's why the Church should be such an example of the love of God. It pricks people in their hearts when they see people love one another. It disturbs them when they walk into the presence of God. It bothers their spirit and they want to get right with God.

Rev 3:3: ...If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

He said, "If you're not watching, if you're not waiting and loving my appearing, I'm going to come when you think I'm not coming. I'm going to come when you have yourself at ease in Zion." You are saying: "There's plenty of time. I'm going to do my thing for awhile now. I've served God; now I'm going to take it easy for awhile, and do my thing." And the Spirit of the Lord says, "Repent! Repent! Repent!" And you hid it.

You're doing something you want to do so you just keep pushing repentance off, and all of a sudden, you've died at a young age. In **Eph 6:1-3** there's a commandment and that commandment was the first commandment with promise; that if we would obey our parents, we would have long life. If you will obey the Lord, you will have long life. Amen! So He warns them. He said, "You better get straightened up with Me, and you better begin to watch for My return."

Revelation 22:17 says, "The Spirit and the bride, they say, Come." This is a sign of the Bride of Christ. When you cease from wanting to do something in the flesh, the only desire you have then is to be with the Lord. Paul's desire wasn't to go out and

build a great ministry. His desire was to get out of this body and get home. He had finished the race, he had kept the faith, he had done everything (**II Tim 4:7**).

When we really get where God wants us to be, our whole mind, our spirit, our soul, our body, everything will be given over to the Lord (**I Thess 5:23**). Then we come to an end of the flesh, and all we're doing is looking and watching, and longing for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The events of the world have no real significance in our lives anymore. The things of the world are all temporal (**2 Cor 4:18**), and they have no power in your life. You're looking for someone you love. You're watching for someone that you love, and every day you wake up expecting this to be the moment, and you say, "Oh, Come, Lord Jesus; even so, Come." That's a sign of the bride. This is what He's telling them here: **"I want you to be in the totalness of all I've given you. Don't stop here at this step, but go on until the cry of your spirit and your heart, is "COME!"** Hallelujah!

Rev 3:3 ...I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Rev 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

They shall walk with me in what? **WHITE!** For they are worthy. They have kept themselves undefiled, unspotted from this present world. **POWER! POWER!** You **CAN** walk perfect. You **CAN** walk holy (**Titus 2:11-12**). The word of God demands it; not only commands it, but demands it if you want to be in the bride (**Eph 5:27**). He said, "Even in Sardis, where you are in that assembly, there are a few that are worthy to walk with me in white." **Rev 19:7-9** tells us that the marriage supper is prepared, and the fine white linen (that's what he's talking about here) is for those that were coming; for those saints that have pressed on into that realm of the wedding.

I want to be **IN** the bride. I don't want to be a friend of the bridegroom. I don't want to have to be a servant in it. **I want to be IN it. I want to be the bride.** That may sound selfish, but God said I could be so it couldn't be selfish. **It's got to be a desire of my spirit.** My natural man says, "Oh, why don't you settle for what you've got?" But I say, "Shut up!" Amen! I'm going to be in the bride, and I know this is one of the steps it takes. Just because people around you are not striving for perfection, not wanting, not desiring to go on to it, doesn't mean it's not possible. Jesus told His carnal disciples in the Sermon on the Mount, **"Be ye perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect"** (**Matt 5:48**). He never told them a thing that was impossible. Amen!

He said, "You have a few that are with you and they shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy." Now don't count yourself unworthy. Don't be like those Jewish people who thought they had it because they had religion, because they had the law. Paul preached to them; he kept preaching Christ to them until one day He just got up

and said, "You have counted yourself unworthy of the gospel. I will go to the Gentiles" (**Acts 13:46**). **THEY** had counted themselves unworthy. **THEY** did it to themselves.

Rev 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life...

Your name has to be in there to be taken out. You don't get your name in there when you come to the altar. He told the disciples, "Rejoice! Your names **ARE** written in the Lambs book of heaven" (**Luke 10:20**). Every man has an opportunity to be saved, but it will be blotted out of that book when a man does not acknowledge Christ as his personal saviour. When a man will not receive salvation, his name will be blotted out. There will be no record of his birth. There will be no remembrance of him. He will be cast off forever (**Rev 20:15**). But He said, "Now you don't have to worry about that if you are walking where I tell you to walk, and you are doing what I tell you to do. You're worthy; you're worthy to wear the white raiment. You're worthy to walk with Me. You're worthy to live where I live" (**I Thess 2:12; Eph 2:6**). It sounds like He's beginning to introduce us to the bride, doesn't it.

That's where they began to get this tradition that a woman that was getting married should wear white, because white is a sign of purity. It's a sign of cleanliness. It's a sign of holiness. So when a woman was to marry a man, she was to be espoused to him. That was her love, that was her life, and she was giving all that she had to him. That's the way it's got to be with us. We're espoused to Him; we have to give **ALL** that we have to Him. **He becomes our one love, our only love**, and we love others **IN Christ**.

If you love God with all of your heart, then you can love your neighbour as yourself (**Matt 22:36-40**). You can love your wife as Christ loved the church (**Eph 5:25**). But if you don't love God, you can't love anybody (**I John 4:7-12**). You're going to section off who you're going to love, or you're going to have a hard time loving them.

Now He begins to introduce us to the bride. The fifth step. Hallelujah!

Rev 3:5 ...I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before His angels.

Rev 3: 6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Notice this! Fifth step. He'll be clothed in white raiment. He'll not be blotted out of the Lambs book of life, and the Lord Jesus will confess his name before the angels and before God. Glory! That means He's doing it right now. If you're really walking where God wants you to, and the enemy tries to destroy you, He says, "That's one of ours!" Whenever you get caught up in something, and you repent of it, the Lord says, "He's one of ours. Forgiveness is his" (**I John 1:9**). Everything begins to work better. The closer you get to your relationship with God, the better it gets. Now if you're going

to be satisfied with just the tree of life, well praise God, you're saved. Shout the victory. If you're going to be satisfied with the white stone and a little manna, that's all right too. But I want to be clothed in that fine white linen. I want to walk worthy. I want my new name confessed before the Father and His holy angels. Hallelujah!

Rev 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David...

Look at it: "and He that hath the **key** of David." I thought it was the STAR of David. No! David had a throne, and upon that throne the Lord said, "I will establish my kingdom" (**Isaiah 9:6-7**). There is an importance to understand here. God doesn't just write something in there, and there it is. **David had a key**. Do you know what it was? He was a man that panted after God (**Psalm 42:1**). He was a man that sought the Lord. He was a man that loved God. He was a man that desired God more than anything else. That was the key to David's life. When that key begins to operate in our lives, it unlocks the storehouse of our heart, and we begin to dig out of that the treasures of love, the treasures of majesty, the treasures of honor and glory, and we begin to heap them upon Him. **So the Lord said, "I have given you the key whereby you can praise Me with pure praise and pure adoration, and you can be a man after My own heart."** Hallelujah!

Rev 3:7 ...He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Rev 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Rev 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

The bride is getting revealed, right here. Sitting on the throne with Jesus. The Lord said, "I'm going to draw these nations down against Israel" (**Ezekiel 38:1-6**). He's going to devour them, and those that are left over of those nations, they're going to come and bow down at the feet of Jesus and His bride. And they're going to worship, hallelujah, and they're going to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord. Won't that be something? Talk about getting excited, friends! God is talking to you and me. He is challenging our hearts to move on, forget the world, forget the flesh, go on, and move on for God. Taking the good news to men and women. Showing the good news. Living the good news. Praise God!

Rev 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

When the world is tried and tested and all kinds of things are happening, the Lord is going to cover you in His pavilion. **Psalm 91:7-8 says: "A thousand will fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked."** Here the Lord is telling us something: you don't have to be concerned anymore when you come into this kind of relationship with God.

Have you noticed that He hasn't told this church to repent. Isn't that good. That shows me that there's a place where God has a people that can walk every day of their life pleasing to the Lord. Pleasing unto God every day. The thoughts, the intents of their hearts, everything about them has been thoroughly purged by the Spirit of God. They're walking in such a way that their whole desire is to please their husband. Their whole desire is to please God. Their whole desire is to do the work of the Lord. Then He says to them, "Even though you've done this, I'm going to give you a warning."

Rev 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown, (or thy authority, or thy ruling place.)

He said, "I have invited you into the bride. You've done all of these things, but don't get lukewarm. Don't become satisfied and become slothful. Hold fast! Lay hold to it. Get ahold of this truth and hold onto it, and no man will take your crown from you." Isn't that good? I don't want somebody sitting up there on that throne when I should have been there. I don't want the Lord having to hug somebody else in my place. I want to make it and there's nothing impossible to them that believe **(Mark 9:23)**. My desire is to make it. **I WILL MAKE IT!** But it's my desire. It's my will. It has to be there. It has to be my heart. It has to be my goal. This has to be a consuming fire in my bones **(Jeremiah 20:9)**. It **HAS** to be the only thing that really counts. Winning souls will happen when I have that kind of a vision. Leading people to Christ will become automatic when I begin to have that kind of a vision, because that's all I'll talk about. **The word of God will go out and it'll not return to God void, but will accomplish the purpose to where it is sent (Isaiah 55:11).**

Rev 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and He shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

"Him who overcometh will I make a **pillar (a support; one that can uphold others)** in the temple of my God." John said, **"I beheld the holy city, the new Jerusalem, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Rev 21:2)**. God is bringing down out of heaven something very special for His children, but for His bride He is bringing something even more special than that - a place for her to dwell. A holy city! She's not going to have to go out from that city. The servants will go out, the friends will go out, but the bride will go whithersoever the Lamb goes.

You see friends, it's more than just saying, "Well, I'm saved. Praise God, I'm saved." There are rewards. There are heights and realms in God that we can ascend to through the glory and the Spirit of God, but we've got to have a "want to," we've got to have a "desire to," we've got to have a "consuming desire," that nothing else is really as important as knowing Jesus Christ in His fulness. **The Lord said, "I'm going to write my name on her; my new name. I'm going to be a husband to her."** Praise God!

Rev 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Rev 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Rev 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Rev 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Now notice this; this is the reason that you get lukewarm:

Rev 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

This is the person that has all of these wonderful steps going for them, and then gets in a place where they say, "Well, I've got it made now. I don't need to press on any more. I don't need to study anymore. I don't need to go out any more and do the things of God. I'm going to just kick back now." Scripture says, **"Woe unto them that are in ease in Zion" (Amos 6:1)**. They've come so close and yet they don't make it. They've come so close to the throne; the Lord has shown them the white linen He's granted to them. He has shown them all that He has granted to them. He has shown them their crown, and all of a sudden they begin to boast in themselves. If the Jews lost the Kingdom, we can lose it too; any man can lose it (**Romans 11:15-22**).

When you make steel, it has to be hot before you can mold it. It has to be molten, red hot. But once it is cold, it is set, and it is what it's going to be. That's what He's saying here. He said, "Either you are in the process of being made or you are made. But because you are vacillating between the two, not letting me mold you and shape you into what I want, because you won't get hot enough, I will just vomit you out." Isn't that something? So close and miss it! **It is he that endureth till the end that shall be saved (Matt 10:22)**.

The Lord is showing us that the fear of the Lord ought to be in our hearts. **Pro 1:7 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."** If we start boasting on what we have, we're in trouble. When we begin to boast on our revelation, how much insight in the word of God we have, or anything else, we are in trouble. We're beginning not to see straight anymore. When we quit relying on the Holy Spirit of God to teach us, and we allow men to substitute for that and begin to hear what men say, and begin to heap to ourselves what we consider to be great spiritual truths, and they're not of God, we are blinded. We become prideful, and when we become prideful, we become blind to the things of God (**Pro 16:5-6; 18**). I thank God He doesn't take us out there and put us over the pit and say there isn't any hope. He's got a remedy for it, but every step in these seven steps are steps of faith. Amen!

Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

You're going to have to buy it, aren't you. It's going to cost you everything. Being the bride of Christ will cost you EVERYTHING. You may not physically have to lose it, but you physically and spiritually have signed it over to the Father. It is no longer yours; it is His.

At the time when this was written, a young woman didn't own anything. The Father owned the daughter, and when a man desired to marry her, he had to pay her father a dowry. He purchased her (**Gen 34:12; Exo 22:17; Ruth 4:10**). But after she married, she became an inheritor with her husband. There is an interesting account of marriage in the book "Manners and Customs of Bible Lands" by Fred H.Wight (pgs.127-129).

Jesus purchased us with His blood (**Acts 20:28; Eph 1:14**). Now He is saying, "I want you to lay down all your stuff, so I can make you an heir of God and a joint-heir with Me (**Rom 8:17**). You will suffer with Me, but you will also reign with Me. **You will be My Bride.**" **Hallelujah!** Only the Queen is going to reign with the King. No concubine, in the word of God, ever reigned with David.

JESUS IS GOING TO GET A BRIDE. I've purposed in my heart, no matter what anybody else does, I'm going. It's not because of anything I can do, and when I realized that and lay down all my abilities, and all my self, and all my stuff, and everything else, and gave it all to Him as a dowry (or whatever you want to call it) then God began to put the fine white linen on me. Began to dress me up. Began to get me ready for the wedding. Praise the Lord! But He says, "As long as you think you can make it yourself, as long as you think there is any other garment that's going to get you in, you're blind, you're wretched, you're naked, you're poor."

Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

The beginning of the marriage supper. The hors d'oeuvres. The little goodies, the little niceties, that we get while we are still walking around in this old body. Dining with us at the table spread for us.

Rev 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne,...

Then He tells us the qualification:

Rev 3:21 ...even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne.

Rev 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Take note of this: I'm going to show you how you have to overcome. He said, "I overcame the world (**John 16:33**). You must allow My Spirit in you to quicken that to your heart. The world cannot have any part of you." Jesus said, "The prince of this world cometh, and he hath nothing in me" (**John 14:30**).

When Jesus rose from the dead, He wasn't naked, but His death clothes were still in the grave. His own robe had been taken off by a Roman soldier (**Matt 27:35; John 19:23-24**). Where did He get those clothes when He arose? Everything in the word of God is a key; it has something important to speak to our hearts. Jesus went into the tomb in death clothes. He arose in a garment of victory. The angels came and clothed Him. When we have overcome this flesh man, as He has overcome him, God puts a new garment on us: the wedding garment. When you feel that wedding garment on your spirit, you aren't going to be happy in this thing much longer. You can't be content away from the husband.

