

Remember...The apostle Paul told us to glory in our tribulations...As well, the apostle Peter told us to THINK IT NOT STRANGE CONCERNING OUR FIERY TRIALS...We must grow in maturity to be able to recognize the PROCESS OF GOD'S DEALINGS with us and within us. He is bringing us through HIS CONSUMING FIRE! This is the very reason that...Many are the afflictions of the righteous...

THAT WE MIGHT LEARN!



*May 1*

### I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE

John 10:31,32 states...I (Jesus is speaking) and My Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him...Let us remember that the scriptures refer to Jesus as the:

1. SON OF GOD
2. SON OF MAN

In essence, Jesus was the perfect revelation of God and man. He was God manifested in the flesh. Jesus, the Son of God, showed man what God was really like. Jesus, the Son of man, showed man the perfect relationship with the Father. Hence, Jesus would say...I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE...

Jesus laid down the pattern for all who would follow in His footsteps. Whether we understand it or not, we are being drawn into a love relationship with our Heavenly Father. We are being brought to the place where we can say...I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE!

Do you remember what Psalm 82:6 says about man? It states...I HAVE SAID, YOU ARE GODS; ALL OF YOU ARE CHILDREN OF THE MOST HIGH...

WOW!

(LET THAT SINK IN FOR A MINUTE!)

Jesus quoted this same verse in John 10:34,35 (As well, read John 10:30-36). We are to see ourselves as IN CHRIST, for IN HIM we are part of the very Son of God. We are His body (the body of Christ). WE ARE GODS! THIS IS OUR TRUE IDENTITY!

You are a spirit, you have a soul, and you live in a body. With this being said though, your true essence is spirit. This leads us to the understanding that God is our Father, FOR GOD IS A SPIRIT. HE IS THE FATHER OF SPIRITS! ACCEPT IT! BELIEVE IT! RECEIVE IT! WALK IN IT! IT IS YOUR TRUE IDENTITY! YOU ARE GODS! YOU AND THE FATHER ARE BECOMING ONE! THIS IS YOUR DESTINY!

Just as Jesus was persecuted for revealing His relationship with the Father for what it truly was, so will you be persecuted. Do not be upset or surprised when you are stoned (spiritually speaking) and persecuted by others for the sake of righteousness, BUT RATHER REJOICE, AND BE EXCEEDING GLAD: FOR GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN: FOR SO PERSECUTED THEY THE PROPHETS WHICH WERE BEFORE YOU (Matthew 5:12)...

YOU AND THE FATHER ARE (BECOMING) ONE!



*May 2*

### ENDURING TEMPTATION

James 1:2 states...Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love Him...Let us try to dissect this verse, in which we will discuss the meaning of the words: blessed, endures, temptation, tried, and the crown of life.

Blessed: happy, fully satisfied.

Endures: to remain under; to endure a load of miseries, adversities, and persecutions in faith and patience.

Temptation: testing, trial for the purpose of proving someone.

Tried: to be proved, to be tried as metals are tried by fire and thus are purified. It refers to being approved as acceptable men in the furnace of adversity.

The Crown of Life: the crown of life (the victor's crown) is symbolic of royalty-- kingship-- and is a symbol of honor. It represents the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, which is the first resurrection. This involves ruling and reigning with Jesus Christ on the earth to gather in the nations. It finally involves the Age of the Ages, in which all things (through the sons of God) will be gathered in Christ.

We must understand that THE SPIRIT OF GOD DRIVES US INTO THE WILDERNESS (Luke 4:1,2) TO BE TEMPTED OF THE DEVIL. The purpose for this is to remain under adversities (enduring) and testing (temptation). This enables us to be approved (tried), purified, and purged by the consuming fire of God. These fiery trials are what God uses to make us into a vessel of honor. We then become profitable for the Master's use, whether now, or in the ages to come.

Remember...The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Romans 8:18)...

PRESS TOWARD THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING!



*May 3*

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 1  
- BLESSED -**

Jesus sees the multitudes. He goes up into a mountain (The Mountain, The Mount of Olives). He is set, and His disciples come unto Him to hear Him teach. Jesus opens His mouth and begins to teach, saying...**BLESSED**...WHAT AN INTRODUCTION!

This most famous sermon (The Sermon On The Mount) by the Lord Jesus Christ is also referred to as the BEATITUDES. The word "Beatitudes" means: supreme blessedness, exalted happiness, blissful, peace, the declarations of blessedness pronounced by Jesus Christ. Considering that the very last word in the Old Testament (Malachi 4:6) is the word CURSE, this is quite an introduction. Jesus starts out His first sermon with the word BLESSED!

The Old Covenant left a curse over man's head due to the fact that he could not keep the law (The Law of Moses). Jesus came to fulfill the law and to pronounce a blessing to all those who would believe on Him. So...Let us talk about the word blessed.

The word "blessed", which is many times translated happy, actually means: TO BE FULLY SATISFIED, as opposed to happy in the world sense of the definition. As well, it means: the state of the believer in Christ, the joy that comes from salvation, and inner peace which is not based on external circumstances.

Jesus began His Sermon On The Mount by telling man of a condition that is available to him, whereby he might be fully satisfied. Jesus was giving us the key to a life of true fulfillment, which can only be found inside the confines of a relationship with our Heavenly Father. His sermon points to the fact that the things of this world can never FULLY SATISFY us. Man is created to worship God, and the only thing that will fully satisfy this longing and craving is a relationship with His Creator.

Let us leave the realm of being partially satisfied, which leads to emptiness and frustration. Jesus came to invite men into a STATE OF TRUE BLESSEDNESS AND FULFILLMENT. We are of course speaking of the magnificent Kingdom of God that is available to all men in the here-and-now. It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. In Adam we are cursed. In Christ we are...

**BLESSED!**



*May 4*

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 2  
- THE POOR IN SPIRIT -**

Matthew 5:3 states...Blessed are the poor in spirit...This is where our relationship with the Father begins. The word "poor" that is used in this scripture means: one who is helpless, or one who has fallen from a better state. The blessing that awaits us is not just being poor in spirit, but in RECOGNIZING that we are poor in spirit.

We must recognize that we are helpless, and that we have fallen from a better state. Without God we are helpless, hopeless, wretched, poor, blind, naked, and most miserable. THIS IS NOT A PITY PARTY, FALSE HUMILITY, OR A LOAD OF CONDEMNATION THAT WE MUST CARRY AROUND. IT IS THE TRUTH! Remember when the apostle Paul said...For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwells no good thing...O WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM! WHO SHALL DELIVER ME FROM THE BODY OF THIS DEATH?...Was Paul having a pity party and feeling sorry for himself? NO! He was coming to the knowledge of the truth concerning his fallen state (condition). The man of sin was being revealed to him, and the Lord was destroying him (the man of sin, the carnal mind) by the brightness of His coming (presence)!

When we begin to recognize that the very nature that we were born with is our problem, then we have diagnosed the ROOT OF OUR PROBLEM. Ephesians 2:3 states...and we were BY NATURE the children of wrath...So...We must then come to the conclusion that we have a nature problem. This is referred to as the ADAMIC NATURE (the nature we INHERITED from Adam), or the SIN NATURE. The good news is that there is a solution. The solution is GOD'S DIVINE NATURE! 2<sup>ND</sup> Peter 1:4 tells us that we have been made partakers of the DIVINE NATURE. This is the answer and solution that brings us out of the grip of the ADAMIC NATURE.

After coming to this revelation (the revelation that we were born with a fallen nature, there is no good thing in our flesh, and that we are SPIRITUALLY BANKRUPT) we are on our way to higher ground in God. To be poor in spirit is to realize that except we abide in Christ, WE CAN DO NOTHING! Being poor in spirit could also be referred to as THE BADGE OF BROKENNESS. Those who truly are poor in spirit are broken and crushed in their spirit over their current condition, and do always look to God for their help in every situation of this life. The poor in spirit are fully aware of their inability to do what only God can do. Their realization of this is what makes them so strong in God, for God's strength is made perfect in our weakness!

