

A bald eagle is shown in flight against a clear blue sky. The eagle's wings are spread wide, and its talons are extended. The eagle's head is turned to the left, showing its white feathers and yellow beak. The background is a solid, bright blue sky.

*Foundational
Principles
for the Overcomer*

by
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Acknowledgments

Thanks to Pastors Val and Brian Richards, part of our local apostolic team, for helping organize and format all the materials. You are my companions in blessing and tribulation thru our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am grateful for your love and support.

Thanks to my faithful husband and companion for giving up time with me so I could write this book. I am grateful for all your love, TLC and support. I could not have done this without you.

I want to acknowledge and give credit to Dr. Kelly Varner whose writings filled in the gaps of understanding and helped to confirm the revelation of what God had put in my heart.

Most of all, I want to thank my Lord and Savior, who gave me revelation and opened my heart to these treasures, by His Holy Spirit.

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Foundational Principles for the Overcomer

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Repentance, Water Baptism and Receiving The Holy Spirit

- *Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said to them, “**repent**, and let every one of you be **baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** NKJV*

Notice Peter’s reply. There were three elements to what Peter told them: (1) **REPENTANCE**, (2) **WATER-BAPTISM** (3) receiving the **HOLY SPIRIT**. This was the pattern on the day of Pentecost for the forgiveness of sins. We see this pattern repeated again and again, right through the book of Acts and throughout the New Testament writings.

We see the same pattern in Acts 8:12-17 with the conversion of the Samaritans. Note the identical pattern to the salvations on the day of Pentecost!

- *Acts 8:12-17 - But when they **believed** Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, . . . (14) Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, (15) who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. (16) For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** (17) Then they laid hands on them, and they **received the Holy Spirit.***

The next group of people to be reached was the ‘godly’ Gentiles (Acts 10 & 11), with Cornelius and his household.

- *Acts 10:44-48 - While Peter was still speaking these words, the **Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.** (45) And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the **gift of the Holy Spirit** had been poured out on the Gentiles also. (46) For they heard them **speak with tongues** and magnify God. Then Peter answered, (47) "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" (48) And he commanded them to be **baptized in the name of the Lord.***

Thus we see the same pattern as before, in the salvation experience of Cornelius' household – (1) **REPENTANT** hearts, (2) Receiving the **HOLY SPIRIT** and (3) **BAPTISM**.

- *Acts 22:16 - And now why are you waiting? Arise and be **baptized, and wash away your sins**, calling on the name of the Lord.*

Again Peter emphasizes the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The pattern is clear:

- *Acts 11:15-18 - And as I began to speak, the **Holy Spirit fell** upon them, as upon us at the beginning. (16) Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be **baptized with the Holy Spirit**.*

Another example involves some of John the Baptist's disciples whom Paul met at Ephesus:

- *Acts 19:4-6 - And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of **repentance**, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." (5) On hearing this, they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**. (6) And when **Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied**".*

Thus we see the same pattern as before, in the **salvation experience** of these New Testament believers – (1) **REPENTANT** hearts, (2) Receiving the **HOLY SPIRIT** and (3) **BAPTISM OF WATER**.

Ananias is sent by God to lay hands on Saul (Paul) to receive his sight and Paul describes how he is converted.

- *Acts 9:17-18 - And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and **be filled with the Holy Spirit**." (18) Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and **he arose and was baptized**. NKJV*

- **Mark 16:16** - *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”*

The above scripture says, *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved.”* Why? Because when you are baptized you are saying, “No longer do I want to live according to my flesh, my ways, but God’s way! You are acknowledging in your heart who you truly want to serve.

Today’s Christians might assume that Paul was “born again” during his blinding encounter with God. Not so. Not until Paul was to be **BAPTIZED** was he to have his sins “**washed away**”. This is clearly what the scriptures say; argument anyone? Many Christians are taught today that baptism is basically a “symbolic” act. Thus baptism is stripped of much of its significance and power in Christian thinking. For a “symbol” is never as important as the real thing, is it? In the New Testament it is never spoken of as a mere symbol. Rather it is spoken of as being a “**circumcision of the heart**”, a “**cutting off**”, a “**burial**” into the **DEATH** of Christ. It is also spoken of as being “**for the forgiveness of sins**” and to “**wash one’s sins away**”. **Baptism is seen as a LITERAL “burial into death” (Romans 6:3)** which has a profound effect on our hearts and lives.