He's saying, "When you've overcome as I've overcome, when you have absolutely reckoned yourself dead and you no longer live to the lusts of the flesh (**Rom 6:11-12**), I will resurrect you. I will resurrect you and I will clothe you with fine white linen." The prodigal son was dead when he had come to the end of the lusts of his flesh, and didn't care where he lived with the Father any more. He came home and the Father took off his son's tattered garments and gave him a new robe, and said, "**My son who was dead is now alive**" (**Luke 15:22,24**).

You see how important it is then to forget about all the things and the cares of this life, and the weak and beggarly elements of this world (**Gal 4:9**), and to fall in love with Jesus. He's saying, "Here's your garment. All you have to do is overcome. All you have to do is put away the lusts of the flesh. I have given you the power. I've given you the Spirit. I've given you the strength. I've given you the Kingdom. I want to marry you. I don't want you just to be My friend, and I don't want you just to be a son. I don't want you just to be a servant. **I want you to be My Bride.**"

We don't talk much about the bride. We don't talk much about the power of God. We don't talk much about what Jesus really wants for us. We're so busy talking about so many things. How important it is today for us to realize something: nothing in the word of God is written there just to be there to fill space.

Jesus rose from the dead and He was not naked. He was clothed in a robe of victory. Mary saw Him. She didn't say He was naked; she thought it was the gardener (**John 20:15**). Gardeners didn't run around naked. In those days you hardly showed your ankles.

Here God is saying to you and me, "If you want that robe that I've got for you, you're going to pay a price for it. You're going to quit saying, "I've got this, and I've got that. This is mine, and this is mine. Me! My! Mine!" There were some that almost made it, but they ended up in another section. **"Depart from me all you that work iniquity, for I never knew you" (Matt 7: 21-23).**

Let me tell you, that old flesh is very strong. When it finds out that it cannot deceive you through the things of this world, it begins to deceive you through religious things. Pretty soon it begins to make you into a person that has the only revelation of truth. Do not be deceived. There's going to be more than one person in the bride, but **there'll be only one bride**. There's going to be more than one in the body of Christ, but **there's only going to be one body**. There's going to be more than one in the church, but **there'll only be one Church**. I don't mind being in a church; I think it's great. I don't mind being in the body; I think it's wonderful. But I want to be in the ultimate. I want to sit down in the throne with Him (**Rev 3:21**). I want to sit down there and love on Him, and have Him love on me.

I WANT HIM TO LOVE ON ME AS A WIFE.

HALLELUJAH!

IDENTIFICATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Chapter 7

We are identifying with who we are in Jesus Christ, what He has made us, what He has done, and where He has caused us to really walk in the Holy Ghost of God. So in Revelation we're going to begin to identify with kings and priests. Revelation is not really new. It was God's desire for the children of Israel, that He might have kings and priests. He would have a people that could rule with authority, and He would have priests that could offer up praise unto Him.

Let's go to Revelation 1:6. We covered a portion of this while we were studying on the seven steps of total victory.

Rev 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

"He **HATH** made us ..." The word "hath" is a past tense word. It means it's already been done. The office is there. The opportunity to serve God in its capacity is there; but we have to be a people desirous to take that place and walk in it and live in it. We find then that God is saying to you and me, "I've already made you that." If you come short of the mark of the prize of the high calling, you cannot blame God, you cannot blame Jesus, you cannot blame the Holy Ghost, you cannot blame the teachers and preachers, you can't even blame your husband or wife or anybody else. It's an individual work that the Holy Spirit of God has done in each one of us. He's brought us out of the powers of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son (**Col 1:13**).

So the Lord said, "I have prepared some better thing for you. You're not to be ruled over in your life. You're to take charge of your life by the power of Jesus Christ through the Holy Ghost. You are to take charge of this vessel, and bring it to a place where it will glorify God." Hallelujah! It will glorify the Lord. **He hath made us kings and priests unto Himself.**

Too many Christians are waiting until they leave this physical body to live victoriously, and they're being overcome by infirmities, they're being overcome by poverty, they're being overcome by all manner of things because they're not thinking right. Their minds are confused and they're in doubt. They hear so many doctrines, they hear so much teaching, they hear so much of this, so much

of that, and they really don't know who they are. **They really don't know.** But Paul said in **Acts 20:26-27**, "I have declared unto you the whole counsel of God. I've not only declared to you deliverance, not only declared salvation, not only declared healing and prosperity, not only declared the baptism in the Holy Ghost, but I've declared the whole counsel of God unto you. And because I've declared the whole counsel of God unto you, I am blameless." I love that!

You see, when we come preaching a partial gospel, and only feed a portion of the spirit man, we are responsible for the areas that we did not teach. We come preaching only one portion of Christ. I've done it myself in years past, and repented from it. If I come preaching to you a partial Christ, a Christ that only heals, and I do not tell you that God wants to take care of you in every area of your life, and show you the whole counsel of God, I have failed you. I have failed to tell you that God is interested in everything about you, great and small.

He is not only interested in your physical healing, He's not only interested in your salvation, but He's interested in you rising up in Him and beginning to take your rightful place in Christ, and beginning to speak the words of creative power (**Mark 11:23**). He wants you to be a **FULL** Christian, spirit, soul, and body. He wants you to identify with Him in the spirit, in the soul, and in the body. He wants you to be totally balanced in Christ. He wants you to be a vessel that can go out and meet people, and minister to whatever need they have. If they have a need in any area, there's a Christ in us that will minister to whatever area it is in.

Let's go to I Peter 2:9. Peter is writing a letter (an epistle), and he said, "I'm going to tell you what Jesus Christ has already done for you." He begins to explain it to us in a little deeper detail.

I Peter 2:9 Ye are a chosen generation...

He did not say, "You are chosen generations." He said, "You are a chosen **generation**." Now this is where we have a lot of problems. We go to the natural, and we think of a generation that's thirty or forty years, so we say, "that generation," or "this generation." No! **When Jesus Christ raised up from the dead, He became the head of the last generation.** He was the last Adam; there's none since Him. He was not the second Adam. **He was the LAST Adam (1 Cor 15:44-49).** Glory to God! So He begot, by the power of the Holy Ghost, a people that would be just like Him, to walk in His generation, or in His time. This is the Holy Ghost dispensation of time. This is the Holy Ghost Church. It is the Church born through the blood by the Spirit of God. Therefore we are not only flesh bodies, we are spirit people, and we are like Him. **We are to be exactly like Him; as He is now, so are we to be in this world (I John 4:17).**

We are linked together then by an eternal generation, not a physical generation, not a generation of thirty or forty years. We're to identify with the eternal generation that began with Jesus Christ. The pre-existent Christ. The Christ which **IS**

from the beginning, hallelujah! We are to identify with that generation, not generations. We are not going to pass away. I think that's the hardest thing for us to realize. We've identified with flesh that passes away, but the Lord continually strived, by His Spirit, to tell us that we are not a people to pass away. We are an eternal generation. We are a people that are alive forevermore. Because He is the head, and He liveth forevermore, so shall the body, which is spirit. We have a hard time relating to eternity. Because we do so much in the flesh twenty-four hour realm, seven day a week realm, we have a hard time realizing that in us, there is the one that God wants to identify us with - the eternal being, He that was chosen in the beginning in Christ Jesus from before the foundation of the world (**Eph 1:4**). **He that is born of God is an eternal being because he is spirit.**

So Peter said in 2:9 "Ye are a chosen generation.." Underline that word generation; it'll help you a lot. In fact, it will set you free. It'll make you begin to think eternally. It makes you begin to put down that carnal mind and say, "Hey, wait a minute! If I'm going to receive something from God I'm going to have to move into another realm. I'm going to have to get over here into an eternal realm to think as God thinks. God doesn't think in the realms I think in; therefore His thoughts are above mine, His ways are higher than my ways (**Isaiah 55:8-9**). For me to get into His mind and His thoughts, I'm going to have to rise up in Christ. I'm going to have to move into another realm.

Now this is identification out of Revelation. He said, "He hath already." When did He make you kings and priests? Before the foundation of the world (**Eph 1:3-4**). In God's predestined plan you have been saved from before the foundation of the world, but you just didn't know it. The price tag hung on Calvary. The blood was shed there to seal it. Your names were written in the Lambs book of life (**Rev 21:27**). Many people will be blotted out (**Rev 3:5**) because they will not take advantage of that high calling.

But the Lord is saying here that before the foundation of the world He hath made us kings and priests unto our God. Hallelujah! He hath created us for His own good pleasure (**Isaiah 43:7**). He hath made us that He could have a people upon the earth at all times who would take their authority, their rightful place. They would go out as Adam was commissioned to do, in kingly authority, and subdue the earth. Go out and replenish it with Godlike people (**Gen 1:27-28**). God said, "I had a predestined plan for every one of you (**Rom 8:29-30**), and it wasn't to be lost, it wasn't to be weak and beggarly, it wasn't to be a people that were overcome. It was to be kings and priests unto your God; to go out and tell the world the good news of the Kingdom of God (**Matt 24:14**).

Somebody said to me one time, "Brother Krider, the Kingdom of God didn't come until Jesus came." **No! He uncovered it when He came.** The Kingdom of God had been here at all times (**Exo 19:6; Isaiah 9:7**).

Rom 14:17 For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Luke 17:20-21 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the Kingdom of God should come, He answered them and said, The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for behold, THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU (or among you).

Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the Kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

The Kingdom was in the garden of Eden. Adam was supposed to take that Kingdom of God out and propagate it around the world, and to subdue the world and replenish it with the knowledge of the Lord, the glory of the Lord. He lost the Kingdom after he sinned, but a few in the old Testament lived holy lives, and lived in the Kingdom of God. The majority of the Jewish nation were living in the kingdom of darkness through unbelief and rebellion, so they were denied the Kingdom of God.

When Jesus began to preach He said," Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand" and He went about all of Galilee preaching the gospel of the Kingdom (Matt 4:17, 23). During His entire ministry He preached the gospel of the Kingdom. Col 1:13-14 says, "God hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son; in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Because of unbelief, the Jews were denied the Kingdom; it was taken from them (Matt 21:43; Romans 11:20-23; Heb 3:7-19; Heb 4:2-3, 6,11).

1 Peter 2:9 Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood,...

Not a Levitical priesthood, not a priesthood of the Aaronic covenant; **you are a ROYAL priesthood.** Hallelujah! You have entered into a family of royalty. The world strives for royalty. They admire royalty even though the poor people are having to support that royalty and do without for themselves. That's the way the world is. **But God has chosen a royal priesthood who does not need support from the flesh. It is a spiritual priesthood that is supported by the realm of the Kingdom of God.** I don't have any bad news. All I have is good news. We're so programmed, and the world is so programmed, to bad news that when somebody opens their mouth to tell them good news, they have trouble accepting it. It's hard to get in the good news.

So the point of identity here is with kings and priests who are a chosen generation, chosen from before the foundation of the world in Christ Jesus. Then He says you are a royal priesthood.

The high priest of that royal priesthood is the Lord Jesus Christ. We are born of the spirit that raised up Christ Jesus from the dead, and these bodies have become the temple of the Holy Ghost. Now there is the precious Holy Ghost living in us. There is also a regenerated spirit living in me, and that spirit receives from the Holy Ghost and

feeds it into my soul and my soul begins to prosper. Therefore I can offer up spiritual sacrifices of praise unto God. Hallelujah! **The body then is controlled BY the spirit; the body does not control the spirit.**

1 Peter 2:9 ...an holy nation...

An holy nation; a people that are born of God. **God's word states, "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).** Holiness cannot be made in the flesh realm. It won't work. The flesh is still corruptible. It is still passing away. But I believe if we live godly in the day that we're living in right now, the majority of the people will be alive and remain when the Lord returns. We will be changed in the twinkling of an eye (**1 Cor 15:51-52**). I believe that because the coming of the Lord is so near at hand. The Kingdom of God is being preached now around the world for a witness unto Him, and He said that when that happens, then shall the end come (**Matt 24:14**).

So here the Lord is saying to us, "This is what you are." Now notice something: Kings rule with authority. The priests offer up praise. No king could be a priest. No priest could be a king. Only in Jesus Christ was it ever locked together. He became the King of the Jews, and He was God's high priest. **Now, God through Jesus Christ, has locked us together, put us into Him, and He hath made us BOTH kings and priests unto God.** Isn't that wonderful to know that you're in a royal priesthood, that you're in a kingly kingship. He is the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords (**1 Tim 6:15**). A holy nation, a nation without spot, without blemish, without wrinkle (**Eph 5:27**). A nation that is pure in the sight of God. A spiritual nation, a people that are born of the Spirit of God, and they that are born of God sinneth not, for they cannot, for His seed remaineth in them (**1 John 3:9**).

God is saying to you and me, "I want you to quit talking to the flesh man. He makes mistakes, he makes errors, but the spirit man doesn't want to sin. He hates sin, and as he grows up, he can take control of the outer man and he can put him down, and the sin that used to control the outer man is now controlled by the inner man. **The king begins to rule on the throne of our heart, and the priest in there continues offering up sacrifices continually unto our God.** That's why David said in **Psalm 34:1: "I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth."** David said, "I will do this. This is where I will live, and I'm going to live there." David couldn't because the Holy Ghost had not yet been given, but he was a man after God's own heart (**Acts 13:22**). But you and I can because we now have the Holy Ghost of God dwelling in us, enduing us with His power to make us just like Jesus. Isn't that great?

1 Peter 2:9 ...You're a holy nation, a peculiar people...

The word **peculiar** here does not mean weird. I want you to get this word "weird" out of your vocabulary. Whenever I hear somebody say, "Well, I'm a weird-o for Jesus," I say, "You're a weird-o, but not for Jesus. Jesus doesn't have any weird-os."

Peculiar = Conc. #1519 = of one mind; #4047 = purchased possession.

Dict. = belonging exclusively to some person or group; One's own, as the Lord's peculiar people in Deut 14:2.

Exodus 19:5 says we are a peculiar treasure (or a jewel; special).

You're a precious treasure people in the sight of God. Hallelujah! You may look in the mirror and say, "Man, I can't see anything precious about me." It isn't the outer man; it's the inner man. It's the pearl of great price (**Matt 13:46**). It's that dwelling in you of a new creation (**2 Cor 5:16-17**) that is created in His image, made like unto Him (**Romans 8:29**). So He said, "You're a special treasure."