As was stated earlier, this is not a load of condemnation. It is just the opposite. IT IS LIBERTY AND FREEDOM FROM DEATH! Romans 8:1,2 states...There is therefore now NO CONDEMNATION to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS has made me FREE from the law of sin and death...

The sooner we recognize that we are poor in spirit ( helpless), the sooner we will realize that we are...

**RICH IN CHRIST!**



*May 5*

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 3  
- THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN -**

Matthew 5:3 states...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven...SOUNDS GREAT! So...What is this Kingdom of heaven?

Matthew refers to it as the Kingdom of heaven, while the other Gospel writers (Mark, Luke, and John) refer to it as the Kingdom of God. The term "Kingdom of heaven" tells us where this Kingdom is from, and the term "Kingdom of God" tells us Who is in charge of the Kingdom. In other words, the Kingdom is from heaven (the heavens, or heavenly realm), and it is ruled by God. It is the heavenly Kingdom of (belonging to) God!

Let us try to define this Kingdom that is from heaven, is ruled by God, and belongs to the poor in spirit. The apostle Paul CLEARLY DEFINES IT for us in Romans 14:17. It states...FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS...RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE, AND JOY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT...The Kingdom, in essence, is God's sovereign rule and reign within the hearts and lives of His children. The first work of the Spirit of God is to convince us that we are spiritually bankrupt in and of ourselves. His next work is to assure us that He loves and forgives us, even in our present fallen state. Finally, He wants us to possess the present reality of His Kingdom.

The Kingdom work of the Father is a deep and internal work. It is like major surgery, in which the Father removes our cancerous nature, and then writes His laws on our hearts and lives. The Kingdom of God is not a location that you go to after you die, but rather, it is the realm in which God rules and reigns. THAT REALM IS YOU!!! Remember...THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU (Luke 17:21)!!!

The key to apprehending the Kingdom of God in the here-and-now is in recognizing our spiritual poverty. Those who see themselves as WRETCHED outside of God are the very ones that God calls RIGHTEOUS. Let us press into the Kingdom of God. It is the Father's GOOD PLEASURE...

TO GIVE YOU THE KINGDOM! (Luke 12:32)



*May 6*

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 4  
- THEY THAT MOURN -**

Matthew 5:4 states...Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted...This verse carries with it a similar meaning as that of the beginning of verse three. The idea is: to grieve because of one's moral poverty, and to recognize one's moral imperfection.

We are to recognize and sorrow over our sin nature (our inherent inability to achieve godliness in and of ourselves). This leads us to the realization that we are by nature a sinner (one who misses the mark of God's nature). As it stands, WE ARE IN NEED OF A SAVIOR! We are to sorrow over our sinful condition, knowing that the wages of sin is death (the carnal mind).

While all this is true, God does not want us to remain in this condition. He does not want us to remain in our perished state of death, and neither should we want to stay in that state of mind. This mourning that takes place inside of us is a godly mourning and sorrow that leads to a CHANGE IN OUR LIVES. This is called REPENTANCE! 2<sup>ND</sup> Corinthians 7:9,10 states...Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, BUT THAT YOU SORROWED TO REPENTANCE: FOR YOU WERE MADE SORRY AFTER A GODLY MANNER, that you might receive damage by us in nothing. FOR GODLY SORROW WORKS REPENTANCE TO SALVATION NOT TO BE REPENTED OF: but the sorrow of the world works death...

This passage of scripture describes the mourning process that leads to repentance and salvation in our lives. THIS IS NOT TO BE SEEN AS A ONE TIME THING! It is a PROCESS of seeing who we are outside of our Heavenly Father, which then leads us to see Who our Father is, and shall be, inside of us. This mourning then leads us to be comforted by the Spirit of God. Remember...The Holy Spirit of God is spoken of as THE COMFORTER. After showing us our condition of moral poverty, the Spirit of God then does a work within us to replace our lack of godliness with HIS DIVINE NATURE. This gives us ALL THINGS that pertain to life and godliness!

This is a work of the Spirit. The Father:

1. DRAWS US
2. CONVICTS US (shows us that we are a sinner, and in need of salvation)
3. COMFORTS US (by giving us His life)

Mourning (godly sorrow) leads to repentance (change), repentance leads to salvation (salvation from our condition of missing the mark of God's nature), and salvation leads to life (the life of God's nature within us). This then leads to comfort, which is the very Spirit of God. HE IS OUR COMFORTER! WHAT A PROCESS! WHAT A SALVATION!

THANK GOD FOR THE COMFORTER!



*May 7*

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 5  
- BLESSED ARE THE MEEK -**

Matthew 5:5 states...Blessed are the meek...Psalm 37:11 states...But the meek shall inherit the earth; And shall delight themselves in abundance of peace...

The word "meek" means: the patient oppressed ones, lowly, the attitude or spirit in which we accept God's dealings with us as good and do not dispute or resist. Meekness is not weakness, BUT

IT IS GENTLENESS IN POWER. IT COULD ALSO BE REFERRED TO AS CONTROLLED STRENGTH! Meekness is not a lack of strength in God, BUT IT IS CONTROLLED STRENGTH IN GOD!

Remember...Moses was referred to as VERY MEEK, ABOVE ALL THE MEN WHICH WERE UPON THE FACE OF THE EARTH (Numbers 12:3)...In other words, he was the meekest man on the face of the earth. We also know that Moses was a VERY POWERFUL man of God. He was used mightily by God to do many miracles. The reason that God was able to put such power in the hands of Moses was because of his meekness. Moses experienced the power of God flowing through him to a greater degree than maybe any other man who ever lived (except for Jesus of course). As was previously stated, this power from God was entrusted to Moses as a result of his meekness. His meekness was the fruit of his forty years in the wilderness, in which God, by His Spirit, did CRUSH the self-will of Moses.

Remember what took place when Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane? Speaking to Peter, He said...Put up again your sword into its place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Do you not know that I can pray to My Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, (Matthew 26:52-54)?...What a demonstration of meekness by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! He could have asked the Father to send over twelve legions (about 72,000) of angels (messengers), BUT DID NOT DO SO! Jesus was the perfect example of meekness in His submission to the will of the Father. As well, His meekness was seen in His controlled strength toward sinful man.

Meekness is followed by those who are poor in spirit, and by those who mourn over their sin. The spirit of meekness will always result in a proper response toward God and our fellow man.

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK!



*May 8*

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 6  
- THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH -**

Matthew 5:5 states...for they shall inherit the earth...What a promise! The meek shall inherit the earth. So...Why is everyone so anxious to fly off to heaven?

Modern day Christianity teaches us that the purpose and plan of God for our individual lives is nothing more than staying out of an eternal hell. O HOW WE HAVE MISSED THE TRUE GOSPEL OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!!! Not only is the “so-called” gospel of salvation from everlasting torture a LIE, but it would prove to be a very SHALLOW message if indeed it were true. Surely God has some greater purpose in store for the human race than just trying to keep them out of an eternal torture pit!

Revelation 5:9,10 states...You (Jesus) have redeemed us unto God by Your blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And have made us unto our God kings and priests:

AND WE SHALL REIGN ON THE EARTH...Revelation 11:15 states...The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ...Psalm 2:8 states...Ask of me, and I shall give You the heathen for Your inheritance. And the uttermost parts of the earth for Your possession...

The inheriting of the earth also spiritually refers to the inheritance of our bodies. Remember... We have a treasure hidden in an EARTHEN VESSEL! The meek shall ultimately inherit their glorified bodies at the first resurrection. They shall also inherit the physical earth. This will result in a great harvest of ALL NATIONS BEING BROUGHT UNTO THE SAVING KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. This is the beginning of the ministry of the Ages of the Ages.

Can we begin to see that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein? (Psalm 24:1)...God is the owner of the earth and all that are in it. He has left His possession for the meek to inherit. What an unbelievable purpose the Father has for those that love Him! He has put all that He owns into the hands of the meek. The meek are truly blessed in that they...

SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH!



*May 9*

#### THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 7

#### - BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH DO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS -

Matthew 5:6 states...Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be filled...ARE YOU HUNGRY? ARE YOU THIRSTY? Well...Sure you are!

We are all hungry and thirsty from the moment we are born. We are hungry to know our true identity. We are hungry to know where we came from and where we are headed. WE ARE HUNGRY AND THIRSTY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS! Blessed are those who recognize what they are hungry for. Many who are hungry for life's answers do not see their need for God's righteousness. They know they are hungry and thirsty to discover the true meaning of this life, but many do not know what it is that will bring true inner peace and happiness (the state of being fully satisfied). The blessing that Jesus spoke of is not just being hungry and thirsty, for we all seek to be happy (fully satisfied) from the moment we are born. The blessing is in HUNGERING AND THIRSTING FOR GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS!

What does it mean or imply to be hungry and thirsty? The phrase, "who hunger and thirst", means: intense desire, even as a man starving for natural food. He must receive sustenance or he will die. This verse shows the poverty, emptiness, and complete lack of God's righteousness within our lives. WE MUST BE AWAKENED TO HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!

The word "righteous" or "righteousness" simply means: that which is right according to God's standards, conformity to all that God commands or appoints. In and of ourselves, we are void of



God's righteousness. That is why we must hunger and thirst for it. God's righteousness comes to us through faith. It is imputed to us by grace through faith. Remember...Abraham believed in the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness (Genesis 15:6)...

Faith in Christ and Him crucified gives us the righteousness which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: (Philippians 3:9)...As we previously stated, this righteousness (God's righteousness) is imputed (attributed or ascribed) to us upon placing our faith in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is referred to as justification by faith (being declared righteous or right in the eyes of God). The next step in our Christian walk is that of sanctification by faith (being made righteous or right in the eyes of God), and is to be seen as a process. As we go through the sanctification process, in essence, we are BECOMING WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DECLARED TO BE. In order for us to experience justification or sanctification we must place our faith in Christ and Him crucified. THAT IS THE ONLY WAY! To see the difference between God's righteousness and man's self-righteousness read Luke 18:9-14.

As we hunger and thirst for God's righteousness, we are then filled. IT IS A PROMISE!!! As a matter of fact, we are filled, and filled, and filled, and filled. Remember...Our salvation is a process (justification: the salvation of our spirit; sanctification: the salvation of our soul; and glorification: the salvation of our body).

God's imputed righteousness is THE ONLY THING that can completely satisfy our hunger and thirst. O WHAT A GLORIOUS PROCESS OF BEING FILLED WITH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF OUR FATHER!

WE SHALL BE FILLED!



*May 10*

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 8  
- BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL -**

Matthew 5:7 states...Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy...The word "merciful" means: compassionate, one who is tenderly compassionate, and one who grieves within for the condition and need of another.

This attribute is the result of the indwelling of God within. Those who understand and have experienced the mercy of God will be merciful to others. Mercy is not just a feeling of pity, but it is expressed in ACTION that goes far beyond just mere words! It causes a person to act on behalf of another to restore them, help them, save them, deliver them, forgive them, heal them, and bless them.

We must first recognize that our Father is merciful. Many people do not see God as merciful. They see Him as vindictive, spiteful, and hungry for revenge. THAT IS VERY SAD, ISN'T IT? The majority of what is preached in the realm of Evangelical Christianity is a gospel of NO MERCY. They preach a God Who will torture and torment most of humanity forever, and even say that He will be glorified in doing it. That, my friend, is SICK! THAT IS NOT MERCY! YES...There will be judgment for the purpose of correction, BUT MERCY WILL TRIUMPH OVER JUDGMENT!

Ephesians 2:4 states...BUT GOD, WHO IS RICH IN MERCY, FOR HIS GREAT LOVE WHEREWITH HE LOVED US...What a merciful and loving Father! Don't you want to be like your Father? Our merciful and loving Father LOOKED BEYOND OUR FAULTS AND SAW OUR NEED FOR A SAVIOR!!! THAT IS MERCY! Come and dine at the Father's table today! PARTAKE OF HIS GREAT LOVE AND MERCY!

GOD IS RICH IN MERCY!



*May 11*

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 9  
- BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART -**

Matthew 5:8 states...Blessed are the pure in heart...The phrase "pure in heart" refers to a clean heart and clean hands. It speaks of innocence before God. Psalm 73:1 states...Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart...Psalm 24:3,4 states...Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place? HE THAT HAS CLEAN HANDS, AND A PURE HEART; WHO HAS NOT LIFTED UP HIS SOUL UNTO VANITY, NOR SWORN DECEITFULLY...

A pure heart speaks of a person after God's own heart. This means that our goal is to know the heart of God, and then to apply it to our lives. A pure heart is one that has NO AGENDA of its own, but to do the will of the Father. The pure in heart are seeking ONLY FOR SPIRIT AND TRUTH. Their motives are pure (clean) in the eyes of God.

This is why denominations and man-made religions are so limited in their experience, teaching, and manifestation of God in the earth. THEY HAVE AN AGENDA! THEIR AGENDA IS TO PROMOTE THEIR PARTICULAR DENOMINATIONAL DOCTRINES AND BELIEFS! Your heart will either pledge allegiance to God (His Spirit and truth), or your heart will pledge allegiance to your denominational doctrines and beliefs. Why do most people avoid the "pure in heart experience" with God? They avoid this experience because THEY LOVE THE PRAISES OF MEN!!! Most would rather remain impure in heart due to their love for their personal agenda. As well, they do not want to go through the purifying fire of God. In order to be pure in heart you must be PURIFIED! Surely that makes sense, doesn't it?

Let us not be afraid to search our heart, asking the Father to show us what condition it is in. As we bask in His presence, He will expose to us all that is not pure within us. Someone who is pure in heart can not go wrong. If we veer off the road (and we will) our Father will lovingly put us back on the strait and narrow path that leads to life. YOU CAN NOT GO WRONG WITH A PURE HEART!

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART!

*May 12*

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 10**  
**- THEY SHALL SEE GOD -**

Matthew 5:8 states...for they shall see God...What does it mean to see God? The word “see” comes from a Greek word “optomai”, which comes from a Greek word “horao”, which means: to experience, behold, perceive, take heed, and mentally perceive.

This word (“see”) is not talking about mere physical sight. IT IS TALKING ABOUT SPIRITUAL SIGHT! TO SEE GOD is to perceive and grasp Him with your mind, which then transforms your mind from the carnal mind to the mind of Christ! SEEING GOD is a spiritual thing. It is to understand Him.

Remember...Jesus told Nicodemus...Except a man be born again (born from above, or spiritually awakened) he cannot see (perceive with the mind, understand, or know experientially) the kingdom (royal dominion, the spiritual Kingdom of God within the human heart, or God’s rule within) of God (John 3:3)...

The word “see” in this passage comes from a different Greek word “eido”, but carries with it the similar meaning of PERCEPTION OF GOD. In essence, to SEE God’s Kingdom is to UNDERSTAND or PERCEIVE His Kingdom.

So...Can you “SEE” what the word “SEE” means? Don’t you want to see God? Many people know about God, but very few people can see God. Their minds are blinded by the god of this world (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:4). If we are not seeing (perceiving) God, then what is it we are seeing? There is only one other thing that we can see, and that is the traditions and doctrines (teachings) of men. We become able to see only a FORM OF GOD, which is really nothing more than our own preconceived ideas about God. This is idolatry!

Let us come out of the idolatrous ideas of man about God and enter into His Kingdom. As we stated earlier, we must be born again in order to see our God for Who He really is! The pure in heart are beginning to see their Father, not according to the way the organized church presents Him, but according to Who He truly is. We are seeing God, and...

GOD IS LOVE!