- **Romans 6:3-6** - *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? (4) Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, (6) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. NKJV*

I am convinced that **Baptism in the Holy Spirit (accompanied by “speaking in tongues”)** is **ESSENTIAL**. It is not just an option. In the book of Acts, the way that people became Christians in the New Testament was to (1) **REPENT**, (2) **BE BAPTIZED IN WATER** and (3) **BE BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**.

BORN OF WATER, BORN OF SPIRIT

Jesus emphasizes this when He tells Nicodemus in John chapter 3 that **he must be born again** and then states the following in verse 5:

- *John 3:5 - Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water** and the **Spirit** he cannot enter the kingdom of God". NKJV*

Baptism in water and the **Spirit** are never regarded as mere options in the Scriptures. In fact they are clearly **ESSENTIAL** experiences to begin to walk in Christ's kingdom.

DELIVERED BY THE BLOOD, THE WATER AND THE SPIRIT

- *1 Corinthians 10:1-11 - Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, (2) all were **baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea**, (3) all ate the same **spiritual food**, (4) and all drank the same **spiritual drink**. For they drank of that **spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ**. (5) But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. (6) Now **these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted**. NKJV*
- **BLOOD** Jesus Blood
- **WATER** Speaks of water baptism in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins. **1st baptism** (Red Sea) Israel escaped Egypt and was delivered from the dominion of Pharaoh.
- **SPIRIT** Speaks of Holy Ghost baptism with evidence of speaking in tongues. **2nd baptism** (in the Cloud) provided God's people with leadership, rain, comfort, shelter, light, and fellowship.

Other Scripture passages to consider: Mark 16:16-18; 1 Peter 3:20-21; Titus 3:5-6; 1 Cor 10:1-2; Gal 3:27; Col 2:11-12; 1 Cor 12:13; Heb 6:1-2; Rom 6:2-11; Rom 8:9; Matt 28:19.

THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM: BIBLICAL TERMINOLOGY

The Hebrew word for 'SPIRIT' is 'ruach'. The noun form means, "WIND, SPIRIT, or BREATH". The verb means "to BLOW or to BREATHE." The Greek counterpart, "pneuma", means the same.

- **John 3:8** - *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.*

The Spirit of God is likened to the wind. Using this symbol of WIND, one can learn much about the Holy Spirit and His ministry:

1. Wind is not seen but is definitely felt.
 2. Wind is varied in its manifestations, from the gentle breeze to the tornado.
 3. Wind blows from the NORTH – He convicts us of our sin (Song 4:16).
 4. Wind blows from the SOUTH – He is the Comforter (Song 4:16).
 5. Wind blows from the EAST – He brings testing and discipline (Job 1:19)
 6. Wind blows from the WEST – He brings showers of blessings (Lk. 12:54).
- **John 14:26** - *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. (compare Jn. 14:16; 15:26; 16:7; and 1 Jn. 2:1, where the same word "comforter" is rendered "advocate").*

The word for "**COMFORTER**" is "**PARAKLETOS**" (Strong's #3875), and it means, "an intercessor, consoler; summoned, called to one's side, especially called to one's aid; one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, a counsel for defense, a legal assistant, an advocate; in the widest sense, a helper, a succorer, an aider, an assistant. "PARAKLETOS" is derived from "PARA" (beside or alongside), and "KALEO" (to call aloud).

Part of the misunderstanding in the Body of Christ concerning the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is that different terms are used to describe the same experience:

- ***Matt 3:11** - I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will BAPTIZE YOU with the HOLY SPIRIT and FIRE.*

John the Baptist made it clear in this scripture that Jesus would baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire.

1. The Holy Ghost BAPTISM

***Acts 1:4-5** And being assembled together with them, He (Jesus) commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but **to wait for the Promise of the Father**, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; (5) for John truly baptized with water, but you shall **be BAPTIZED with the HOLY SPIRIT** not many days from now."*

- The Greek verb “BAPTIZO” (Strong’s #907), transliterated as “**BAPTIZE**”, means, “to immerse, submerge; to make overwhelmed (fully wet). From the Greek root verb “BAPTO” (Strong’s #911) which means, “to overwhelm, cover wholly with a fluid; (literally) to moisten (a part of one’s person), or to stain (as with dye)”. Vine’s says that it means, “to immerse, dip” (from a root signifying “deep”).