1 Peter 2:9 Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar (special treasure) people, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

He said, "I have designed you. I have made you. I have equipped you. I have put you into a place where you can show forth my praises." So your life, the body, the temple of the Holy Ghost, has a priest living in it, a king living in it. It can go out and when people have a bad report, you can show forth the praises of your God, and you can say, "It is well with my soul. If you knew the Lord, if you would come to know the Lord, your life would change." You can tell them that, you see, because you have really believed it, you have walked in it, you have lived in it. God designed you to glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which belongeth unto Him. Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. **1 Cor 3:16 and 1 Cor 6:20 tells us, "Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost; He dwells in you and He lives in you."** This is exciting to me.

You can believe this because it is written in the Bible. You can say, "Wow! That's for me! That's not just for that preacher. That's not just for some evangelist. That's not just for some Bible teacher. **That's for ME!** That isn't just for my husband or my wife, that's not just for my kids, mom and dad; that's for me. That's for ME, the redeemed of the Lord, and if I don't live there, I can't blame anybody. If I'm overcome instead of overcoming, I can't blame anybody. If I don't triumph in Christ, I can't blame anybody. If I'm not always victorious, I can't blame anybody. It is written! It is written!

When Jesus was in the wilderness and was tempted by the devil, He answered him with "It is written! It is written! It is also written!" (**Matt 4:1-11**). Three times He took the word of God by the Spirit, out of the scroll of **Deut 8:3; 6:16; 6:13; 10:20**, and He put it to Satan, and Satan could not stand in the presence of the written word of God, spoken under the authority of the Holy Ghost. Verse 11 says that then the devil leaveth Him, and angels came and ministered unto Him. Hallelujah! You have the same Holy Ghost that Jesus has, and you have the same word that He had. It may be written in a

little different language from ours, but we can believe it. It is the established word and we can stand on it, and the enemy knows that. That's why he is trying to get the Bibles to be nothing more than door-stops or picture keepers, or places where you put your valuable papers when you don't want to lose them. You see, **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."** (Hosea 4:6).

Let's look at I Peter 2:10

1 Peter 2:10 Which in time past were not a people...

We were nobody, just nobody! **The word of God tells us in Eph 2:12, "Ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."** But you see, Jesus had concluded all under sin, that all might be saved (**Gal 3:22**). Isn't that great? He concluded the Jew, the Gentile, the heathen, the unbeliever, everybody in the same shape. Because of sin they were all dead, but because He came, all can be made alive today, in Christ Jesus, and all can walk in this for **there is no male or female, but we are all one in Christ Jesus (Gal 3:28)**. So we know then, there's no regard of how you look in the natural. The important thing is what you are in the Spirit, and the spirit word feeds the spirit man. Just as you must feed the physical man or perish, you must also feed this spiritual man or dwindle away and perish. Amen! You'll find out how important that is.

1 Peter 2:10 ...but are now the people of God:...

Hallelujah! I'm one of the people of God. I'm one of the chosen. I'm one that has been elected to a higher office. I'm one that He hand-picked. He didn't just go at random and start tossing coins to see who was going to come up winners. He hand-picked us from before the foundation of the world; then He put us in an earthen vessel as it pleased Him (**II Cor 4:7**). He made me the height that I am, and He made me look just like I do.. The treasure is what's important, not the vessel; but while I'm in the vessel, He takes good care of it because it's the temple of the Holy Ghost (**I Cor 6:19**).

1 Peter 2:10 ...which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Glory to God! He said He hath made us kings and priests unto God. Then Peter explains the work of that priesthood; begins to tell us what we really are as He begins to break it down to us. Revelation was not just an end book. It wasn't just a book put on the end of the Bible, to tell what would happen. **It was a book that was written by God, actually in His mind, and it was a revelation of His Son, Jesus Christ, but He GAVE it to Jesus. It was God's revelation.** Read it in the first chapter. He gave it to Jesus and Jesus was to show it to His servants. The book of Revelation is from the beginning of time, not just something that is going to bring terror and horror, and horrible things upon the earth. Is this generation any worse than the last generation? Not

really. It's just that we allow more things now than we did then. God's people have slacked off in their stand for God. They've slacked off in their stand for the light, and so the darkness was able to penetrate and move around. But the church is finally waking up. The church is finally coming alive in Christ.

Let's go to Isaiah 60:1. Identification! This is one of my favorites, of favorites, of favorites. It's a prophecy that Isaiah saw that would happen when Jesus Christ rose from the dead and the Holy Ghost came back.

Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine...

Commandments! It doesn't say, "If you'd like to." It doesn't say, "After you've prayed about it." No! **It's a commandment.**

Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

"The glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." The reason for that is because Jesus is the head, and He has arisen upon His body, the body of Christ, the spiritual church, and He has become the head of that. He has risen already from the dead, and when He rose, we rose with Him. We are in His resurrection, praise God, and we're supposed to begin to shine forth as lights in the darkness.

In **Eph 5:14** Paul said: **"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."** He said, "You have to wake up, you have to rise up, and you have to separate yourself." God doesn't have any dead people, except those who are dead to self. They're alive in the inner man where it really counts, and the inner man will cause us to triumph always in Christ Jesus (**II Cor 2:14**). So He said, "Arise and shine for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." That glory is the head, Jesus Christ. That's where your glory always is - the head. When I get to thinking about what Jesus has done for me just because He loves me, not because He had to, not because of any law; but He looked down on this old earth, and He said, "They are in darkness, and I will go and I will give myself for them. I will redeem them, but I'm not going to stop there; I'm going to raise them up with Myself, and I am going to become their head. I'm going to become the patriarch of this generation, and all the glory that's in Me shall filter down through them and be in them also." Hallelujah!

Jesus Christ is the head of the body, so Isaiah is talking about when the head would be put upon that body and it would arise from the dead. Paul confirms it as already having happened, and said, "Now wake up to the fact that Jesus has done everything He is going to do. He has risen from the dead, and you that believe in Him have arisen also, so wake up." That's what he said, **"Wake up!"** This is exciting, isn't it!

This makes your identity so real. You quit identifying with all the weakness of the flesh, all the frailties and failures, all the condemnation, and everything else in the world, and you begin to identify in the freedom of Jesus Christ. He conquered death, hell, and the grave, but when He conquered it, He conquered it for me too that I might live in this earthen vessel, and glorify Him in it. Tell people about the Kingdom of God, and share the good news, I mean the real good news, that Jesus Christ is Lord.

There is a place to live in the Kingdom of God in the spirit now where we can walk and enjoy the presence of God forever. When we leave this old physical body, hallelujah, it won't be with trying to hold onto it. We'll JUMP out of it. I've heard of people who have left this physical body and gone to be with the Lord, and were sent back, and not one of them ever wanted to come back. I'll tell you something: if the Lord takes me, don't come up and lay your hands on my body and say, "Come back," because I'm not. I'm going to get ahold of Him, and say, "Don't hear a thing they're saying."

I know though that God's got a work for us to do, and I want to be in this body. I want to be here when He returns. I want to be triumphant. I want to be winning people to Christ, and I want to be sharing the Kingdom of God with others. Hallelujah! It's victory, upon victory, upon victory. It's from glory to glory that the Spirit of the Lord is changing us today.

Isaiah 60:2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall rise upon thee...

Has He done it? Is He our head?

Isaiah 60:2 ...and His glory shall be seen upon thee.

Isaiah 60:3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Isaiah 60:4 Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.

When you begin to live where God wants you to live, you'll quit worrying about your children. He'll take care of the rest of it. The trick of the enemy is to get you worried about the kids, or your mom, or your dad, or grandpa, or grandma. You don't have to. Just live where He wants you to. Let Him be the Lord of your life. Let Him make the decisions which are best for you. Let Him control your life. Let Him make the right choices. Let Him do it, then all of a sudden you're going to find out you're enjoying living, praise God, and they're going to see something in you they want. They're going to see more than religion. They're going to see a godly head upon us. They're going to see the glory of the Lord, and everything we do, we're going to praise God and give thanks unto Him for it.

Let's go to Exodus 19:3-6.

God's choice was always the Kingdom. It didn't come with Jesus. He came to dig it out of hiding. In **Luke 11:52** He told the scribes and lawyers, "You have taken away the key of knowledge. You would not enter in, and you would not help those that were trying; you hindered them." The kingdom was hidden; the key was gone. There was no opening to that key any longer.

Exo 19:3 And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

Exo 19:4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

Exo 19:5 Now therefore, if you will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

Underline or circle the word **IF**. Everything is by your will. You can either live happy today, or sorrowful. "... if you will obey my voice (obedience is more pleasing than sacrifice -1 **Sam 15:22**) and keep My covenant, ye shall be a peculiar treasure (sounds a little bit like 1 **Peter 2:9**, doesn't it) unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine:"

Exo 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

Hallelujah! A kingdom full of priests. A kingdom full of kings. A kingdom of praise. A kingdom of honor. A kingdom of glory. A kingdom that is ordered and ruled and controlled by the Holy Ghost of God, and Jesus is the head of that government. Praise God!

"...and a holy nation." It sounds like Peter again. We thought he just got a new revelation, and it was there all the time. Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I Am" (**John 8:58**). Before Peter was, Jesus was. God told Moses, "Moses, you go down and tell these people I'm going to give them the Kingdom, and I'm going to make them a Kingdom of priests. I'm going to make them a peculiar treasure. I'm going to make them a holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel." Moses went down, and he told them all of these things, and they said, "Yes, Moses, we will do it" (**Vss 7- 8**). They never did. The kingdom was still there. The kingdom was still waiting.

So in Peter the revelation comes, but Solomon said, "There's nothing new under the sun" (**Ecc 1:9**). The Kingdom of God is not new. It may be new to us because we don't hear about it enough. The Kingdom of God was back here in Exodus when the

children separated themselves and came out of Egypt. God promised them a kingdom, didn't He. But notice something: they had to separate themselves unto God. The promise came but they were not able to conquer it, because of unbelief in their hearts.

Why do the children of God have so much trouble today? Unbelief! The word of God is true, it is right, it is pure, it is holy, it is lovely. We have a hard time because our flesh person is so programmed and so trained to the way we think God operates, that when the anointed word of the Lord comes to us, we can't believe it. "That's too good to believe. I can hardly believe that." Have you ever said that?

Years ago I was preaching, and I said, "Lord, there's got to be more to this than just the healing, deliverance, prosperity, and salvation. There's got to be something beyond that, Lord." And the Lord began to direct me into the Kingdom of God. I began to preach about the Kingdom and you should have seen the people. Their eyes would jump out of their head, and they would call me a heretic. They weren't doing it maliciously. They had just never heard the message of the Kingdom of God. They thought the Kingdom of God belonged to Jehovah Witnesses. I'm not picking on them, because there's some people in there that are going to be saved just like there are everywhere, but somebody got ahold of the ball and ran with it and went the wrong way. Another group got the priesthood, and they ran the wrong way.

But God is saying, "There are a true people that I will raise up that will have no tags on them, no names; they will just be named by the name of the Lord. It doesn't make any difference what assembly point they go into, they're coming under the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They are gathering together unto the Lord. They are a holy nation." What I'm teaching you by the Spirit of God is that you need to identify with more than church, more than flesh and blood, more than the things of the world, and begin to identify with what God said you are. You need to identify with what the Lord hath made you, not only said you are, but what **HE HATH MADE YOU**.

I'm excited about this because I never had this happen to me before. The world never gave me anything but a bad time, and every time somebody would build me up, they'd blow me away. They'd tell me how nice I was, and could I loan them ten bucks. I mean it. We've had the wrong kingdom preached to us and not out of maliciousness, but most of it out of misunderstanding, because **man** would try to preach the word of God. He can't preach it. It takes Holy Ghost flowing throughout, going into our spirit, regenerating our spirit, speaking to our spirit, quickening the word of God to our soul. Hallelujah! **The flesh profiteth nothing (John 6:63)**. You can preach the same message under the anointing of flesh, and it doesn't work. **You can let the Holy Ghost preach it and it works. It is a message of identity to the Kingdom of God which is a reality.**

Now remember this: Peter didn't get a new revelation. Peter just saw the revelation. We go around saying, "Man! I've got a new revelation." There aren't any. It's all been revealed. We get enlightenment of the revelation, that's all. As we press into the Lord, He enlightens the eyes of our understanding (**Eph 1:17-18**), illuminating

them. You'll never have any illumination of the revelation of Christ beyond what you're willing to press into and study the word of God. That's all the revelation you're going to get. If you never come to the meetings and hear the word of God in your churches or wherever you go, if you never read that word and study it, then you're not going to have much enlightenment, are you?

I want all the illumination I can possibly receive. I want to know everything about the Kingdom of God that I can, because the more I know about the Kingdom, the more able I am to glorify the King of that Kingdom. The more I understand about what God wants me to do in that Kingdom, the more able I am to glorify Him in all that I say, all that I think, and all that I do. Every action will glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

The presence of the Holy Spirit is so precious. He's everywhere. And we that know the Lord and are called by His name, are not just some human beings that are going to pass away in 70, 80, 90 years. We are eternal beings. When we get rid of this outer shell, I don't want a little tiny pearl in there. I'd like that whole outer shell to be filled with a huge pearl, just busting the seams to get out. That inner man wants to be with the Lord. God's desire is that we will allow the Holy Ghost to identify us with Christ, and pour the communication through the Spirit of God into our hearts, illuminating us. Illuminating us, until we see with one eye, until we have an eye that is single, the eye of the Holy Spirit; then this body shall be filled with light (**Matt 6:22**).

Sometimes we have double vision, don't we. One day we're going to serve God; the next day we're going to serve the flesh. "I want this," and the Spirit says, "Well, you don't need that. If you really needed it, God would give it to you." "But wait a minute, hold it." No! That's not the way it works. There's that warfare in our members, isn't there. The Spirit man is saying, "I want to seek God. I want to seek the Lord. I want to serve God. I want to be identified with Him. I want to be His bride. I want to be a part of that Kingdom. I want to be something in God." And the outer man says, "Well, I've got to have this, and I need my rest, and I need my pleasure, and I need this, and I need that."

You'd be surprised how little rest it takes for the physical body when you walk in the spirit. I can lay this thing down at night, and it wakes up almost every morning between 5 and 6 A.M. I hear my spirit speaking and it says, "I love you, Father. I love you, Lord." My old body just lays there, resting, resting, and the Holy Spirit and I are communicating. The real me is talking to the Lord, and then when I get up, I feel good. Ready to go again. Ready to do it all over again. Hallelujah!

We're missing it, because God wants to bring us into His eternal rest (**Heb 4:1-11**), into His place that is no longer striving, it is no longer work, it's no longer hard but it's a joy. **It is peace, it is righteousness in the Holy Ghost with the joy of God mixed in to blend it together.**

So God is saying, "I want to identify you." He's been here with us all through this study, and He's taught us how to identify with the bride. He's taught us how to identify

with Him. He has taught us how to identify with His Kingdom. For the rest of this book we're going to be identifying with His Kingdom. You can preach Kingdom from any book in the word of God, from Genesis to Revelation. The typology is all through the Bible.