*May 13*

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 11  
- BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS -**

Matthew 5:9 states...Blessed are the peacemakers...The word “peacemakers” is a very beautiful and unique word that is used in Matthew 5:9. It comes from the Greek word “eirenopoios”, and is used only once in the entire canon of scripture. It means: one who makes peace in others, having first received the peace of God in his own heart.

The Bible speaks of two kinds of peace. They are:

1. PEACE WITH GOD
2. THE PEACE OF GOD

We must first receive and experience peace **with** God, and the peace **of** God, before we are able to be a peacemaker in the lives of others. We must partake of our Father’s divine nature in order to receive of His peace. This enables us to then be a distributor of His heavenly peace.

Romans 5:1 states...being justified by faith, we have PEACE WITH GOD through our Lord Jesus Christ...This is a justifying peace that comes from our Father and results in us being declared righteous. After having placed our faith in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ we will then receive peace **with** God. Philippians 4:7 states...And the PEACE OF GOD, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus...This is a sanctifying peace that comes from our Father and results in us being made righteous. It is accessed in the same manner as that of peace with God (justifying peace). Upon placing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we shall receive the peace **of** God. This peace is that which brings us through the fiery trials and tribulations of this life. IT IS PEACE IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM!

The word “peace” means: rest, denoting the absence or end of strife, to be untroubled, undisturbed, and in a state of well-being. After partaking (on a daily basis) of God’s peace we are then ready to become a peacemaker. The very peace that has come to us is that which is to be given to others.

God’s peace brings an end to the strife that exists within the heart of man. It brings an end to our anxiety, fear, torment, and internal striving, in which we are always trying to work out the situations of life in our own strength. THANK GOD FOR THE PEACE OF GOD! THANK GOD FOR HIS PEACEMAKERS! Romans 10:15 states...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of PEACE, and bring glad tidings of good things...Ephesians 6:15 states...And (having) your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of PEACE...

May we go forth preaching the GOSPEL OF PEACE to all men. We have enough troublemakers in the world. We need more...

PEACEMAKERS!



*May 14*

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 12**  
**- THE CHILDREN (SONS) OF GOD -**

Matthew 5:9 states...for they shall be called the children of God...WHAT AN HONOR! WE SHALL BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD! This word “children” (sometimes translated as “sons”) comes from the Greek word “huios”, which means: a fully mature son. This is to be distinguished from the Greek word “teknon”, which means: a child.

There is a difference between a child and the placing of a full grown son. Both could be classified as a son, but a child is to be looked at as a son in training. A fully mature son is one that is ready to speak and to act on his Father’s behalf. The word “huios” (a fully mature son) gives evidence of the dignity of one’s relationship and likeness to God’s character. The word “teknon” (a child) refers to a new believer (babe) in Christ who is but a child. A new believer is one that is in need of much maturing. The new believer is a son of God, but must grow up into the character and nature of his Father. This PROCESS of maturing is referred to as SONSHIP, and does show us that salvation IS INDEED A PROCESS!

**According to Bill Britton:** “Sonship begins with a new birth! In order for there to be a new birth, there must be a death of the old life. In order for there to be a resurrection out of that watery grave of baptism, you must first go down. The flesh doesn’t want death and God says sonship can not come by the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, nor of blood. It cannot come by being born to a certain family. It doesn’t come by being one of the sons of Aaron or one of the sons of David or because your blood happens to be the right nationality. SONSHIP COMES BY THE WILL OF GOD. The birthing of a son comes by the will of God. And the making of a son has something beautiful in it - it is relationship with the Father.” (The Making Of A Son, Bill Britton)

Romans 8:19 states...For the earnest expectation of the creature (creation) waits for the manifestation of the sons (“huios”) of God...What a journey! We are going from a “teknon” to a “huios”!

WE SHALL BE CALLED THE SONS (“HUIOS”) OF GOD!



*May 15*

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 13  
- PERSECUTED -**

Matthew 5:10,11 states...Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake...Being persecuted for righteousness' sake is a sure sign that you have tapped into the very life of the Father.

A manifestation of the Spirit of God does one of two things:

1. It softens the hearts of men.
2. It hardens the hearts of men.

Those who are softened by the Spirit of God will surrender their lives and come to the Lord in brokenness. Those who are hardened by the Spirit of God will preserve their lives and reject God (for the time being). Remember the many times that Jesus was persecuted for simply telling people the truth? He was even accused of performing miracles by the power of Satan, even though that was not the case.

The word "persecute" means: to subject to harassing or cruel treatment because of religion, race, or beliefs, to annoy or trouble persistently, and to pursue closely.

What is it about the true righteousness of God that brings on persecution? When the true righteousness of God is brought forth in word or deed it convicts man of his self-righteousness. When he is convicted he either repents and surrenders, or he remains hardened and persecutes the messenger of righteousness.

What is it about being persecuted for righteousness' sake that is a blessing? The blessing is this: When you are persecuted for righteousness' sake you are following in the footsteps of the prophets and of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The scriptures testify that they were persecuted for righteousness' sake, and surely we will be persecuted as well. When a person is persecuted and does not fight back it is a sign of TRUE MATURITY IN GOD! THIS IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF MATURITY IN GOD! This is how we learn to become a creditor like our Lord and Savior. We learn to say...FATHER FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO (OR SAY)...

The next time you are persecuted for righteousness' sake you should count yourself as GREATLY BLESSED. The prophets and Jesus were persecuted, and so shall we be persecuted. FORGIVE YOUR PERSECUTORS!!! A person who is persecuted for righteousness' sake is truly...

BLESSED!



*May 16*

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 14  
- REJOICE -**

Matthew 5:12 states...Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you...Not only are we called blessed when we are persecuted for righteousness' sake, but we are told by the Lord to REJOICE! DO WHAT? REJOICE? YES...REJOICE!

The word "rejoice" means: to be cheerful, calmly happy, well-off, glad, or full of joy. The next time you are persecuted for righteousness' sake it should make you CHEER UP! Be cheerful, happy, glad, and REJOICE!

The next part of this scripture verse tells us that our reward is to be great. What kind of reward do you think it would be? Our reward could be nothing less than THE LORD HIMSELF! Genesis 15:1 states...the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, fear not, Abram: I AM YOUR SHIELD, AND YOUR EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD... Well...There you have it. Our reward is the Lord Himself.

This reward is the very life of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is His life that is to be revealed inside of us. This life is available to us now, and is the same life that shall sustain us in the ages to come. It is referred to as ETERNAL LIFE (THE LIFE OF THE AGES). This is the very abundant life that Jesus spoke about. It is available to us now in the form of a down payment (the earnest of our inheritance...Ephesians 1:14), and in its fullness in the ages to come. We have begun to tap into His resurrection life. His resurrection life is raising us out of death in three phases, which are: spirit, soul, and body. We are raised with Christ, we are being raised, and we shall be raised. The final stage of His resurrection life will be the resurrection of our bodies.

Listen to the persecution of the Hebrew people, and what they were pressing toward. Hebrews 11:33-35 states...Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; THAT THEY MIGHT OBTAIN A BETTER RESURRECTION...

Let us rejoice when we are persecuted for righteousness' sake. Our reward is the very resurrection life of the Lord Jesus Christ. Don't you want to obtain a better resurrection? PRESS IN CHILD OF GOD! And again, I say...

REJOICE!



*May 17*

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART 15  
- CONCLUSION -**

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT...O WHAT A SERMON! What more could be said other than what Jesus has said? This sermon covers every aspect of our Christian walk. It takes us from the new birth to a fully mature son of God. It speaks of the sons of God as being able to even FORGIVE AND LOVE THEIR ENEMIES. We are told to rejoice when we go through times of persecution for the sake of righteousness. This sermon is to be seen as a process which the sons of God must pass through.

IT IS A PROGRESSIVE AWAKENING AND MATURING INTO THE VERY IMAGE OF OUR FATHER! It takes us on a journey from:

1. POOR IN SPIRIT...to
2. MOURNING...to
3. MEEK...to
4. HUNGERING AND THIRSTING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS...to
5. MERCY...to
6. PURENESS IN HEART...to
7. PEACEMAKING...to
8. PERSECUTED...to
9. REJOICING...!