As in water baptism, we must YIELD to the One (Jesus) who is doing this Holy Ghost Baptism. Seek the BAPTIZER and not the Baptism, a PERSON, not an experience. **The believer’s whole personality is immersed, surrounded, and enveloped by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit** coming down over him or her from above and without, and welling up from within (for every born again believer has the Spirit already within, as in Rom. 8:9). **“BAPTO” emphasizes the TOTAL (the whole person) and the TRANSITIONAL (a door into a new realm).**

2. RECEIVING the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:15-19; 10:47; 19:1-2)

Acts 2:38** - Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall RECEIVE the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- “**RECEIVE**” is the Greek word “LAMBANO” (Strong’s #2983), and it means, “(active) to take, to get or lay hold of; to make one’s own; to claim, to procure for oneself, to seize or apprehend, to gain or obtain; to receive what is offered; not to refuse or reject.” This is a passionate, intense word of active faith which takes hold of the promise of God. We must cooperate with the Lord.

3. The Holy Ghost FELL (Acts 10:44-48; 11:15 with Mk. 3:10; Lk.15:20; Acts 20:10, 37) See page (1)

*Acts 2:17 - “And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will **POUR OUT of My Spirit on all flesh. . .**”*

- “FELL” is the Greek word “EPIPIPTO” (Strong’s #1968)), and it means, “to embrace (with affection) or seize (with more or less violence); to fall upon, to rush or press upon; to lie upon one; to fall into one’s embrace; to seize, to take possession of; used of the Holy Spirit, in His inspiration and impulse.” This word is derived from “EPI” (upon) and “PIPTO” (to alight or fall; to descend from a higher place to a lower; to prostrate oneself.”

In this baptism of love, the Lord Jesus embraces and takes hold of the believer as the believer takes hold of Him.

4. The Holy Ghost CAME

*Acts 19:6 - “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the **Holy Ghost CAME ON** (epi, upon) **them**; and **they spake with tongues** and prophesied”*

- “**CAME**” is the Greek word “ERCHOMAI” (Strong’s #2064), is the middle voice (He fills us for Himself) of a primary verb which means, “to come or go; to come from one place to another, to arrive; to appear, make one’s appearance, to come before the public.” This verb stresses the act of coming. In the present participle it can mean, “the next” (Acts 13:44). This word is similar to the thought of the Spirit FALLING upon the

believer. He has been given. He is here. He has COME. Let us welcome His arrival!

5. FILLED with the Holy Ghost

*Eph 5:17-18 - Therefore do not be unwise, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.** (18) **And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,***

- “**FILLED**” is the Greek word “PLETHO” (Strong’s #4130), and it means, “to fill up; to imbue, influence, supply.” Note that “PLETHO” has a broader meaning than just a one-time experience. As we grow in grace, our hearts enlarge and our capacity for the Lord increases.

There is a life-style that is led and governed by the Holy Spirit (Jn. 8:29; Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:17). Thus the Greek tense of Ephesians 5:18 is to be **CONTINUOUSLY filled**. The Holy Ghost Baptism is not an END, but the means to the end. This experience is the GATEWAY and BEGINNING of a walk or life in the Spirit.

7. The **FIRSTFRUITS** or **EARNEST** of the Spirit (see also 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5)

*Rom 8:23 - And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the **first fruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. NASB*

- “**FIRSTFRUITS**” is the Greek word “APARCHE” (Strong’s #536), and it means, “a beginning of sacrifice; to offer firstlings or firstfruits”. The English word is plural, but the Greek word is always singular (there is “one Spirit”, as in 1 Cor. 12¹³; Eph. 2:18; 4:4). The Holy Ghost Baptism is NOT THE FULLNESS of the Spirit (Jn. 3:34), but rather the FIRSTFRUITS.
- The **Holy Ghost Baptism** is the “**EARNEST**” of our **inheritance**. This is the Greek word “ARRHABON” (Strong’s #728), and it means, “a pledge, part of the purchase-money or property given in advance as security for the rest; a

down payment that the full amount will subsequently be paid.” In the modern Greek “ARRABONA” is an “engagement ring”. The King James Version translates it as “pledge”.

7. God’s REST or REFRESHING.

- “**REST**” is the Hebrew “NUWACH: (Strongs #5117), and it means, “rest or settle down; to dwell, stay, let fall, give comfort; be quiet.” “To rest” sometimes indicates a complete envelopment and thus permeation (2 Kg. 2:15; Prov. 14:33; Isa. 25:10; compare Ex. 33:14; 1 Chron. 22:9; Prov. 29:17; Ezek. 44:30). We are to be a home, an abode or mansion (Jn. 14:2,23), and a resting-place for the Holy Spirit. We are the TEMPLE (“naos”) of the Holy Ghost (as in Jn. 2:19-21; 1Cor. 3:16-19; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:21; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 3:12; 11:1-2, 19; 21:22).
- “**REFRESHING**” in Isa. 28:12 (its only usage) is “MARGE” (Strong’s #4774), and it means, “rest, repose, place to rest,” and comes from a root meaning, “to settle; quiet.” The sweet Holy Ghost has been given to the believer that we might be refreshed (compare Ex. 23:12; Prov. 25:13; Rom. 15:32; 2 Cor. 7:13).