Just for example: Esther. Who would ever think Esther would be a type of the Kingdom. She was the Queen, **the bride, just like we are**. She was in a foreign kingdom. **We are not of this world (John 15:19)**. The people of God were going to perish because there was an ordinance sent out to kill them, and she went to the King and interceded. **The Holy Ghost of God makes intercession for us (Rom 8:26)**. Because it pleased the King, she received favour in the sight of her husband (**Esther 5:2**). **The word of God tells us we will have favour in the sight of God and man (Pro 3:4)**. Hallelujah! What happened? A decree went out, the accuser was destroyed, and the Jews were set free (**Esther-chapter 8**). "How do you know," Mordecai said, "but for such a time as this you have come into the kingdom" (**Esther 4:14**).

This is our time in the Kingdom of God to set the captives free with the good news. This is our time to come and begin to loose those that are bound, begin to heal the sick and bind up the broken-hearted, and preach the good news of the Kingdom of God to all men (Isaiah 42:6-7; Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 9:1-2).

I want to show you how the New Testament and the Old Testament really isn't separated. It was manifested. **I want to begin with Luke 11:45.**

Luke 11:45 Then answered one of the lawyers, and said unto Him, Master, thus saying thou reproachest us also.

I'll tell you, Jesus was no respecter of persons. He just spoke the word to everybody, and that was the word. I love men and women of God that will preach the word and teach the word like it is, regardless of what anybody thinks about it. And here these lawyers said, "Don't you realize that you're reproaching us also. Don't you think you better cool it a little bit?"

Luke 11:46 And He said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! For ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers.

Luke 11:47 Woe unto you! for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them.

Luke 11:48 Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres.

Luke 11:49 Therefore also said the wisdom of God...

See God's plan; wisdom speaks. Hallelujah!

Luke 11:49 ...I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute:

Luke 11:50 That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;

Luke 11:51 From the blood of Abel...

Notice this, "from the blood of Abel." Abel was what? He was a prophet. He was a righteous man. Jesus said that the blood of the prophets and apostles that was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, from the blood of Abel.

The Lord said that the blood of Abel cried out unto Him from the ground (**Gen 4:10**). It has always been that way. The wicked wants to slay the righteous. The unclean spirit wants to do away with the clean spirit, because the clean spirit, the righteous spirit, prophesies of the Lord. It speaks of the Lord. In its light, in the way it is manifested through this flesh body, it declares the acceptance of the Lord. So in Abel's life style and his lifetime, he was a prophet of God.

Luke 11:51 From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.

Luke 11:52 Woe unto you lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.

Now let's go to Hosea 4:6.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:...

Not for the lack of miracles, not for the lack of signs, not for the lack of healing, not for the lack of all the things that I would do for you, but He said, "You're destroyed for the lack of knowledge." Where there is no vision, the people perish (**Pro 29:18**), but the vision can never be greater than the knowledge. If you don't know that God is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that you're able to think or ask of Him (**Eph 3:20**), your vision is not going to be that great. Your vision is going to be small. But if your vision is small now, and you begin to impart knowledge into your spirit, that vision will increase as your knowledge abounds.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge...

The people were going to perish because they lacked the knowledge, but it wasn't because the devil had stolen the knowledge of God. It was because they had rejected knowledge.

I said earlier that we have the same problem. We have the Bible, and we have newspapers, magazines, and other articles, and we have to reject one to accept the other. So when we accept the worldly news, we have to reject the heavenly news. It had come to a place that the people had continually rejected the Spirit of God until finally all they wanted was flesh knowledge. All they wanted was their own ways. All they wanted to do was feed the flesh man and give him his desires, give him his lusts, give him everything he wanted. Remember how they cried in the wilderness, "Send us quail; send us quail. Let us do this, give us this, and give us that" (**Numbers 11:4-5**). God said in **Psalm 106:15** "**I gave them their requests and desires; but I sent fatness to their flesh but leanless to their souls.**"

We've got too many skinny Christians, feeble, barely able to get around in the spirit. Always worried about the anti-christ. Worried about darkness, worried about the economy, worried about everything. Why? Because they're too skinny, too frail, too malnourished to stand up in the power of Christ, knowing Him. **Daniel said, "They that know their God, (they that have that genuine knowledge of their God) they shall be strong and they shall do exploits" (Daniel 11:32).** But because of rejection of knowledge, we perish. Isn't that what it says? **Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."**

In **Isaiah 60:1** He tells you how to take care of that remedy, doesn't He. "Rise and shine. Get in the knowledge of the Lord, and I'll take care of your kids." You see, the kingdom was given to them and they were told back there in **Exodus 13:5** what that kingdom was going to be like, and in **Exodus 19:5-6** what they would be like, and the greatness and the majesty of God among them. They rejected that, didn't they. The lawyers in **Luke 11:52** rejected it continually. Stephen had an accusation against them when he was being stoned to death (**Acts 7:51-60**). He said, "You're as your fathers. You're stiff-necked, you're uncircumcised both of heart and of hearing; you do always resist the Holy Ghost."

God is a Spirit, and only the Spirit can impart knowledge to you. Only the Spirit of God can create a desire in you for the word of God. We should say, "Holy Ghost, just do what you want to in my life." Amen? Allow the Holy Ghost to work in your life. Let Him take the impossible situations and begin to work in them. Turn it all over to Him. Don't reject the knowledge that He is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we're able to think or ask of Him according to the power that worketh in us (**Eph 3:20**). We're trying to solve our problems, aren't we? The Holy Ghost of God will give you a perfect plan. He will make a way where there seemeth to be no way. He will go before you. He will prepare hearts for you. He will give you favor in the sight of all men (**Proverbs 3:4**).

You're a Kingdom people. You see, that's where the scripture comes in, that the children of this generation are wiser in their ways than the children of light (**Luke 16:8**). Why? Because we don't really know how to operate in this world. I don't, because I really don't care. You have to care about something to be able to operate in it. I'm a pilgrim, a sojourner, a stranger. I'm of another Kingdom; I'm just going through this one. I'm not getting too attached to it because it really isn't important to me. The only thing that is important is the souls that are dying, people that are lost, brothers and sisters that need to be strengthened. That's important. Amen? To bring knowledge of a Kingdom that is greater than any physical thing we can see, and so I really don't know how to operate in this world too well. But it doesn't make any difference; I'm not here to stay.

He said, "You have rejected knowledge, and because you rejected that knowledge, I have to reject you." Isn't that something, how a thing like knowledge has destroyed so many people. Yet notice the one thing the world seeks after: higher education. They appropriate more money so we can teach evolution and ungodly things, and all these things of the mind that will entrap and ensnare man. We ought to be teaching the word of God everywhere we go, so men and women could be set free, and know how to walk in the power of Christ, hallelujah. **They could know HOW to live, HOW to walk, HOW to conduct themselves wisely.**

Isn't it wonderful that we have a mind that was in Christ Jesus (**Phil 2:5**). We have a mouth that no man can gainsay (**Luke 21:15**). We have the power that raised up Christ Jesus from the dead, living in us, and we're trying to make a way for ourselves, when the way has already been made and all we have to do is get on it and walk down it (**Isaiah 35:8; John 14:6; Heb10:20**). The footsteps of the righteous are established or ordered of the Lord (**Psalms 37:23**). It doesn't make any difference what they do to your physical body, it's only temporary anyhow. That's why Paul never got mad because they threw him in jail. He said, "What can you do to a dead thing. Throw me in jail if you want to. It isn't going to make any difference." Praise the Lord!

I want you to identify so much with Jesus, that no matter what comes or goes, no matter who falls or who stands, you're still going to be able to make it. Not only make it but enjoy it. The Lord didn't say you had to murmur, and complain, and gripe, and grumble. He said, "I hate that!" I mean you talk about a joyful God; murmuring isn't going to work, is it. It makes your testimony void. You talk about a God that is able to provide, and then you're worried about your next meal. That doesn't glorify God.

David had a tremendous insight on the Kingdom of God. Look what he said in **Psalms 46:1-3**:

Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Psalm 46:3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

Notice all the things he's saying here. He said, "No matter what's going on, we are in God. God is our refuge. God is our hiding place. God is all that we need." There will be no fear in the people of God that are walking in the spirit. No evil report shall shake them. No evil report will cause them to fear. They will live one day at a time, they will fully enjoy it, realizing this: that no matter what happens, **Romans 8:28** is still in the word of God, and it is real. It is a reality to all that believe for **"we do know that ALL things work together for good to them that love God and are the called according to His purpose."** Everything stable may shake, everything in the natural may seem disastrous, but we will not fear. That's just the introduction. Let's look at **verse 4.**

Psalm 46:4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

This was a prophecy that was fulfilled when the Holy Ghost came and said, "Your bodies are the tabernacles or the temples of the Holy Ghost" (**I Cor 6:19**). Jesus would say in **John 7:37-39** that out of your bellies shall flow rivers (streams) of living water, and those streams are supposed to make glad the city of God which we are - the tabernacles gathered together. We are the spiritual habitation unto God (**Eph 2:21-22**). We're supposed to be glad by the presence of the Holy Spirit in one another.

We don't need to go outside the church for our joy. We don't need to go outside of the church for the peace. It's all in the body of Christ, and as we come together in true fellowship and come together in the unity of the Spirit of God, there is joy, there is peace, there is righteousness in the Holy Ghost. When a brother or sister comes in and they're down, it won't be long until one of the streams will flow out, and begin to touch his life, and he'll be lifted up and say, "Glory to God! I have been refreshed." You see, God isn't going to pour the Holy Ghost out from heaven anymore. He poured Him out in the book of Acts. He is here now in you and me and He must be poured out from among us into one another - a stream out of these tabernacles. God didn't change His mind. You're the temple of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost flows out of you like rivers, and it's to make one another glad. Amen!

Sometimes I'll have a thought the Holy Ghost will put in my heart, and it really just doesn't click, but during the nighttime the Holy Ghost will speak to me and I'll wake up and say, "Glory to God! That's what that means." This was a prophecy of a future event. It is not a prophecy any more; **it is a fulfillment.** Every one of us that are born of God and have the Holy Ghost in us, have a right to be used of God.

That's why Paul would write in **I Cor 14:26**: "How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, everyone of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying." Let every member of the body furnish something. Let every joint supply (**Eph 4:16**). Why? Because the preacher doesn't always know what somebody needs, but somebody in the congregation of the Lord can speak to them and give them a word. Someone else can prophesy the word of God and that river will flow out of them and touch somebody else, and that person will say, "Oh, wow! That's what I needed. I needed that, and God knew I needed that, and He used that person and they have touched my heart." See, the body was built to be sufficient in Christ. It was never built to be independent. It was always built to be dependent upon God and upon one another. Isn't that great?

Let's look at Psalm 46:5

Psalm 46:5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved...

He is talking about the bride, isn't he. The bride is called a **SHE**. John got a revelation and said in **Rev 21:2** "**I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**" It wasn't anything new. David had already seen it. What John saw was the fulfillment of it. I am the bride. How many of you are the bride? We're talking to one another, aren't we? We're talking to that holy nation, aren't we? We're talking to that Holy City, aren't we? When it's manifested, praise God, we're going to be in it. We will be the **POPULATION** of it. That's right. If we press on, if we go on to know our God, my friends, if we follow on to know the Lord, when that Kingdom is made manifest, we will be made manifest in that Kingdom, and we'll be able to sit upon the throne with Him if we have overcome (**Rev 3:21**). Isn't that good? So David had a revelation of a future event. John writes it down and said, "I saw it." Where are we seated now together? In heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, in that Holy City (**Eph 2:6**). That scripture is just as real as **John 3:16**. Amen!

Let's go on in Psalm 46:5-9

Psalm 46:5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

Psalm 46:6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: He uttered his voice, the earth melted.

Psalm 46:7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Psalm 46:8 Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth.

Psalm 46:9 He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth..."

Here he is talking about an event that will shortly come to pass. The scripture of God is written in three fold - that which was, that which is, and that which shall be. David had a prophecy of the bride, hallelujah, and then he has a prophecy of the final judgment of the earth. You can go ahead and read the rest of it; it's exciting. But I'm saying to you that I'm not concerned about a future event, if I'm not enjoying the event NOW. If I'm having a hard time living NOW, don't preach to me "tomorrow" will you. Tell me how to get where I need to be today. Tell me what I am NOW. Tell me where I can live NOW. Tell me what's mine NOW. The rest will take care of itself. Tell me what God has done for me NOW. Show me what the Lord has revealed to ME.

Isn't that what we're saying? Isn't that in reality what the world is saying today? "I need something NOW. I want it NOW." The world is striking; the world is doing all kinds of things, so they want something NOW. They don't want it tomorrow; they want it NOW. Isn't that the way the world is? But we are not a part of the world. God has made provision for us **NOW** to enjoy the fulness of all that He has purchased for us in His kingdom. Hallelujah!

Now let's go to the 47th chapter of Psalms. David gets so wrapped up in the love of God, and so wrapped up in His majesty, and His power, and His goodness.

Psalm 47:1 Oh, clap your hands, all ye people...

Now is that a commandment or not? If somebody claps their hands, don't get mad at them; they're just being obedient. Amen? Somebody's being obedient.

Psalm 47:1 Oh, clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with a voice of triumph.

Clap and shout. Dance before the Lord (**Psalm 149:3; Psalm 150:4**). Be happy people. Now this was before Pentecost. David was a pre-Pentecostal nut. He just had a good time ALL the time. He didn't care. He didn't have to wait for something to happen. He saw it already by the eye of the spirit, and he began to rejoice and dance (**2 Sam 6:14**). When he went into a place that was only lawful for the priests and took their bread and fed his troops (**I Sam 21:1-6**), God didn't get mad at him. David knew that he was living in an eternal realm in his spirit, and he was already not only a king but a priest, and it was lawful for him to eat that shewbread.

Psalm 47:2 For the Lord most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.

Psalm 47:3 He shall subdue the people under us...

Under Himself? No! Under **us**. It's a little word. It's just got two letters in it. It couldn't be that important, could it? A word like "us." "He shall subdue the people under US." His body! His body! Hallelujah! Under the feet of Himself. Us! You see, He is the head of this body, and His Spirit has joined us together from the crown of His head to the soles of His feet. We are a part of that body and the Lord is prophesying to

David, "I told Satan back in the garden that there will come a time that the seed of the woman would bruise his head" (**Gen 3:15**). Glory! Isn't that what he said? This is what He's talking about.