Let us note that we are BLESSED throughout this entire process! This means that the Spirit of God is bringing us to a place where we are FULLY SATISFIED IN HIM! This satisfaction comes from our personal relationship with our Father.

The journey of growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord results in us:

1. RECEIVING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN...
2. BEING COMFORTED...
3. INHERITING THE EARTH...
4. BEING FILLED...
5. OBTAINING MERCY...
6. SEEING GOD...
7. BECOMING THE CHILDREN OF GOD...
8. BEING PERSECUTED...
9. RECEIVING A GREAT REWARD...

WHAT A SERMON! WHAT A JOURNEY! WHAT A PROCESS! WHAT A REWARD! Our reward is nothing less than the LORD HIMSELF! This will result in the infilling and final manifestation of His resurrection life. We are BLESSED, BLESSED, BLESSED...!

REJOICE! GREAT IS YOUR REWARD!



*May 18*

**I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE  
(By Dr. Harold Lovelace)**

I Pledge Allegiance  
To The Lord Of All  
Creation  
And To The Purpose  
Which He Has Planned;  
With Righteousness, Peace  
And Joy For All,  
In One Kingdom  
Under His Command!

What marvelous theology is contained within this passage! Take some time today to meditate on these words and what they mean. Within this pledge is found the entire purpose and plan of God for all of His creation, and for all of time. Surely you would want to voluntarily pledge your allegiance to SUCH A GREAT GOD!!!

AMEN!



*May 19*

**THE CALL OF ABRAM**

Genesis 12:1-3 states...Now the Lord said unto Abram, Get out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house, unto a land that I will show you: And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: AND IN YOU SHALL ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED...WHAT A WONDERFUL SCRIPTURE PASSAGE OF GOOD NEWS! IN ABRAM SHALL ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED!

Let us take a close look at the call of Abram. The name "Abram" means high father. His name was later changed to "Abraham", which means father of many. This passage of scripture is referred to as the Abrahamic Covenant. Notice the Word of the Lord to Abram.

There is to be a separation from:

1. HIS COUNTRY
2. HIS KINDRED (FAMILY)
3. HIS FATHER'S HOUSE

Let us pay special attention to the fact that God did not approach Abram to curse him, but to bless him. He did not “hang him over the (so-called) eternal flames of hell”. He did not threaten Abram to serve Him or else...But rather, He told Abram...I AM GOING TO BLESS YOU, AND NOT ONLY YOU, BUT ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH! WHAT GOOD NEWS! WHAT A PROMISE! WHAT A COVENANT! WHAT A BLESSING!

We must understand that our Father is not out to “get us”, but to BLESS US! God approaches man in order to reconcile man unto Himself. He does not need to be reconciled unto us, BUT WE NEED TO BE RECONCILED UNTO HIM! Remember...God has reconciled us unto Himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, RECONCILING THE WORLD UNTO HIMSELF, not imputing their trespasses unto them, (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:18,19)...

This is all a result of the original promise that God made to Abram. Do you believe it? Can you receive it? The Lord Jesus Christ, Who came through the loins of Abraham, TOOK AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD. He was made to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21)...Jesus (through the blood of His cross) has purchased all the families of the earth. He has reconciled all things unto Himself (Colossians 1:20)!

Thank God for the call of Abram! His call does signify and point to a blessing upon all the families of the earth. Abraham truly is the FATHER OF US ALL (Romans 4:16)! The blessing of Abraham will extend into the ages to come, until God shall be ALL IN ALL! ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED!

ABRAHAM IS THE HEIR OF THE WORLD (Romans 4:13)!



*May 20*

LOVE  
(By Emmet Fox)

### **Love Will Conquer**

There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer;  
no disease that enough love will not heal;  
no door that enough love will not open;  
no gulf that enough love will not bridge;  
no wall that enough love will not throw down;  
no sin that enough love will not redeem . . .

It makes no difference how deeply seated may be the trouble;  
how hopeless the outlook;

how muddled the tangle;  
how great the mistake.  
A sufficient realization of love will dissolve it all.  
If only you could love enough  
you would be the happiest and most powerful being in the world . . .

**Emmet Fox**

What a beautiful poem about the love of God! WE MUST EVER SEEK TO BASK IN THE LOVE OF GOD! Remember...LOVE is the fulfilling of the law (Romans 13:8).

Jeremiah 31:3 states...The Lord has loved you with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness will He draw you...Bask in the love of your Father today. Partake of His lovingkindness. He will grow you up into a tree of righteousness, that you might bear the fruit of the Spirit, which is...

LOVE!



**May 21**

**ORGE**

**According to Elwin Roach:** "The English word "wrath" comes from the Greek word "orge" (pronounced...or-gay). Strong's Exhaustive Concordance tells us that "ORGE" means: *desire, (as a reaching forth or excitement of the mind), i.e. (by analogy) violent passion....* If we follow the word to its derivatives we find that it is akin to 'airo,' which implies a deliverance from sin, and is comparable to 'ornis,' which means 'a bird' (as rising in the air). "Orge" is active. "Orge" reaches out and accomplishes its burning desire. The passion ("orge"/"wrath") we see in the scriptures is usually in the context of heated determination. Wrath in the Biblical sense is not a condition of rage, as the word implies in the English, but is generally associated with adamant punishment toward those in rebellion; yet it does not end with punishment alone. We see that it ends in deliverance, especially at the judgment of the Last Death, the Lake of Fire. The passion of Christ, the wrath of the Lamb, is no doubt grievous to the carnal man, for it means the end of his lustful, self-indulging life. It is similar to a father's wrath when he punishes his rebellious son. It is not enjoyable to either of the two; yet it is done with understanding and in love, knowing the pain is but for a season and very necessary for the spirit of rebellion to be broken. This is in all of God's judgments toward His fallen creation." (Hell & The Lake Of Fire, Elwin R. Roach)

It is now plain to see what is meant by the "WRATH" OF GOD. IT IS THE VERY PASSIONATE LOVE OF OUR FATHER! In essence, this love says...I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH TO LEAVE YOU IN YOUR CONDITION! I WILL CORRECT YOU BECAUSE I LOVE YOU!

As was stated earlier, “wrath” is the passionate love of God. It is His stored up desire and passion to see all of His creation set free. This is to be understood in the same sense of a man’s passionate love for his bride. How would he react if his bride were to be wooed into the arms of another lover? He would go after his unfaithful bride in order to win her back again. In essence, he would unleash his “wrath” upon his bride. This “wrath” would not be to destroy her, but rather to bring her back in union with her true love. The man would pour out his passionate love in an effort to gain back his lover. He would exhaust all necessary means to draw her into his loving arms. HE WOULD STOP AT NOTHING, UNTIL SHE COULD FINALLY SEE HIS UNCONDITIONAL AND UNFAILING LOVE! After being a witness to this, the bride would voluntarily return to her one and only love. HOW COULD SHE RESIST SUCH FORGIVENESS, PASSION, DETERMINATION, AND LOVE?

There is no doubt that the Bible speaks of the “wrath” of God. The GOOD NEWS is that there is a purpose for the *WINEPRESS OF THE FIERCENESS AND “WRATH” OF ALMIGHTY GOD!* It is for the purpose of correction! It is His...

DETERMINED, PASSIONATE LOVE!



## *May 22*

### THE TALE OF TWO CITIES

Revelation 18:2 states...And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird...Revelation 18:4 states...And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her (Babylon), MY PEOPLE, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues...Revelation 21:2 states...And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband...

So...The Bible is really the TALE OF TWO CITIES:

1. BABYLON
2. JERUSALEM

The two cities represent:

1. THE FLESH (CORRUPT NATURE OF MAN)
2. THE SPIRIT (DIVINE NATURE OF GOD)

Let us take a closer look at the flesh and the Spirit. Romans 8:4-8 states...That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh (Babylon), but after the Spirit

(Jerusalem). For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. FOR TO BE CARNALLY MINDED IS DEATH; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God...