(Material taken from Kelley Varner’s “Tabernacle of Moses” Vol. II)

WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR?

*Acts 1:4-5; 8 - And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait for the Promise of the Father**, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; (5) for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now." . . . (8) But **you shall receive POWER** when the **Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**"*

- “**POWER**” (Strong’s #1411) “DUNAMIS”, and it means, “strength, ability, power; force (literally or figuratively); specially, miraculous power (usually by implication, a miracle itself)”.

SO WE SEE THE REASON WE ARE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO BE EMPOWER FOR SERVICE AS CHRIST'S WITNESSES.

Some have said that the gifts of the Spirit passed away with the apostles, but the scriptures do not tell us of such an event. The scriptures tell us otherwise.

I believe that much of this controversy about the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is due to a lack of understanding of the gift of tongues. The scriptures reveal four different kinds (diversities) of tongues. 1 Corinthians 13:1 tells us that there are tongues of men (known) and tongues of angels (unknown). The word for tongues in the Greek is *glossa*, which means a language of uncertain affinity, and could be a tongue known to man but unknown to the speaker, or it could be unknown to all men, such as the language of angels. Let's examine the four different tongues as revealed in the Word of God.

1. **The public gift (known tongue):** This gift was demonstrated on the Day of Pentecost when the disciples spoke in tongues of men – not known to themselves, but known to others who heard them speak. (See Acts 2:5-11). This gift is for a witness to those who don't know Jesus as Lord as it reveals His supernatural presence. Many testimonies have been given of missionaries, who could not speak the native language, being enabled to speak the native language for a specific assignment as a witness to God's kingdom. ***1 Corinthians 14:22 - Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.***
2. **The church gift (unknown tongue):** Tongues which are spoken to the congregation in church must be interpreted (1 Corinthians 14:5-12, 27-28). Tongues with interpretation is equal to prophesy. Tongues with interpretation brings a message from God to His people in the same way that a word of prophesy does. What does prophesy mean? ***Rev. 19:10 – "...For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."***
3. **The devotional gift (unknown tongue):** This tongue is that which comes when one is baptized in the Holy Spirit. This gift comes through man as he speaks to God (1 Corinthians 14:2). In the church gift God is speaking to men, but in the devotional gift, man is

speaking or singing to God. *1 Corinthians 14:15 - What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.*

The Apostle Paul tells us that we should both pray and sing with our understanding (a known tongue) and with the Spirit (an unknown tongue). In devotional tongues one speaks the mysteries of God (1 Corinthians 14:2), and this speaking in tongues will edify (build up and strengthen) those who allow the Holy Spirit to speak through them. (1 Corinthians 14:4 and Jude 20).

Was the Apostle Paul against speaking in tongues? Let's allow the scriptures to answer that question:

1 Corinthians 14:18 - I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all.

1 Corinthians 14:39 - Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

- 4. The travail of the Spirit:** In this tongue, words are not spoken, but unintelligible groaning may be heard. *Romans 8:26 - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.* In this kind of tongues (groaning) the **Holy Spirit is interceding through man according to the will of God.** God's Spirit supersedes man's thoughts and mind and he yields and comes into agreement with the Holy Spirit. John 11:38 tells us that **Jesus sighed and groaned** when He went to the tomb of Lazarus. **Jesus came against the spirit of death and overcame it!**

- *Galatians 4:19 - My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you. KJV*

Travail means – Bring forth strenuously – work under extreme difficulty.

Groan means – Sound uttered in pain often – bewail – spasmodic sound indicating pain – to sigh deeply.

Other Scriptures to consider: Rom. 12:11; Heb. 4:16; 2 Cor. 5:2; Rom. 8:22; 2 Kings 6:16-17; Matt. 11:12

Every Christian needs the baptism in the Holy Spirit so that they can have the spiritual power that is necessary for the days that are ahead of us. Receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit takes an act of faith as you simply ask for that which God has said you can have.