When did the Lord fulfill that scripture? When He turned to you and me and He said, "Behold I give you power over all the power of the enemy and nothing by any means shall harm you" (**Luke 10:19**). Well, someday that's going to be a good scripture. No! It's already been fulfilled. It isn't a future prophecy. When Jesus rose triumphant out of that grave, there was nothing left to be done. **Psalm 47:5** said He went up with a shout. The Lord was pretty Pentecostal as far as I can see in the word of God. **Zephaniah 3:17** says He sings and rejoices over us, and then He goes up with a shout and praises the Lord. Why? He wasn't ashamed of it. He wasn't ashamed of His people.

Here He is saying, "I want to show you the Kingdom of God. I want to show you what I HAVE DONE FOR YOU. I have subdued the people under YOUR feet, because you are a part of me."

Psalm 47:3 He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet.

Any kingdom that is higher than another kingdom, means it has to rule over all the rest of them. Amen? He subdued all kingdoms in **Dan 2:34,35,44,45**. When that stone without hands, cut out of that mountain, came forth, He destroyed every kingdom. Jesus Christ was that stone without hands, and that stone grew and became a great mountain in so much that it filled the whole earth. I'm a part of that mountain, and if I'm a part of that mountain, then I'm a part of the Head. My body doesn't get up in the morning unless my head gets up. It's pretty hard to leave it in the bed and get the rest of it up and go on out; it has to move together. He has risen! He has triumphed! He has overcome, and we are in Him! Hallelujah! It's so simple, isn't it? Then what should we fear?

**Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"**

Whom shall I fear? No one!

Psalm 47:4 He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah.

He has chosen our inheritance. He hath chosen some better thing for us. He has made the choice. Isn't that beautiful? He knows exactly what it is that I have need of, and He has chosen to minister to that need in HIS way, not in mine; therefore, I can relax. I can rest. I can enjoy it, because it's been subdued under my feet. I am not subject to the powers of this world. Neither are you. We are obedient to the laws of the

land because the Lord tells us to be, and I think that's only right, because if you don't, you might get a ticket.

I've done it. I thought one time I could get away with it, you know. I was really conscious of the laws of the land - 55 miles an hour - but I got in a hurry one day. I thought I could make up a little time. I mean, after all, God understands doesn't He, when you break the law. Sure! Under grace, right? But there were some little red and blue lights that came on, and that policeman didn't understand my reason. He just said, "You were going too fast." He opened an invitation to the policeman's ball and it cost me about 35 dollars. The funny thing about it was, I really didn't know I was going that fast. I knew I was breaking the law, because I thought I was going 5 miles over the speed limit. The traffic was flowing along there, so he pulls me over and he pulls another pickup over behind me. After he wrote the ticket, he said "Are you with them?" I said, "No, we don't know that pickup." He said, "Well, I wouldn't have pulled you over if you'd been by yourself."

See, God had another pickup tail me to show me that He knew exactly what I was doing, and if I thought I was going to bend anything, forget it. Amen! So that other person probably got one to. I'm sure he did. I'm saying this for this point: that we are not to be lawbreakers or lawless, even though we have power over all the power of the world. All authority is of God, and it takes a greater power to be able to humble itself to a lesser power. That's why Jesus was meek (**Matt 11:29**). That's why Moses was meek (**Num 12:3**).

Psalm 47:5 God is gone up with a shout. The Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

On the cross, just before Jesus gave up the ghost, the Bible said He cried with a **LOUD** voice. (**Matt 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46**). He **SHOUTED!** Hallelujah! I have news for you: that shouting almost blew the eardrums out of Satan. It's a shout that's going to echo around the universe. One day it will make the full lap and back into the earth it will come. The trumpet will sound again and the shout will come, and the Lord, hallelujah, will appear from heaven (**I Thess 4:16**). **We ought to get excited about this.**

Psalm 47:6 Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

Psalm 47:7 For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.

I love that. Understand what you're doing. Understand when you're praising the Lord, you're praising **HIM**. Hallelujah! You're not singing to one another. You're not praising men. **God has given you the opportunity and the authority and the knowledge as a priest to stand up and offer a praise unto Him.**

Let's look at Romans 12:1-2

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

To know it. To prove it. To know what it is. To understand it. Thank God, He is going to let you prove what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. Why? Because you are His priests, and you have the power to bring this body under subjection and offer it up to Him, that He can live in it and dwell in it. When it doesn't want to do something, just offer it up to Him. When it would rather do something else, just get ahold of it and offer it up to Him. Isn't that simple? But you have to be a priest to make an offering acceptable unto God. The heathen cannot do it. The sinner cannot do it. The lost cannot do it. Only they that are redeemed of the Lord have the privilege of taking a priesthood in Christ that has been given to them, and they can offer up a LIVING sacrifice.

Doesn't that thrill your heart, to realize that you have an identification, not with this world, but with the King of glory, with the Royal Priesthood. That you have an identification with those that have been redeemed from all the ages (**Heb 11:40; Rev 5:9**).

Psalm 47:8 God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of His holiness.

Psalm 47:9 The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: He is greatly exalted.

Who is gathered together unto Him? The people, the princes of the people, are under His control. The enemy can do nothing at all unless God gives him direction on how to do it. Even before the Holy Ghost of God came, there was a righteous man called Job. Satan came and appeared one day before the Lord, and the LORD called Job to his attention (**Job 1:8**). Satan thought about it, but thought 'what's the use. Can't do anything with a righteous man anyhow.' But he said to the Lord, "If You'll let me get ahold of him for a little while, I'll make him squeal. He'll deny you" (**Job 1:9-11**). God said, "Go ahead and try it" (**Verse 12**). Then He put a limit on him, didn't He.

God said that He would not let us be tempted above that we are able, but with that temptation He would make a way of escape (**I Cor 10:13**). When Job had been wiped out of everything but his wife, and the boils he possessed, and all of his friends, the Lord began to restore him (**Job 42:10,12**). Job was never tempted above that

which God knew he would be able to withstand. He said, "You can touch him, you can test him, but YOU don't have the power to take his life." Job came through, didn't he. Why? Because he realized that all the princes of the people were under God's command, not only after Jesus would come, but before that. I'm telling you, we are a privileged people, we are a blessed people, to be able to identify with Jesus. Amen! **To identify with Him because HE IS THE LORD! Hallelujah!**

Psalm 47:9 ...for the shields of the earth belong unto God: He is greatly exalted.

Where is He greatly exalted? In us! That's right. This is where we exalt the Lord: among His people, in His people. In the midst of her, He is exalted as King of Kings. In His priests, He is the head Priest. In His kings, He is the head King. We are gathered together unto Him and even the shields of the earth belong to the Lord. There is nothing that belongs to Satan. The earth doesn't belong to him. It never did belong to him. Adam sold out his dominion over it, that's all. But Adam never gave it to Satan, because he couldn't. It didn't belong to him. It belongs to God. God told Adam, "Take dominion over it" (**Gen 1:26-28**). The heaven was made for God, and the earth was made for man, not for the devil, not for all of his angels, not for all the ungodly hosts. God has created some better thing for us in that new covenant people. Hallelujah! He has created for us some greater thing than ALL that man has ever created. All the havoc that Satan has ever worked in the earth cannot move God, neither can it change Him, neither will it make His covenant void with those that have identified with Him (**Psalm 89:34-35**). Praise God!

Let's go to I Peter 2:24-25. This is identification!

1 Peter 2:24 Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1 Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

"Are now returned." Is that what it says? We have been waiting so long to enjoy the presence of God. We read that scripture for healing of the physical body, and it's good, it works, but it's a lot more than that. You see, you were dead in your sins and trespasses (**Col 2:13-15**) and when that blood began to flow through the back of Jesus, when it began to come out of His sweat glands in the garden of Gethsemane (**Luke 22:44**), the enemy began to cry out. He began to lose his hold upon the dominion that he had taken, and in that dominion had been scattered the sheep of God. Then the Lord Jesus Christ appeared from heaven, hallelujah, and by His own blood hath returned us. Returned us! He went out and gathered up the sheep, and returned us to our rightful Shepherd and the Bishop of our souls.

We are not under the curse of the law (**Gal 3:13**). We are not under the dominions of darkness (**Col 1:13,14**). We are under the Chief Shepherd (**Heb 13:20**). We are in a Kingdom that is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (**Romans 14:17**), and we are the sheep of His pasture (**Psalm 100:3**). Not going to be, not someday when He comes back. **WE ARE ALREADY RETURNED TO HIM.** Hallelujah!

It's a **NOW** thing with God. It's not a tomorrow thing, or a yesterday thing; it's a NOW thing with God. It's an eternal realm with God. **WE ARE RIGHT NOW RETURNED TO HIM.** Doesn't it say that? **I Peter 2:25: "...but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."** That means **I AM REDEEMED.** That means that the world has no power, the darkness has no power over me. It means that I have been brought back into a rightful relationship from which Adam fell. **God is saying to you and me, "Identify with this: redemption. Identify with this: the Kingdom of God. Identify with this: the bride of Christ. Identify with this: the Bishop and the Shepherd of our souls."**

The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. Jesus reveals in the 10th chapter of John about His role as the shepherd, as the good shepherd. So now, if I am returned back to Him, it means something to me. It means that I once belonged to Him. When? Before the foundation of the world, I was chosen in Christ (**Eph 1:4**), but sin hath separated me.

Let's look at John 10:1

John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

You can't get it through works. You can't get it through your righteousness. You must be returned to Him through the blood of Jesus Christ. You must be returned unto the sheepfold through Jesus Christ. If you think you're going to make it because you are good enough, if you think you're going to make it because you have a right and you're a righteous person, you have fooled yourself (**Romans 10:3-4**).

It will only be through the blood of Jesus Christ that we have returned unto the Lord (Eph 2:13).

Praise God!

IDENTIFICATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Chapter 8

We are going to start this chapter with **John 10:2**. We want to begin to identify a little more. Do you feel like your identity has changed any? Remember, it's the Lord that changes us. All we have to do is have a willing heart, a ready heart, a heart that says, "Here I am, Lord, just do whatever seemeth good in your sight" (**Judges 10:15; Joshua 9:25**). Then the Lord will take us from glory to glory (**2 Cor 3:18**), and He will change us and bring us into a new identity in the spirit realm. We don't need a flesh identity; we need a spirit identity, for the flesh will perish (**2 Cor 4:16**), but thank God for that spirit that lives forever (**2 Cor 4:18**).

John 10:2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

Jesus said in verse 7, "I am the door," but first Jesus had to enter in Himself. Jesus had to enter into death, hell, the grave, and then raise again. So wherever we have to go, He has already gone before us. No matter where we have to go, He has entered first. He is the shepherd that goes before His sheep, and in every situation He causes us to have green pastures (**Psalms 23:1-2**). It may not look good in the natural, it may not sound good in the natural, but regardless of all of that, God is feeding our spirit in all situations so we might grow up and be like him (**Romans 8:28-29**).

The word of God says that in the last days the Lord would raise up pastors (shepherds) after His own heart (**Jeremiah 3:15**). Shepherds that go before the sheep. Shepherds that are not slaughtering the sheep, not fleecing them, not harming them, but going before them, taking care of them. You cannot drive sheep; they must be led. It is written that in Israel, the sheep would gather together, and the different flocks would come together to water-holes, and the shepherds would visit while the sheep were drinking. Then when the shepherd got ready to leave, He would call and his sheep would separate themselves from the other group and follow after him. That's what God wants us to identify with - the voice of the Lord (**John 10:4,27**). When He speaks to His flock, we can just say, "Here am I, Lord." It's just that simple.

A lot of us sometimes have trouble like Samuel. When he was little, his mother and father gave him to the Lord. They put him in the house of God after he was weaned, and he lived with Eli, the priest (**I Sam 1:24-28**). So in **I Sam 3:1-10** the Lord would speak, and Samuel would run in to Eli and say, "Here I

am." Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." Samuel came in a couple of times and Eli said, "I didn't call you. It's the Lord, and the next time the Lord speaks to you, say, here am I, Lord." As soon as he was able to hear the voice of God, God began to train him for the office of the prophet that he would be. See, God can't really train us until we know His voice. The Lord wants us to identify with His voice and quit identifying with everything in the world that comes along (**Ephesians 4:14**).

So He says here:

John 10:2 But He that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

John 10:3 To Him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear His voice: and He calleth His own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

Who is the porter? The **HOLY GHOST!** He is the only one that can bring us to Christ, and when He opens the door, no man can shut it. When He shuts a door, no man can enter it (**Rev 3:7-8**). The Lord is simply saying to you and me, "There is a place of safety in identification with Me. You are the sheep of my pasture. I'm going to move you about, but I'm going to be with you. I'm going to go before you and prepare a place for you (**John 14:2**). I'm going to even make a way where there seemeth to be none." The Holy Ghost opens that door. You cannot come to Jesus but by the Spirit. "No man cometh to the Father but by Me (**John 14:6**), and no man cometh to Me but by the Father" (**John 6:44**).

A lot of times we preach the gospel and it seems like nothing happens, but unless God opens the heart of a man, he can't receive it. But in that congregation somewhere, somebody has the door open to them. Never fear nor fail to preach the gospel of Christ, because somebody is going to get it. Somebody is going to receive it. Somebody is going to have a revelation of truth come into their heart, and they're going to rise up and they're going to move out with the sheep of God.

So the Lord said, "The porter, the Holy Ghost, opens the door." He knows your heart. He knows my heart. He knows the hearts of all men (**Rom 8:27; 1 Sam 16:7**) so He doesn't open it to a person that does not want to serve God. He doesn't open it to people that just come and become religious, or they act like they're religious, or they can say the right things. The porter is not impressed. He looks at the heart and He opens the door; but if your heart is not right, the door remains closed. You can have all the right scriptures, all the right praises, all the right sayings and still never see the door open to you. It's the same thing in **Rev 3:20**. He said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear **MY** voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with **ME**."

Now the Lord is saying that only by the Holy Ghost can you hear His voice. You can hear anybody knock, but the same spirit that opens this door has to open the door

of your heart. It has to be able to hear the voice of God. It has to be able to identify. It won't be any trouble for Jesus to round up His own, will it? He will call them by their new name He has given them in **Rev 2:17**; a name that no man knows. No other flock knows about it. The goats don't know it, the cows don't know it, but they that are born of the Spirit of God can identify with that voice. When He speaks to you and me, we ought to rejoice in the Lord. The world cannot hear it. When God spoke to Moses, Moses could understand perfectly, but the others just heard the thunder, and saw the lightning, smoke and fire (**Exodus chapters 19-20**). That's all the natural man can ever see. All the natural man can see in salvation is foolishness (**I Cor 1:18**). He can't hear this sweet voice we hear. He can't identify with that tender voice, that loving voice, that caring voice.