The words “flesh”, “carnally minded”, and “carnal mind” all come from the same Greek word “sarx”, which means: the corrupt nature of man, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God. The flesh always represents the efforts and achievements of man outside of the Spirit of God. The result is always failure and death, which is separation from God in your mind. The Spirit that is spoken of in Romans chapter eight is the very Spirit of God. HIS SPIRIT IS LIFE! THERE IS NO LIFE OUTSIDE OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD! There is no life in Babylon! There is only life in Jerusalem!

Can you see that you are on a journey? Our journey is one of coming out of Babylon and into Jerusalem. We are being brought from the ADAM NATURE to the DIVINE NATURE! Can you hear the call? God is saying...COME OUT OF BABYLON, MY PEOPLE!

JERUSALEM AWAITS US!



*May 23*

#### WHAT IS SIN?

Do you know what sin is? Are you still trying to figure out what is a sin and what is not? Do you approach your every word, thought, and action by checking to see whether or not it is on the “sin list”? Do you have a sin list? What is on it?

Here is a typical “sin list” from the realm of Evangelical Christianity:

DANCING	SPEEDING
ALCOHOL	TARDINESS
CERTAIN CLOTHES	SUING
GAMBLING	OVER-EATING
BEING STINGY	ADULTERY
SMOKING	DRUG ABUSE
TAX CHEATING	OVER-SPENDING
REMARRIAGE	NOT VOTING
HOMOSEXUALITY	CURSING
IMMORALITY	GOSSIPING
R RATED MOVIES	STEALING
PREMARITAL SEX	LAZINESS

So...Is this the “sin list” that we should go by? Is this what sin is? NO! As a matter of fact, NONE OF THESE THINGS ARE SIN! This particular list (or any other list) happens to be the RESULT OF SIN, BUT NOT SIN ITSELF! Most of what people call sin is not sin, but the symptoms (or results) of sin. These symptoms point to THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM. They are actually not the problem itself. In fact, a list of dos and don’ts has never been the solution to man’s problem. Man’s problem is SIN! In actuality, it is a SIN NATURE that he is born with.

So...What is sin? The word “sin” comes from the Greek word “hamartia”, which means: to miss the mark, and to miss the true goal and scope of life (and so not to share in the prize). SIN IS NOT A LIST OF DOS AND DON’TS! It is a missing of the mark of the very nature and character of God. Sin is not what we do or don’t do. IT IS WHAT WE ARE!!!

Due to Adam’s transgression we are all born with a nature that can do nothing but come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 states...that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God...This idea of sinning and coming short of the glory of God is not one or many specific acts of sin, but rather it is a nature that we operate out of. IT IS THE SIN NATURE. IT IS WHO WE ARE OUTSIDE OF CHRIST. The good news is to be found in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17, which states... Therefore if any man be IN CHRIST, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new...

Outside of Christ we miss the mark of God’s nature. We are a sinner. In Christ we press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. We become a new creature. We no longer depend on our nature, but we now place our faith in Christ, becoming partakers of God’s divine nature. We leave the defeated realm of sin, and step into the unlimited realm of salvation.

THANK YOU JESUS for coming to save us from missing the mark of God!

YOU HAVE SAVED US FROM SIN!



*May 24*

### A DEEPER LOOK INTO THE AGES (EONS)

**According to Joseph Kirk and A. E. Knoch:** “The teaching of the scriptures concerning the eons has been concealed from many by the inconsistencies of the translators. An understanding of the eons and God’s eonian purpose, results in a revelation of God that is most enlightening and edifying. His every attribute becomes more wonderful and glorious. The truth on this subject reveals undreamed of value and success in the saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ. It leads to the solution of many difficult problems which exercise the hearts and minds of spiritual believers. The meaning of the word “eon” is clearly indicated by the way God has used it in the scriptures.

#### I. What is meant by an Eon?

An eon is a long period of time; an age.

## II. The Eons have a beginning.

### LITERAL TRANSLATION

(Heb. 1:2) God made the eons...  
(1 Cor. 2:7) Before the eons...  
(2 Ti. 1:9) Before eonian times...

### KING JAMES VERSION

God made the worlds...  
Before the world...  
Before the world began...

## III. The Eons end, individually and collectively.

(Heb. 9:26) The end of the eons...  
(1 Cor. 10:11) The ends of the eons...  
(Mat. 24:3) The end of the eon...

The end of the world...  
The ends of the world...  
The end of the world...

## IV. How many eons are there?

(Col. 1:26) Hid from eons...  
(Lu. 20:34) This eon...  
(Eph. 2:7) Eons to come...

Hid from ages...  
This world...  
Ages to come...

\*So...Seven distinct divisions are indicated, pre-eonian time (2 Tim. 1:9), five eons, two of which are future (referred to as the eons of the eons), and time after the conclusion of the eons (Heb 9:26; 1 Cor. 15:28). There are past eons, this present eon, eons to come, and that which is before and after the eons.

## V. The purpose of the eons.

(Eph. 3:8-11) Purpose of the eons...  
(Eph. 1:9-10; Phil. 2:9-11; Col. 1:15-21; I Cor. 15:22-28)

Eternal purpose...

Apart from a knowledge of these eons or ages, God's plans and purpose are shrouded in darkness and doubt. In their light He is transformed from a heartless fiend into a most affectionate Creator and Reconciler, Who does all in love, Who will bring His creatures to Himself, through sin and suffering, and severe judgment for the unbeliever, on the basis of the blood of Christ's cross." (Quotes and excerpts on, The Eons or Ages, from Joseph E. Kirk and A. E. Knoch)

The eons are the longest periods of time referred to in the scriptures. They should be distinguished from the eras and dispensations. The dispensations within the eons are:

1. INNOCENCE
2. CONSCIENCE
3. HUMAN GOVERNMENT
4. PROMISE
5. LAW
6. GRACE
7. THE MILLENNIUM (THE EON)
8. THE AGE OF THE AGES (THE EON OF THE EONS)

Enjoy your search concerning the eons of our GREAT GOD! Throughout this search you will discover the purpose of your Father, WHICH IS TO BE ALL IN ALL!

READ ROMANS 11:36!



*May 25*

## TRUE SUCCESS

What is true success? Is it...

MONEY?  
FAME?  
EDUCATION?  
MATERIAL POSSESSIONS?  
A LONG LIFE?  
TO BE HANDSOME OR BEAUTIFUL?  
HAPPINESS?  
A GREAT CAREER?

The above mentioned list is the way in which the world defines true success. We are taught from the time we are born that if we do not achieve these things that we are a failure. Are these things really true success? Do they really make you the complete and total person that you long to be?

True success is found in none of the things listed above. The things of this world are but dung compared to the excellency of the KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST (Philippians 3:7-21). So...What is true success? Let us look to the words of Jesus, for He clearly and simply defines it for us.

Matthew 25:21 states...His lord said unto him, Well done, you good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter into the joy of the Lord...Did you catch the key word in that passage? Jesus said...you have been *FAITHFUL* over a few things...There it is! That is the definition of true success. IT IS FAITHFULNESS!

The word "faithful" means: trustworthy, trustful: believing, a believer, sure, and true. The word "faithful" carries with it the idea of someone who believes, and continues to believe. It speaks of someone who trusts, and continues to trust. As well, it speaks of diligence, and of a continued faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. True success is not just faith in God, but faithfulness to God in all that He requires of us. It is a submission to God along with a total abandonment of the self-life. It is to do the will of the Father in all things. We are to be faithful to where God places us, and to what God asks us to do.

Hebrews 11:6 states...he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him...THIS IS FAITHFULNESS TO GOD! This is...

TRUE SUCCESS!



*May 26*

## **MERE HUMAN NATURE**

Matthew 16:16,17 states...You, replied Simon Peter, are the Christ, the Son of the ever-living God. Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, said Jesus; for mere human nature has not revealed this to you, but My Father in Heaven (The New Testament In Modern Speech)...

The words spoken here by Jesus are VERY IMPORTANT! They inform us how that we receive understanding from the Father concerning His Kingdom. They also tell us what will not inform us and give us understanding concerning His Kingdom.

These two opposing forces are:

1. MERE HUMAN NATURE (FLESH AND BLOOD)
2. REVELATION FROM OUR FATHER

The words “mere human nature” refer to flesh and blood. This refers to all that is within our corrupt nature that we inherited from Adam. Our mere human nature cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. It is IMPOSSIBLE to grasp (perceive) the Kingdom of God from the standpoint of our human nature. Remember...The natural (carnal) man cannot discern the things of the Spirit, FOR THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED! That means that: intellect, education, Bible college, theology, and anything else for that matter CAN NOT cause you to see that Jesus is the Christ! The only thing that can bring about the understanding that Jesus is the Christ is to have it *REVEALED* to you by the Father! Did you hear what was just said? Without revelation from our Father we are doomed to stay in the realm of intellect and the traditions and doctrines of men!!! As well, we will continue to operate out of the carnal mind. Revelation knowledge from our Father causes us to be LIBERATED. We are then introduced to spirituality, revelation truth, and the mind of Christ.

The word “revealed” in this passage means: to uncover, lay open what has been veiled or covered up, disclose, make bare, to make known, make manifest, and to disclose what was before unknown. We must be honest and admit that the understanding of Christ and His Kingdom is unknown and covered up to our natural mind. Christ remains a mystery to us UNTIL the Father reveals Him to us. It is with this attitude that we must approach our Heavenly Father. We are to recognize our mere human nature, and that we are helpless to understand spiritual things unless the Spirit of God reveals them to us. Colossians 1:26 states...Even the mystery which has been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints...which is CHRIST IN YOU the hope of glory...

**MAY THE FATHER GIVE YOU A REVELATION OF THE CHRIST!**



*May 27*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER - PART 1  
WHEN YOU PRAY**

**According to J. Preston Eby:** "Someone has said that prayer is helplessness casting itself upon power; it is misery seeking peace; it is unholiness embracing purity; it is hatred desiring love. Prayer is corruption panting for immortality; it is the eagle soaring heavenward; it is the dove returning home; it is the prisoner pleading for release; it is the mariner steering for the haven amid the dangerous storm; it is the soul, oppressed by the world, escaping to the empyrean, and bathing its ruffled plumes in the ethereal and the divine." (To Be The Lord's Prayer, J. Preston Eby)

So...Let us learn how to pray. Let us learn the purpose of prayer. In order to do this we must look to the PRAYER OF PRAYERS. We are of course speaking of the Lord's Prayer. This prayer was delivered to us by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Matthew 6:7,8 states...But when you pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not therefore like unto them: for your Father knows what things you have need of, before you ask Him...

We are told by the Lord to not use vain repetitions, for our Father knows what things we have need of before we ask Him. This means that our prayers should not consist solely of just asking God to give us things. HE ALREADY KNOWS WHAT WE HAVE NEED OF BEFORE WE EVEN ASK! Remember...Jesus told us to take no thought for what we would eat, drink, or be clothed with. BUT SEEK FIRST the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU...

Our prayers should have substance to them, rather than just presenting a grocery list to our Heavenly Father. We must seek His face, and not just His hand. To seek the face of God is to know Him in a personal and intimate way. To seek the hand of God is to petition Him for specific needs. While it is necessary and correct to ask God to meet our needs, most of our praying should be for the purpose of seeking His face.

The Lord's Prayer teaches us to focus on God's will and Kingdom. In essence, we are instructed to TAKE NO THOUGHT for tomorrow or our personal needs. So...When you pray, seek first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness. This is the very heart of the...

LORD'S PRAYER!



*May 28*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER - PART 2**  
**(Matthew 6:9-13)**  
**OUR FATHER**

The word "Father" means: an author, creator, or initiator of anything. How fitting it is that the Father, Who is the Creator and beginning of all things, is also to be the beginning of our prayer. The very first words of the Lord's Prayer are...OUR FATHER! How beautiful is the word Father! How beautiful it is to call Him "THE FATHER"! It is especially beautiful to call Him OUR FATHER!

This gives evidence to the fact that He is our Creator. We are of Him, through Him, and to Him (Romans 11:36). In Him we live, and move, and have our being (Acts 17:28).

So...If God is our Father, then that means that we are His sons and daughters. In essence, WE ARE HIS CHILDREN...ALL OF US! Acts 17:28,29 states...For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, FOR WE ARE HIS OFFSPRING. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device...As well, we are told in Ecclesiastes 12:1 to remember our Creator in the days of our youth.

Referring to God as your Father implies that there is to be an intimacy in your relationship with Him. Romans 8:14,15 states...For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, ABBA, FATHER...

Don't you want to personally know God as YOUR Father? There is so much awaiting us due to the fact that we have received the Spirit of adoption (sonship)! Let us recognize God as our Father and Creator in all things. We are able to call Him our Father through the blood and cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. What a privilege! He is OUR FATHER!

The Lord's Prayer teaches us to first and foremost direct our heart and attention to the Author and Creator of all things. If God is our Father, then He truly loves us, cares for us, wants the best for us, and desires to be intimate with us. He longs to have a relationship with us. We know that a good earthly father desires to be all these things to his children. HOW MUCH MORE does God want to be everything to us? Let us confidently refer to God as...

OUR FATHER!



*May 29*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER - PART 3**  
**(Matthew 6:9-13)**  
**WHICH ART IN HEAVEN**

**According to J. Preston Eby:** "The English word "heaven" is derived from the old Anglo-Saxon term "heave-on," meaning to be lifted up, up-lifted. It means to be "heaved-up" or "heaven." Not only is God our Father, but He is our Father *in heaven*. By saying God is in heaven, Jesus does not mean to localize or locate God. He is not telling us of a place where God is and where God lives apart from any other place in the universe. Those who think of heaven as a place, usually think of Him as being very distant. Somehow we have gotten the idea that heaven is a long way off. This error has crept into many songs sung by the church world. In the Pentecostal Church where I was raised as a boy two of the favorite songs were "When We All Get To Heaven" and "Won't It Be Wonderful There." Another with which many who read these lines will be familiar says, "There is a happy land, far, far way." And even in that popular hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross," we sing, "He will call me some day to that home far away..." How did we get that conception? Certainly not from Jesus or the apostles!" (To Be The Lord's Prayer, J. Preston Eby)

John 3:13 states...And no man has ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man *Which is in heaven...*

WOW!

Did you hear what Jesus said? He said that He came down from heaven, but was STILL IN HEAVEN (THE SON OF MAN WHICH IS IN HEAVEN)!

**According to J. Preston Eby:** "Our Lord was in heaven; He came down from heaven, and still was in heaven; and this heaven is, in the Greek, OURANOS. It is something a person can be in, can descend from, and still possess. And the meaning of the word is "elevation, height, exaltation." Our Lord was the King of the universe. But He descended from that state. He humbled Himself, and took upon Himself the form of sinful flesh. He became despised and rejected. But nevertheless, in His humiliation He was still the Lord of the universe. All things were subject to Him. He still could command the winds and waves and they obeyed Him to the astonishment of those men who saw it. He still could control the atoms, multiply the loaves and fishes, raise the dead, and was Master of all laws of nature. He still saw into the unseen realm of spirit, was consciously aware in both the earthly and spiritual dimensions, unlimited by the physical world. He was still elevated, exalted; He was still *in heaven!*" (To Be The Lord's Prayer, J. Preston Eby)

Many are waiting until the day that they physically die to "go to heaven". May our Father deliver us from this type of CARNAL THINKING! So...If our Father is in heaven (elevated and exalted), how do we access this heaven in which He is? Do you remember the vision that Jacob had in the Old Testament? He laid his head upon a stone and saw a ladder that went from the earth to heaven, and from heaven to earth. He saw the angels of God ascending and descending upon the ladder. What (or Who) is this ladder? Jesus told us that HE WAS THE LADDER! John 1:51 states...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter YOU SHALL SEE HEAVEN OPEN, AND THE ANGELS OF GOD ASCENDING AND DESCENDING UPON THE SON OF MAN...