The children of Israel had the calling, they had even been given the kingdom, and yet they could not come to that mountain. They were afraid of God because they did not know His voice. Many Christians who live in that realm of trying to discern the voice of God, haven't grown up yet. They're afraid of a lot of things. **They can't hear the voice of the Lord saying, "Peace, be still (Mark 4:39). Fear not, for it is I. Fear not, little flock, for it's your Father's good pleasure to give unto you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32).** So the Lord said that we need to identify with **His** voice, not with the voice of this world. Amen!

John 10:4 And when He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them...

We're studying about identity with the shepherd. Remember, **He** is the shepherd. We're not the shepherd. **HE is**. We are the sheep. He's not identifying with us; we must identify with Him. He became our sin and identified with us once, but now we have been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (**2 Cor 5:21**). Everything we do from this point on is identify with Him in faith, in love, in power. Everything we do must begin to identify with His voice, His word. He has given us a more sure word of prophecy (**2 Peter 1:19**), the word of God. If we never read the Bible, we'll never know what He is saying. If you don't read the word of God, you're confused many times, and you go in error. But when you read the word of God as it is written, you never go in error. You always have the truth, the Spirit of truth in you, and He teaches you (**John 14:16-17,26**). Hallelujah.

John 10:4 And when He putteth forth his own sheep, He goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him: for they know His voice.

John 10:5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from Him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

A lot of people have trouble saying, "You have to watch out for false doctrine, and this kind of thing, and that kind of thing." Not when you grow up, you don't. You only hear one voice. You hear the voice of God. You hear the voice of the Shepherd, and He's going to feed you good things, isn't He. He's going to feed you right things.

He's going to feed you the things that will cause you to grow up in the stature and the form of the Son of God (**Eph 4:13-15**). He's going to feed you things that will cause you to be free from these things of the world, and absolutely be able to walk in the spirit.

You ought to flee any other voice that tells you to live to the flesh. Any voice that comes along saying you can do anything you want to in the flesh, you know right now that's not the voice of God. Why entertain it at all? Any voice that comes along and tells you there's another way, that any way pleases God; that you can just come to the Lord any old way you want to, eventually it all leads to God (**Gal 1:8-9**), you should say, "Hey, wait! That's wrong. That's not the voice of God." **Jesus said, "There's only one way. I'm the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me" (John 14:6)**. So you see, right away you begin to identify with His voice. Jesus said you've got to die (**Matt 16:24-25**). Now another voice comes along and says, "No, it doesn't mean that you've got to deny yourself. It really means this," and then they start giving you their own interpretation. That's not the voice of God! **The voice of God says, "You must deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow after me" (Mark 8:34-35)**. Isn't that great? See how simple it is to begin to know the voice of the Lord. **The word of God tells you what the voice of God speaks. Amen!**

John 10:5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

John 10:6 This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which He spake unto them.

In other words, Jesus had told them a parable of what it would be like in the Kingdom: there would be a shepherd, the Spirit of God, that through Jesus Christ would lead them. **"They that are led by the Spirit, are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14)**. They that are led by the Spirit of God. Those that hear His voice, those that follow Him, rather than every fantasy and every doctrine of men, are those that are truly called of the Lord.

When you desire just to follow the Lord, the company isn't always that many. Sometimes there's just a few people. **He said, "Many there be that go in the broad way to destruction, but the way of eternal life, very few find that" (Matt 7:13-14)**. Why? Because very few people want to study the word of God. They want to get somebody to preach to them, and teach them, and never open the Bible. But soon there's a bad thing that begins to happen to you. You don't know if that man is saying what is in there or not. If you never read it, you don't know. To identify with the voice of God, I'm going to have to read something. **I'm going to have to study to show myself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth, or the voice of God (2 Tim 2:15)**.

I must study the Bible. I can't depend on somebody else to do it for me. I can't keep rejecting knowledge. I can't keep rejecting the word, and going on the way I want to go because it looks good. The word of the Lord tells us that we have a way that

seemeth right unto man, but the end of that way is death (**Pro 16:25**). If we identify with that way, the end of that is death. The way that Jesus leads never seems right to man. That's what the world says. **But Jesus said, "If you know Me, you'll hear My voice and you'll obey Me. You'll do what I tell you."**

So the Lord is teaching us identity, isn't He. We've identified with the Kingdom, we've identified with the bride, we've identified with so many things, and now the final thing we're identifying with is His voice. **HIS VOICE. He said, "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left" (Isaiah 30: 21).** The Holy Spirit begins to speak to you, and He's like a dove. He's gentle. He doesn't scream at you. He doesn't holler at you. He doesn't get all upset at you. He just says, "I want to love you. I want you to go this way. This is the way that is right."

Then the loud voices come. Wham! They seem to have so much power and so much authority, and they confuse you. You think, "Well, I'd better go that way. Sounds like they have more authority." No! Many times the voice that's gentle has much more authority than the voice that is raised. The voice that sometimes is raised is trying to prove it has authority. A gentle voice is that soft voice which knows what it's saying, knows the authority, knows the power, and it's a small voice, a small word behind your ear speaking to your inner man. **It's saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it."**

Notice this in John 10:6-7. They couldn't understand it because the Holy Ghost had not yet been given to them (**John 7:39**).

John 10:6 This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

I AM THE DOOR. But He first of all had to enter through that door. **Now let's go to John 14:1-3.** It's a point of identification with His voice.

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

He wasn't going to prepare a house or a mansion or a building. They are all there. Everything is finished. He was going to prepare a way back into that. He was going to make a door. Hallelujah. He was going to make an entrance.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

"THAT WHERE I AM..." He was with the Father; the Father was with Him. **He was in the Father, and the Father was in Him (John 14:10).** He said, **"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth (the Holy Spirit); whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:16-17).** So for Jesus to become that door, He had to enter in through that place where no man had ever been able to enter in before. He had to penetrate a wall of sin. He had to destroy the middle wall of partition of sin that had separated us and become an entrance back into the Kingdom of God **(Eph 2:14-16).**

So here He said, "I'm going to become that door. I'm going to become that way, and wherever I am, you may be also. I'm going to bring you into the Spirit that My Father and I are in" **(John 17:21).** The Holy Ghost was with them, but He wasn't in them; therefore, they couldn't really be a part of Him except in the carnal knowledge realm that He revealed Himself to them.

The day would come when the Spirit of God would once again join heaven and earth, but there had to be a door prepared and He had to go first. He had to be the first begotten of the dead (Rev 1:5). He had to be the firstborn from the dead (Col 1:18). He had to be the first raised from the dead back through that door (I Cor 15:20-22). So He became the door, and if we enter in through Jesus Christ, because He is the way, and by the Spirit of God, we are saved. You have to hear the voice.

There are many false doors. Many false Gods. Many false ways. But only one true way - **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.** We need to listen to that voice. We need to get our spiritual ear so wide awake that we hear even the heartbeat of Him. **Rev 2:7,11,17,29 says "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."** He that hath an ear, to him that hears the voice of God, he alone knows what is going on **(I Cor 2:9-12).** Other people are looking in the natural, they're looking and hearing in the carnal realm, and all they can see is bad reports **(I Cor 2:14).** But we that are born of the Spirit of God can hear His voice saying, "It is well." We need to get out of the realm of identity of the natural realm, and begin to see through the eye of the Spirit and identify with that beautiful eye.

John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

John 10:8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

Isn't that great? All the false prophets, all those that have raised themselves up into authority, but Jesus said, "My sheep couldn't be deceived. The enemy would deceive the very elect, if it were possible" **(Matt 24:24).** It is not possible for a man or a woman of God to be deceived unless they want to be deceived. Unless they are

looking for something besides Jesus, they **CANNOT** be deceived. The word of God is truth. The Spirit of truth lives in you (**John 14:17**). If you hear that voice in your heart, it will say, "Yes! That's true! No! That's not true. That's right! That's wrong." So simple. We struggle at trying to stay away from unclean doctrine, but I have news for you: the sheep won't even eat it. They can tell because they have a voice in their heart saying, "This is the way, walk in it. That stuff is not right. Leave it alone."

Let's look at John 10:8 again. I want you to get this into your heart.

John 10:8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

There's no other Saviour except Jesus Christ (**Acts 4:12**). There is no other way back to the Father except through Jesus Christ (**John 14:6**). Many people have claimed themselves to be Christ. Many people have built cults and many people have lead thousands astray. A few years ago down in Guiana, over nine-hundred people met their death because they followed another shepherd who was not the true shepherd. Had they been the sheep of God, they would not have died there.

I don't worry about those things. I don't even meditate on them, because I have a shepherd, and if I start to go astray, He's got one of those staffs with a crook on the end of it in His hand, and He just jerks me back. Just brings me right back (**I Peter 2:25**). He doesn't let His sheep go wandering off through the hills. He leads them; He's with them. Wherever He is, I am; wherever I am, He is. The shepherd and I are not divided any longer, we're not separated, we have become one in the Spirit (**I Cor 6:17**). He is the head of the body, I am part of that body, and wherever the head goes, I go. Wherever I go, He goes. Hallelujah!

The Lord is teaching us **IDENTITY**. You can relax now. You can begin to rest in God. I'm talking about **resting in the Lord**, not taking it easy, kicking back, and not doing anything. I'm talking about not trying to do your own thing, but listening to the voice of God, and allowing God to make the best choices for us (**Heb 4:1-11**). Some of the choices may not look the best at the time, but they always end up to be the best.

Now notice this in John 10:9:

John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

"He will come in when there is a storm and he needs protection. I will bring him in and cover him over. When the sun is shining, I will take him out into green pastures. I will cause him to lie down. I will cause him to drink of the cool water" (**Psalms 23:1-2; Ezekiel 34:11-16**). He said, "I will cause him..." Hallelujah. Why? Because He is the Shepherd of our souls. When the storms of life are coming, He's got a place where you can hide away called a pavilion; in the secret of His tabernacle (**Psalms 27:5**). He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust (**Psalms 91:4**). He will

gather us together, He will hide us away, and then when the storm is past, out into the green pastures we can go again.

God wants us to be identifying with His voice. When He says, "Come in out of the storm," we just come in. When He says, "It's okay to go out," we just go out. We don't just stand out there in the middle of a rain-storm. All the time there's a door wide open to go in there and get under shelter. Many are standing outside and saying, "You don't know how bad it is, Brother Krider." Well, why don't you get inside the sheepfold? Why don't you go in with the rest of the sheep. Get in there where it's warm and stay in there. Then when the sun comes, go out and play in the field awhile. Have you ever seen sheep that have been locked up and covered during a storm, and then they turn them loose? They've got some little lambs among them. Those little lambs are just kicking and jumping and scrapping, and having fun. That's how God wants us to be.

You don't have to keep your eye on everything, trying to watch out for the bad wolf to come; the Lord watches over you. **He said, "Grievous wolves shall come among you (Acts 20:29). They will disguise themselves as the sheep" (Matt 7:15).** But when they come, the Holy Spirit knows them, and if we're walking where God tells us to walk, those grievous wolves can't do anything. Amen!

That's why the church ought to be talking about Jesus Christ all the time. People that don't want to talk about Jesus won't be in there. They can't stay when you talk about Jesus. They can't stay when you talk about the goodness, and the mercy, and the voice of God is heard throughout the land. **Song of Solomon 2:12 says, "The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of the birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." The voice of the turtle dove. The Dove. The Holy Spirit.** In that day, in the day when the Holy Ghost had come back, He was going to begin to be the only voice that would ever guide the church.

John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:...

You say, "Well, I would recognize that rascal." No! You have to be tuned to the voice of the Lord because he is subtle, you see!. He comes in and he puts a division in the body. He starts trying to sow a schism in that body (**I Cor 3:3; 12:25**). He says, "Now you don't want to fellowship with this brother anymore, because he wears a leather jacket in church, and you know that's not our doctrine. You don't want to be affiliated with that kind of a brother." That's the way he comes. The minute he says that, you ought to just knock Satan right between the eyes, and say, "I CAUGHT YOU!"

You see, the thief has been defeated already. He has no power. He has nothing he can do at all unless we give him power. Unless we listen to the garbage that he tries to put in our ears, and then speak it out of our mouths and act on it and think we're

righteous, that's the only power he has. The voice of God sows what? Unity. He sows love. He sows joy. He sows peace. He sows longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, kindness, righteousness (**Gal. 5:22**). He sows all of the fruit of the spirit in the crop that the flock is going to eat on.

The enemy tries to sow discord so he can begin to steal your joy from you. Once he has stolen your unity, because you've let him, you lose your power. Where there is no unity, there is no power. "If any two of you can agree..." (**Matt 18:19**). But you can't agree with me if your spirit is speaking evil of a brother. You have to have a pure heart. You have to identify with the voice of God, and the voice of God says, "I want to sow love, and unity, and peace, and righteousness, and joy (**Romans 14:17**). I want to sow the good things, so the sheep can grow up together."

The enemy knows that he can't defeat you by outward works, so he comes disguising himself as an angel of light (**2 Cor 11:14**) but the Holy Ghost knows him all the time. We get so independent sometimes, we don't need the brothers. We don't need the church. We don't need each other anymore. Pretty soon the enemy comes over, and he's like an angel of light, and he prophesies to us: "Thou art great and mighty and altogether right. The other group, is wrong."

It reminds me of a cartoon I saw one time, of a bunch of people in boot camp. Everybody is moving out on their left foot, except one man. He's stepping out on his right foot, and his mom is in the stands and she says, "Well, the rest of them are all out of step." You have to know something is wrong when the rest of the body of Christ is moving one way and you're going another. You begin having these little problems of identity of hearing the voice of God. The enemy wants to get you out there by yourself; that's where he can devour you. He wants to separate you from the unity, from the voice of God, from the good things of God.

He'll go out there and steal your fellowship, he'll steal your joy, he'll steal your peace, he'll steal your love, he'll steal your righteousness, and pretty soon you wake up and you're all tattered and torn. Then you say, "I'm going to get out of this hog pen and go home." But you don't need to go to the hog pen. You don't need to go out there and go through all that if you would identify with the voice of God. Jesus says something, and if somebody else says something contrary; don't listen to it. When people want to murmur, and complain, and gripe, and sow discord, that's not God. Don't listen to that voice (**Phil 2:14-15**).