Jesus is the ladder to heaven! It is in and through Him that we have access to the heavenly realm. The heavenly realm is the place in which our Father dwells. This heavenly realm is opened to us in and through Christ. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL YOU DIE TO GO TO HEAVEN! HEAVEN IS IN CHRIST!

Let us turn from the fairytale idea that heaven is some geographical location off in the “sweet by-and-by”. IT IS HERE-AND-NOW! It is where our Father is! It is in Christ! Ephesians 2:6 tells us that God has raised us up together, and made us sit together IN “HEAVENLY PLACES” IN CHRIST JESUS!!!

THIS IS HEAVEN!



*May 30*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER - PART 4**  
**(Matthew 6:9-13)**  
**HALLOWED BE THY NAME**

**According to J. Preston Eby:** “What a depth of thought, what a wealth of meaning, what a world of reality, the model prayer contains that the firstborn Son of God has given for His many brethren with the opening words, “Our Father which art in heaven, *hallowed be Thy name!*” This is the first petition of the Lord’s prayer.” (To Be The Lord’s Prayer, J. Preston Eby)

The word “hallowed” means: sanctified, set apart. We are to enter into prayer recognizing and sanctifying the name of our Heavenly Father. “YHWH” is a name that is usually translated as “LORD”. It is used approximately 7,000 times in the Bible, more than any other name for God. It is also referred to as the “Tetragrammaton” which means “The Four Letters” because it comes from four Hebrew letters: (Yod, He, Waw, and He). The four characters are the four Hebrew letters that correspond to “YHWH” and are transliterated “IAUE” or “YAHWEH”. Some pronounce “YHWH” as “Jehovah”, which is a form of “Yahweh” produced by blending the letters of the “Tetragrammaton” with the vowels from “ADONAI”, which means “my lord” in Hebrew. We must also keep in mind that the God of the Old Testament (“Yahweh” or “Jehovah”) finally revealed Himself to man in the form of the SAVIOR. He did this with the name of “JESUS” (“Iesous”), which is of Hebrew origin “Joshua” (“Yehowshua”), which means “Yahweh” (or “Jehovah”) is salvation!

Jesus was obviously the God of the Old Testament MANIFESTED IN THE FLESH! The name “Yahweh” (or “Jehovah”) means: to be, to exist, to become, the self-existent One, and independent.

So...Let us hallow (sanctify and set apart) the name of our Heavenly Father. The name of “Yahweh” (or “Jehovah”) was manifested in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ as the SAVIOR OF THE WORLD! Our Father is the self-existent One, Who after being manifested in the flesh, did TAKE AWAY the sin of the world! Our Father is THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!!!

This is the reason that we should HALLOW HIS GREAT NAME! His name is worthy to

be sanctified, hallowed, praised, worshipped, and adored. Jesus told us in John 17:6 that He had manifested His Father's name to the men which were given to Him. What name did He manifest? The name of "Jesus", of course!

Thank you Father for loving us! Thank you Father for saving us!

HALLOWED BE THY NAME!



*May 31*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER - PART 5**  
**(Matthew 6:9-13)**  
**THY KINGDOM COME**

Matthew 6:10 states...Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven...The Lord's Prayer begins with the introduction of our Father, where He is (in the heavenly realm), and that His name is to be hallowed (sanctified). Then Jesus immediately turns our attention to God's KINGDOM AND WILL. The Kingdom of God was at the very heart of everything that Jesus said and did. He began His ministry by announcing ...Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matthew 4:17)...As well, all of His parables were in one way or another related to the Kingdom of God. Read Matthew chapter 13 to see what Jesus likened the Kingdom of God unto. He likened it unto: a sower, a man who sows, a mustard seed, yeast, buried treasure, a pearl, and a net. The message of Jesus Christ was THE KINGDOM OF GOD! THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

The words "THY KINGDOM COME" and "THY WILL BE DONE" are the very heart, center, and focal point of the entire prayer. Imagine the Lord's Prayer as a picture. The words "THY KINGDOM COME" would be the portrait. All the other words before and after these would serve as the frame and mat for the portrait itself. With this in mind, let us attempt to define the Kingdom of God.

Many people see the Kingdom of God as nothing more than a geographical location that they will fly away to after they die. They think of it as something that is futuristic and totally out of reach. This is very sad. If that were the case, that would mean that there is very little purpose for the Christian's existence here on this earth. The majority of the church is not praying for the Kingdom of God to come to the earth, but rather that they will be "raptured" off to a Kingdom that is supposed to be somewhere in the sweet by-and-by. This is the exact opposite of what Jesus told us to pray. He said...**THY KINGDOM COME!**

**According to Kelley Varner:** "Most Christians in this nation do not understand the basic truths about God's Kingdom. The term "Kingdom Now" was invented to conveniently and negatively dismiss what men do not comprehend. In fact, that is one of the hot "issues". Jesus is not our "soon-coming King;" He is King right now! All things are under His feet. Men ask, "So is His Kingdom now or in the future?" To that I answer, "Yes! It's both." The Kingdom of God is the extension of God's rule and dominion in the earth and universe, and is in the Holy Spirit

(Romans 14:17). Simply stated, it is the Lordship of Jesus Christ. God's Kingdom is a theocracy, not a democracy, and is ruled by God through His delegated representatives, not by the people. The term "Kingdom of Heaven" shows us where it is from, and the term "Kingdom of God" shows us Who runs it!" (*The Issues Of Life*, Kelley Varner)

**According to J. Preston Eby:** "The dictionary defines "kingdom" as "a government or country headed by a king or queen; a monarchical state; a realm or domain." The word "kingdom" is made up of the noun "king," and the suffix "dom". "Dom" is a noun-forming suffix to express rank, position, or domain. For example, a "dukedom" is the domain over which a duke has authority or exercises rule, and in the abstract the rank of a duke. In like manner a "kingdom" is the domain and the people within that domain over which a king exercises authority and rule. It is the "king's domain". "Kingdom" is thus a contraction of "king's domain". The term, "Kingdom of God", can mean no other than the domain over which God exercises rule as King. It is God's declared purpose therefore that His *people*, His *holy nation*, His *peculiar treasure*, should be the domain over which He would rule as King, and ultimately all the earth and all things and every creature. The Lord's greatest dominion at this time is in the lives of His elect and chosen ones. Millions sanctimoniously and religiously pray, "Thy Kingdom come," thinking it is something outside of themselves, is some distant age, under other conditions — and have no intention whatever of abdicating the throne of their own inner wills and hearts to the King of Glory. It is a foregone conclusion that there will follow a formidable conflict between His divine sovereignty and my self-willed ego. And this, precious friend of mine, is the true BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON!" (*To Be The Lord's Prayer*, J. Preston Eby)

As was just stated, the conflict is between our kingdom and His Kingdom. It is between our will and His will. So...Let us submit to the Kingdom and will of our Heavenly Father, for in doing so we become partakers of His divine nature. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto us abundantly into the EVERLASTING KINGDOM (THE KINGDOM OF THE AGES) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

THY KINGDOM COME!



*June 1*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER - PART 6**  
**(Matthew 6:9-13)**  
**GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD**

**According to J. Preston Eby:** "What meaning do you attach to the word "daily"? For what is it that you ask, exactly, when you pray, "Give us this day our *daily bread*?" What is "daily bread"? Around the Greek word translated "daily" ("EPIOUSION") much controversy has circled. The word is a coined word. It is not found elsewhere in the New Testament. It is not found in the Greek