John 10:10 The thief cometh not but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:...

That's all he's going to do. That's all he wants to do. He doesn't want to build anything for God. He doesn't want to build anything that can bless anybody else. He wants to destroy everybody, but he has no power any longer to kill you (**Rev 1:18**), or do anything else to you, so he has to deceive you by another voice. But if I only hear one voice, Jesus' voice, the enemy is going to have a hard time ever convincing me,

because I'm not going to listen to him long enough. The minute he starts to say something bad about any of my brothers or sisters, forget it; they are mine. We're redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. They're born of God and that's it. You're not going to separate me from the flock of God, and you're not going to get me off somewhere else. I know His Voice. His voice is truth. His voice is light. His voice is the way, and we're going to have to begin to walk in that light (**1 John 1:7**).

He said that the thief will come to kill, to steal, to destroy, but then He said:

John 10:10 I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

The abundant life doesn't come separate from Jesus Christ. **The abundant life is IN Him.** I want you to notice that! People say, "Look at that person over there. They have great wealth." That doesn't mean anything. Unless there is God in us, and contentment with us, you won't have any great gain because godliness with contentment is great gain (**1 Tim 6:6**). If it's just riches that you've heaped up along the way, and they're tearing you to pieces and robbing you, and stealing your joy, you can quote that scripture and say, "Well, I'm blessed abundantly," and you are snared by the enemy. You're not blessed abundantly. You're cursed abundantly.

I'll show you a perfect example. I had a sister in our church that gave her life back to the Lord, and she was growing with Christ, but she hadn't gotten enough of the word in her heart yet. The enemy knew he couldn't defeat her through the word, so he went to her husband. She had wanted a room built on her house for years, and after she started serving the Lord, he came to her and said, "I have found time to build that room now but I can only build it on Saturday and Sunday, and you have to stay home and help me." What voice was that? Satan! She stayed home. I called her about three weeks later, and she related the story to me. She said, "I'm so blessed." I just left it at that. She never returned again.

I went to their home awhile back and the children were all messed up. She took the wrong step. She didn't listen to the right voice. She heard the voice that appealed to the flesh, and said, "That's what I want." Now instead of the blessing of God being upon her, it was the curse. God didn't have anything to do with it. God's desire was for her to grow up, to lead those children in a way that was right, to be an example, and to win her husband to Christ. But she separated and turned, and went after the way of the world to satisfy the flesh. The devil didn't have the power to do a thing except suggest that was the only way she was going to get it.

I want to tell you something, friend: the price tag is terrible out there. That's why we must identify with the voice of God. No matter how appealing and desirous it is in the flesh, if it causes us to forsake the assembling together of ourselves, and the rejoicing together with the saints of God, it is not good for us (**Heb 10:25**). It will destroy us. It will cause us to walk away from God.

Identification with the voice of the Lord is so important. We've got to identify with Him. **We've got to KNOW His voice.** We've got to be able to say, "That is flesh. That is a cunning device of the enemy." He tries it on me. He doesn't give up. He doesn't quit trying. He just keeps working at it, but I know his voice. I know the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ and I also know that deceiver. One of them talks to my flesh, and the other talks to my spirit. He'll come to you and say, "Well, you can like this certain group of people, because they like you and they're really accepting you. But you had better watch out for that bunch over there." That's the voice of the enemy, because Jesus Christ said you'll love everybody, even your enemies (**Matt 5:44**). Praise God! You will not limit your love to a certain group of people. You'll do for one as you do for another. There's no respect of persons in Christ (**Romans 2:11**). So here the Lord is saying to you and me, "The voice is important." To be led by the Spirit of God. To know His voice. Hallelujah!

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

I want you to notice that. It was the good shepherd that gave his life for the sheep. Now does the shepherd belong to the sheep, or the sheep belong to the shepherd? That's like sheep getting together to elect their pastor. Did you ever see sheep vote out in the field to see who was going to be the guy who took care of them? I know that hits home, but it's the truth. You get enough well meaning people together, and you're going to end up with a Saul. He'll look good, he'll sound good, but eventually he'll destroy you, or he'll be a hireling and he'll flee the flock. If we would let God put people in the offices of authority, and we would submit ourselves to that authority because we love the Lord, and because we were not telling God who we wanted over us, He would take care of us.

God would have been their king forever (**I Sam 8:7**). They would have never needed somebody to take His place. Don't you realize that God wants to be your good shepherd, and He will put elders, and pastors, and teachers, and evangelists in your path and over you, to take care of you. They will love you. But if you get one that you have elected, you're going to have fits in a couple of years. You'll want to get rid of him and get somebody else. It's the truth. Sheep don't pick the shepherd. God elects the shepherds that have a heart like His (**Jer 3:15**). Hallelujah!

John 10:12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

John 10:13 The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

I want to show you an identification point here. If we're doing this ministry for a living, forget it. If it's a professional calling, forget it. If the love of God is not in your heart to go out and care for them, and stand with them when they're having a hard time,

when things are coming against them, the first thing you want to do is run from them, you're not called of God. A true pastor's heart is to be there right with you through thick and thin, and you can't even drive him off. He's always pestering you. It's a point of identification. That's how you can know a man or woman of God. They're not looking for the place where they're going to be important and make lots of money. They're just wherever God puts them. They're just loving, they're just caring, they're just sharing, they're just wanting to take care of the sheep. But a hireling, no matter how good he can talk, no matter how good he can dress, no matter how great he sounds, when the wolf comes he's going to flee. And the sheep are going to start looking for another church.

I've gone to a lot of cities, gone to a lot of churches, where that's exactly what had happened. Others said, "Well, they're a bunch of church-hoppers." They had no pastor. They were looking for a pastor. They were looking for a shepherd. They were looking for somebody that could give them the voice of God. They'd had a bad experience. They had been shot to pieces, full of holes, trying to get well again. I'll tell you something: the day is at hand when there will be true pastors in the land. There are some now, but they're going to be multiplied. You're not going to have to get fed somewhere else and then come back. You're going to find a place, and you're going to say, "They love me. They really love me," and you'll settle into that place, and you're going to give everything you've got to it - your spirit, your soul, and your body. And you're going to be glad that you have a shepherd that God sent.

The time is at hand, beloved; the Lord is returning, and He's going to call His sheep by voice. They that have been eating anything else, and hearing everything else, and listening to everything else, aren't going to hear His voice. Amen! We ought to be thankful that there are some true ministries. I'm not talking about certain people. I'm talking about true ministries, Holy Ghost ministries, not men and women. God loves us so much that He said, "Listen to this word. It is the word from the Lord."

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

John 10:15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

He said, "There's a unity with My sheep. There's a oneness with us, just like the Father knows me, and I know Him." He said something that we need to understand. **He said, "I go out and I do the things that my Father showeth me to do. I go out and do the works that He giveth me to do (John 5:19).** You see, He had time that He would spend with the Father continually so the voice of God could speak to Him, and He would go out and do whatever the Lord told Him. Amen!

The reason we don't see much these days and times is because we're hearing too many voices. One is telling us to go this way and get that ministry; another says go that way and get that ministry. **What we need is Holy Ghost ministry.** We need the

Holy Ghost to begin to move in the body of Christ, where every member has something to share, and every member feels that they have a right and a place of authority in that body to be a live part of that body. If a sister gets a revelation, wants to stand up and say to the pastor, "The Lord has shown me something," she should feel right to do that, and he should feel right to allow her to do it. See, it's because we haven't gotten the hearing tuned in good enough. We're hearing too many voices. We're hearing too many great things. **What we need to do is just come right back to the simplicity of the word of God and say, "That was what saved me, and that is what will keep me."**

The Galatians had a problem with this, didn't they. **Paul said in Gal 3:1,3: "O you foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth,...Are you so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are you now made perfect by the flesh?"** He said, "You've gone back to the law. You've gone back to the flesh realm; there was nothing in that which could make a man perfect. There was nothing in that that could bring righteousness." After they began to move for God but had not yet received a strong enough foundation, someone came along and began to teach them the law again.

That was a common practice back in those days. The circumstance would let people get saved, and as soon as they got saved, they'd say, "Well, yeah, that's good, but you need this. You need to go back under the sabbath. You need to go back under this, and you need to go back under that." So because they felt that was the way they should go, they became bewitched. They went back under the law, thinking they could add to their salvation; thinking they could add to anything God had done by the works of the law. But there is nothing that can be added to the grace of God.

When we really hear the voice of the Lord, we're going to begin to enter into His rest. He is going to become the majesty, the Lord. He's going to become the glory of our lives (Col 1:27). He's going to become our guide, our leader. He's going to become our Saviour, our shepherd. He's going to become our provider. He's going to take us into ALL truth.

"Well, Brother Krider..." No! I'm telling you what is written. Don't let somebody come along no matter how good looking they are, no matter how well they can speak words of eloquence; if you listen to them long enough, it'll tickle your ear. You'll say, "That sure does sound good." First thing you know, it's not only here in your head any longer, it's down in your heart, and you become bewitched. You can't add anything to salvation or to the Kingdom of God. You can only be added **TO** it. All things are prepared. All things are done. They are waiting for us to grow up.

God says, "I will teach you how to grow up. I will watch over you. I will guide you. I will take care of you. I will bring you in out of the storm. I will let you go out when the sun is shining; and I will build a wall of fire around about you. I will be the glory in the midst of thee. I will be your provider. I will lead you. I will protect you."

We're looking for some man to do all that stuff, while God is saying, "Hear the voice of the Lord and live. Hear the voice!" How many times down through the word of God did the Lord say, "Hearken diligently to the voice of the Lord thy God. If thou shalt hearken diligently (if thou shalt hear and do is what it means) if thou shalt hear and apply the things that you hear, you shall live. You shall prosper, you shall multiply, you shall be increased in the land. But you must be able to hear the voice of God." Amen!

John 10:16 Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

Which are not of this fold, or are not of this little area right here. You see, the sheep had been scattered. They were all over the mountains; they were everywhere. They had separated themselves and they had gone to the other areas of the country trying to find food. But when Jesus rose up, He gathered His body together, and **He is the ONE SHEPHERD**. He brought them out of every direction; from north, south, east, west. He brought them together unto Himself (**Rev 7:9**).

He is doing that today. He is bringing one people out of everything - chaos, confusion, strife, and envy. Jesus Christ will be their only shepherd, and the men and women of God under Him will speak what He tells them. He will be the one that will be glorified in the church. He will be the one glorified in each member's life. He will be the one glorified in every under-shepherd of God, and there will be one voice heard in the land. It will not be many sheepfolds. It will be one sheepfold, hallelujah! It won't make any difference anymore what denomination we are.

One night I was out with a bunch of beautiful Baptist people. The dad was healed of cancer and all we talked about was Jesus. Let's quit dividing ourselves and scattering ourselves because somebody said, "You can't fellowship with that one, or you can't do this with that one, or you can't go listen to this guy" (**Prov 6:16-19**). Let me tell you something, friends; there's only one sheepfold. There's only one shepherd. If I want to fellowship with my Baptist brother, if I want to sit with my Pentecostal brother, if I want to fellowship with a Methodist or Lutheran brother, I'm going to fellowship with them. That's all there is to it, because they have the same shepherd I have. They may not be eating all the good stuff I'm getting to eat, but they're still mine.

We need to get jealous over our body of Christ. When somebody says, "Well, you have to watch out for that brother. You can't go over to his house and fellowship, because if you go over there, I'm going to kick you out. You go over to his house and eat dinner, you're going to get ex-communicated." That's what is happening. That's the way it is right now, beloved. They are going contrary to **John 10:16**. **Jesus said, "I took care of the many folds. The many little flocks. I brought them all together in Me." There is only one body, one Spirit (Eph 4:4).**

Let's begin to hear the one voice of God. Let's begin to hear the true word of the Lord. Let's begin to hearken to that voice and begin to live. Let's begin to move in the power of unity, showing the lost that there IS a God that loves them. There is a Jesus Christ who died for them and rose again, and hath become the shepherd of the sheep.

Let's look at John 10:17:

John 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

That happens in every one of our lives too, doesn't it? When we die to self, we get our real life. When we lose our life in this world for His sake, we gain it (**John 12:25**). **That's why the Father loved Him. He laid down His own will, He laid down His own desire, took the desire of the Father and the will of the Father (Luke 22:39-46). He died to self continually. One day He died on the cross, but thank God, one day that body came alive and out of the tomb came the resurrected shepherd of our souls.**

So the Lord here, is telling us something. If that pleased the Father, no wonder Paul would tell us that he had to die daily (**I Cor 15:31**). He had to bring the body under subjection (**I Cor 9:27**). He had to deny himself. Jesus would preach it and say, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (**Matt 16:24-25**). You know, the identifying mark of a Christian that really impresses me, besides love and these tremendous things, is the man or the woman that dies daily to self and has time for others regardless of how busy they are. Somehow they find time for others.

Jesus was a pretty busy individual, but did you ever notice how many times individuals came to Him in need, and He took care of them. Did you ever notice in His busy life of walking among the multitudes, how they followed Him and demanded of Him continually. The centurion came to Him and took His time to beseech Him that his servant might live (**Matt 8:5-13**). A ruler came that his daughter might live (**Matt 9:18-19**). The woman with the issue of blood came that she might live (**Matt 9:20-22**). I'm telling you something; He had died to His own self. His demands were the demands that were put upon Him by others. He no longer lived for Himself, but He lived for the Father. He desired to please the Father always (**John 8:29**). He wasn't too busy in His religious schedule to take time out to care about somebody else. **He said, "The Father loves me for that" (John 10:17).**

Do you want the Father to really love you like He loves Jesus? Start practicing a little bit of this. Start living this. Somebody says, "You know, I sure would like to talk to you, and I've got all this problem, and I've got this, and I've got that. Could you spend five minutes with me?" You say, "I'd like to but I'm busy." One day I went out to some folks house to pray for this brother, and I ended up eating hamburgers and the best cake I ever ate in my life. I mean they ministered to me. They said, "Now when you're in town, you come back and see us." When you start ministering to somebody else,

something begins to happen. You can't give it away as quick as you get it. You're out trying to give it away and it just jumps on you (**Deut 28:1-14**).

You see, God wants us to identify with Jesus Christ. He wants us to identify with the voice of the Lord, and the sign that you're identifying with the voice of the Lord, is you're doing those things that always please Him.

John 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

John 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself...

If you do things because you have to, you missed it. If you do it because man makes you do it, you missed it. Jesus did not struggle for His life. He gave it away. That's what a Christian is all about: giving of self, whatever the need is. Not getting, and getting, and getting, but giving, and giving, and giving. Did you know that the first sign of identity with the Father and Son was "**God so loved the world that He GAVE...**" (**John 3:16**). The proof of love is there is a giving.

We put that in money realms, and we put that in things. No! There are people that just need you. There are people that need the Spirit of God that is in you, to be poured out to them until they can get up and walk right on. They don't need the condemnation, they don't need a philosophy, they don't need the doctrine of men. They need the voice of God speaking to their hearts and saying, "Fear not, rise up, let's go on together." That's what God is telling us today. That's what is going to bring the body into that unity of Christ. We're going to identify with the voice of God, and the voice of God is telling us to strengthen the brethren (**Luke 22:32**). The voice of God is saying, "Let's begin to work together, striving together for the unity of the faith" (**Eph 4:13**). Let's begin to walk in that unity. Let's begin to lift up the feeble hands. Let's begin to strengthen one another (**Isaiah 35:3**). Hallelujah! Let's begin to be poured out for one another.

John 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

He said, "Son, you lay down your life, and you'll pick it up again." He's telling us the same thing today. Quit being so involved with your program. Lay it down. You're going to pick up something better. If Jesus had not died, there wouldn't be any body of Christ. There wouldn't be any church. There wouldn't be any redeemed. The world would be lost forever. But Jesus chose rather to be that kernel of wheat that would fall into the ground and die, and He said, "Unless it does, it abideth alone, but if it fall to the ground and die, it will bring forth much fruit" (**John 12:24**).

The Lord is saying, "The Father has given me a commandment that I can lay my life down, but I can also take it up again." **Jesus said in John 12:25 "If you lose your**

life in this world, for my sake, you shall keep it unto life eternal; but if you save your life (do your own thing all the time), you'll lose it in the world to come." That's the voice of God. God's commandment, God's voice, God's word telling us how to walk right in the sight of God. Telling us how to love one another. Telling us how to minister to one another. Telling us how to reach out to the lost. His commandment! Isn't that good?

John 10:19 There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings.

John 10:20 And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye Him?

John 10:21 Others said, These are not the words of Him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?

Whenever the true word of God comes, you're going to find people fighting against it as well as living for it. Now if that had been us, and somebody said we had a devil, we would really begin to justify ourselves. Jesus had a way of hearing the voice of the Father speaking the word of God and letting that wisdom be justified in her children (**Luke 7:35**). If you really are walking where God wants you to, no matter what anybody thinks about you, the end of that thing will justify the way you're walking. You don't have to try to justify yourself. **Who is it that shall lay anything to the charge of my elect for it is God that justifies (Romans 8:33)**. It may seem that you're getting a raw deal right now and everything is going against you, but the end of that thing will be altogether glorious.

John 10:22 And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.

John 10:23 And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.

John 10:24 Then came the Jews round about Him, and said unto Him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

What they are trying to say is, "Convince us. You're making us doubt. We have a good thing going here. We have our own religion going here, and then you come on the scene and you start talking like this, and now we're beginning to doubt if we know anything at all."

When the Spirit of God comes into a religious group, they begin to doubt that maybe they're really not right at all. When the truth comes, and you've been set in a doctrine that's not right, that truth comes and pretty soon you're going to start doubting things. "Is this really the way I should be going?" They were comfortable. They would go up and let the priest cheat them out of their sacrifice, and offer up a lame duck.

That's comfortable. "I don't have to get involved; all I have to do is give one of MY little lambs or one of my sheep, and I can go on and live like I want to. It's all taken care of."

Now here had come a man telling how it really was. He said, "There's a true shepherd coming. He's going to die for you, but He's going to raise again." It began to click in their minds that somewhere back in the prophets they'd heard that word, that there would come a Messiah who would be offered up. It came back to their minds how the prophets said, in **Jeremiah 23:1-4**, "**I will scatter those shepherds. I will get rid of them and I will raise up shepherds after my own heart**" (**Jeremiah 3:15**). It began to prick them in the heart. Now that's the way the word of God ought to do to people. When they're snug and secure in their little religious ways, the word of God penetrates in there (**Heb 4:11-16**). The voice of the Lord comes, and brings light in that darkness.

They said, "How long are you going to make us doubt? Why don't you tell us if you're the Christ." He couldn't, you see; it takes the Holy Ghost to do it, and they'd already rejected Him. He kept telling them down through the years and years of time that Jesus Christ would come. He told them where He would be born, told them the time He would be born, told them the conditions under which He would be born, and the sign under which He would come, and they still didn't see it. They were blind. You who are saved today ought to be the happiest, rejoicing bunch of people in the world, because your name is written in heaven (**Luke 10:20**). That should cause you to rejoice more than anything else in the world. You can have your name on every roll of every church in this country and still miss it, but if you've got your name on the roll in heaven, you don't have to have your name on anything else. Amen!

John 10:25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

He said, "I've told you and you still don't believe." The Lord didn't go around trying to convince people of anything. He has spoken His word. He has given the Spirit of God to quicken the word to our hearts, but if you think He's going to convince us in our mind, forget it. He said, "You saw the miracles, the works I did in my Father's name, and you still don't believe me. I've told you, and I've shown you, and you still don't believe me. What do you want me to do? What will it take to convince you? The prophets prophesied of me, the scriptures testify of me (**John 5:39**), and show exactly where I would be born and when I would be born, and yet you want me to convince you. What else can I do?"

As we know, the Jews were cut off already. They were all now concluded under sin with the rest of us (**Gal 3:22**). They had taken the Kingdom and hidden it away (**Matt 21:43;23:13**). They had resisted the Holy Ghost. There was **NO** way they could see Jesus, because **He said "I speak unto them in parables that seeing, they might not see, and hearing, they might not hear, lest they believe in their heart and are converted"** (**Matt 13:10-15**). They had gone beyond the point of repentance. There

was no way they were going to be converted until they would be converted as every other man must be converted.

God had given them a splendid opportunity. He had given them time after time, space of repentance, and He said, "They would not." So what does He do? He takes the Jew, the Gentile, all of us, and He puts us in the same pot, and He buries us. He said, "You are all under sin. You are all dead. Now I will get me a holy nation (**I Peter 2:9**), and they will not be Jew nor Gentile, Greek, Scythian, bond nor free, but they will be one" (**Col. 3:11**). They wanted Him to convince them. He had talked to them for thousands of years. He had shown them His covenant, His oracles, had spoken to them through prophets; and now they would not receive them, and they were not going to receive Him. If they had, we wouldn't have been in it today. Hallelujah!

John 10:25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

John 10:26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

"But I grew up in a Christian home!" It's nice. It's good. Thank God for it, but unless you've had a personal experience, it won't get you in. There are no grandchildren in heaven, believe me. That's the way it is. They were trying to come in on their righteousness, weren't they. They didn't need Jesus. They didn't want to hear His voice. They didn't want to identify with His voice. They wanted to identify with the law and with a corrupt priesthood, and with a nation that was living in idolatry, doing anything they wanted to. Listening to the flesh. Making their sacrifices. Doing their thing. That was the kind of life they wanted. They did not WANT to be convinced. They did not WANT to hear the voice of God. They had already told Moses long before this, "Moses, you go talk to God. We don't want to hear Him. You go talk to Him" (**Exodus 20:18,19**). They had made their decision. They didn't want to identify with the voice of God, did they?

We can do the same thing today. Our desire shouldn't be to identify with the voice of a man, but to identify with the voice of God. To identify with the voice of the Holy Spirit. To walk and move and be in Him (**Acts 17:28**). He will take care of us. He will take us in and take us out. He will guide us forth into green pastures. **HE, THE LORD**. And He said to those that should have known, "You are not of my sheep." I'll tell you, that was making some people mad right there. He had a way of stirring up and inciting a riot quicker than anybody you ever saw. All He had to say was a few words and they were ready to kill Him. Amen!

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

John 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

John 10:29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

Oh Glory! Not only are we in the hand of Jesus, but we're in the hand of the Father. There are two hands that are hedging us about and keeping us today (**Job 1:10**), the same hands that measured out the waters for the earth (**Isaiah 40:12**). There's no devil, there's no doctrine, there's no other individual, there's no power in heaven or earth, that can take us out of Jesus' hand and out of the Father's hand (**Romans 8:37-39**). Hallelujah!

His sheep are safe there in the palm of His hands. Can't you see them, snuggling up to Him once in awhile, and Him loving on them. I remember one time I had a wool rug, and I liked to lay on that thing and rest my head. It was so nice and comfortable. I thought a lot of times how the Lord must once in awhile just snuggle us up and lay His head over on us and say, "These are my sheep." He served notice on every other power that thinks it can do anything to us. **He said, "You have no power to pluck them out of my hand. You have no power to destroy them." Hallelujah!**

We need that assurance, don't we. We need that identifying factor that we're identified with His voice. He said it, and I believe it, friends. He said it; that settles it. What difference does it make what the world is doing? It doesn't make any difference (**I Cor 3:19-20**).

John 10:30 I and my Father are one.

John 10:31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.

Can you imagine a man coming with a message like this and they want to kill him. Really, can you imagine the love of God walking around in a human body, wanting to love **YOU**, and people wanting to stone Him. It's hard, isn't it? If it's hard for us to understand that, how much harder must it have been on the Lord Jesus Christ, to come there with that kind of news, and know they were going to reject Him.

You know, it's one thing to go into a city and preach the gospel of Christ to people, and you expect some of them to hear it, but it's something else to go to a people and know they're going to reject you. But what love He had. It just kept coming and coming. He never gave up, knowing that one day when He was crucified and rose again, there would be those that would believe on Him. Hallelujah! What kind of love is that, that forgave from the cross, and said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" (**Luke 23:34**). He loosed salvation to you and me. He made a place for all of us. The centurion guard said, "**Truly this was the Son of God!**" (**Matt 27:54**).

John 10:32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

John 10:33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

John 10:34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?

Little "g" gods. To them to whom the word came, were they not all called gods? You have to watch this! Their appointment was to the greatest Kingdom that would ever be known, and they were called gods (**Psalm 82:6**). Little "g." Under God. They were like Him, and that was what they were supposed to be. Has not the Lord spoken to us and made us kings unto the King, priests unto the Priest (**Rev 1:6; 5:10**). What He offered them, they rejected. **But He said, "I will have a holy nation. THEY will love me. THEY will serve me. They will know my voice, and another they will not follow."** Hallelujah!

John 10:35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

John 10:36 Say ye of him, whom the Father sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest: because I said, I am the Son of God?

John 10:37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

John 10:38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in Him.

John 10:39 Therefore they sought again to take Him: but He escaped out of their hand,

John 10:40 And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there He abode.

John 10:41 And many resorted unto Him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.

How would you like to have a testimony like that about John? Didn't have one miracle, didn't have one healing; all you had was such a convincing power of the Holy Spirit that the words that you spoke bore true witness. The identifying mark of the voice of God is that you will speak as an oracle of God (**I Peter 4:11**). If somebody has to see a miracle in your life to believe, forget it. The Holy Ghost isn't talking to them. John did not have one MIRACLE. **He had the MESSAGE.** That was the difference. **He had the WORD.** He identified with the VOICE. He said in John 1:23, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness. Make straight the way of the Lord. Repent!"

When we allow the voice of God to really live in us, and dwell in us, and speak in us, we're not going to worry about miracles, or signs and wonders. They are going to happen. They can't help it. **If you preach Jesus' word, and live where He tells you to, and walk according to His voice, He said: "These signs shall follow those that believe: IN MY NAME shall they cast out devils. IN MY NAME they shall lay hands on the sick and they SHALL recover. They shall speak with new tongues. If they take up any deadly thing, if they drink any thing, it shall not harm them. They shall tread on scorpions and on adders" (Mark 16:17-18; Luke 10:19; Psalm 91:13).**

We ought to get excited. Only the church hears His voice. Only they that are born again. If you can really hear His voice, if you really know that He is Lord, you ought to start singing, shouting, praising God. You don't need a miracle; **you've GOT the miracle.**

John 10:42 And many believed on Him there.

Where? On the testimony that John had given. The word that he spoke. The voice of identity. Hallelujah! "And many believed on Jesus right there." A lot of times we think that we need to get miracles going, and signs and wonders. I love them all, believe me. I enjoy them. When a person gets healed, I love that. But I also remember the scripture where **Jesus spoke, "Many shall say to me in that day, have we not prophesied in thy name, and cast out devils in thy name, and done mighty works in thy name? Depart from me, all ye that work iniquity, for I never knew you"(Matt 7: 22-23).** You never had the miracle **IN** you.

One day a co-worker said to me, "Brother Krider, I'm really troubled. These people are into the word every day and they're not changing." The Holy Spirit spoke to me, and He said, "They're into the word, but the **WORD** is not **IN** them." They're reading, but it doesn't mean anything to them. **It's not living in them. It's not become a part of them. It's not identified in them.** It's identified with **THE** word of God. You can hear it, you can quote it, you can repeat it, you can do all manner of things, it still will not change you. **The WORD must be IN you. The WORD of God must have taken a lodging place in your heart (Psalm 119:11), and it must begin to grow. That word begins to grow, and as you feed that word, it will begin to change you from glory to glory as by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor 3:18). Praise God!**

John 10:41: "And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but ALL things that John spake of this man were true." I would rather have that testimony than a testimony like that. I would rather have that testimony than a testimony of a miracle worker. I would rather have a testimony that, "The word that man speaks is truth." That's how we're admonished to identify with the voice of the word of God: **speaking the truth in love (Eph 4:15).**

Do you think John hated Israel when he came with that message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (**Matt 3:2**). No! A man that hates somebody else wants to see him die, but a man that loves will come and warn others and tell them the truth, even if it costs him his life.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER. HIS VOICE IS STILL THE SAME. HIS WORD IS STILL THE SAME. HIS SPIRIT IS GUIDING US IN THE SAME DIRECTION. HE IS TAKING US INTO HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS. HE'S SAYING TO US, "LET ME LEAD YOU. LET ME FILL YOU. LET ME FLOW OUT FROM YOU. LET ME POUR MY SPIRIT FROM YOU TO OTHERS. BE THE VESSEL I WANT. IDENTIFY WITH MY KINGDOM. IDENTIFY WITH MY BRIDE. IDENTIFY WITH ME. IDENTIFY WITH MY VOICE. IDENTIFY WITH MY WORD. IDENTIFY WITH MY RESURRECTION. IDENTIFY WITH MY SPIRIT."

Deut 28:1-2 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations on the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.

Hearken diligently to the voice of the Lord thy God!

Amen!