- **Mark 11:24** - *"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."*
- **Luke 11:9-13** - *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (10) For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. (11) If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? (12) Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? (13) If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your **Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!**"*

(Materials taken from Bill Burns of Faith Tabernacle "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit")

The Baptism of Fire

- ***Matt 3:11** - I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will BAPTIZE you with the Holy Spirit and FIRE. NKJV*
- ***Heb 12:26-29** - And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven." (27) And this expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. (28) Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; (29) for our God is a consuming fire. NASB*

SHAKE means – Strong’s NT:4531 saleuo; from NT:4535; to waver, i.e. agitate, rock, topple or (by implication) destroy; figuratively, to disturb, incite: KJV - move, shake (together), which can [-not] be shaken, stir up.

CONSUMING FIRE refers to the Holiness of God consuming or destroying all that is contrary to His divine nature. Vines Expository Dictionary describes it in this way: FIRE (a) of the holiness of God, which consumes all that is inconsistent therewith, Heb 10:27; 12:29; in Rev 3:18 it is symbolic of that which tries the faith of saints, producing what will glorify the Lord. Thayer’s Greek Lexicon: NT:4442 PUR, genitive puros, to pu, "to purify".

God is **SHAKING** and **DESTROYING** with His divine fire, everything in our lives that is not the nature and character of His Son. He is consuming fire and shaking everything that is not of Him and what is of Him will remain and continue. The cross reckoned the old man, the first Adam dead. Now we are a new creature in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17) and we must rise up in His image, the Last Adam, the Life-giving Spirit of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:45). Only He will remain and continue; He will not share His glory with flesh. Jesus Christ overcame and destroyed the power of the law of the flesh, the **OLD NATURE**, the first Adam, and **TRANSFORMED** us into a **NEW**

CREATURE, in Him. His is a **KINGDOM** that will **REMAIN** for **ETERNITY** that **CANNOT** be **SHAKEN!** Hallelujah!

HIS FIRE IS TO REFINE US AND PURIFY US!

- *Exodus 24:16-18 - The glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day [God] called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. (17) And the glory of the Lord appeared to the Israelites like **devouring fire on the top of the mountain.** (18) **Moses entered** into the midst of the **cloud** and **went up the mountain**, and Moses was on the mountain forty days and nights. AMP*

God's glory covered the mountain for **six days**. **Six** is the number of **humanity** and God's glory has covered our nakedness and our humanity, but on the **seventh day** He called out and Moses responded in faith and went up into the mountain and entered in the midst of the cloud. **Seven** is the number of **perfection** and **rest**. The **SEVENTH DAY** represents the **FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST** and God is calling out to an overcoming people who are rising up in the full stature of Christ, into a perfect man. He is calling us to come up into the mountain of the Lord, an elevated state of being in His Spirit, representing Mount Zion, a place of illumination, to be one with Him in His glory. God's presence appeared to the Israelites as a **DEVOURING FIRE** and they were afraid; but Moses saw the **GLORY OF GOD**, and was not afraid to enter in. Moses was consumed by the glory of God for **forty days** and **nights**. **Forty** is the number of **TRIAL** and **TESTING**. This is symbolic of the **BAPTISM OF FIRE**.

TRIAL means – (Webster's Dict.) [from try.] Any effort or exertion of strength for the purpose of ascertaining its effect, or what can be done; examination by a test; act of examining by experience; suffering that puts strength, patience of faith to the test; temptation; test of virtue.

TRIBULATION means – (Webster's Dict.) n. [L. tribulo, to thrash, to beat.] Severe affliction; distresses of life; vexations. In Scripture, it often denotes the troubles and distresses which proceed from persecution. In Strong's NT:2347, it means, pressure, affliction, anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble. From NT:2346, to crowd, afflict, narrow, throng, suffer tribulation, trouble.

- **Romans 5:3-5** - *And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4) and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5) Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. NKJV*

God's fire brings **trials** and **tribulation** that **tests** us to show us what is of His kingdom and what is of our kingdom or our flesh and evil desires. It shows whether we are being ruled by His Spirit or the Adamic nature. So many times we want to blame the devil or others for what we are experiencing through trials and tribulation, but the Word of God says there is nothing from without that can defile me, but only what comes from out of my own heart (Mark 7:20-23). God takes us through **His fire to test us to show us what is in our hearts** and what defiles and makes us unclean. We have to live in truth and take responsibility for our own actions, attitudes, and motives. God also lets us experience tribulation or pressure to bring about perseverance and perseverance produces the proven character of Christ (Romans 5:3). We experience trials in our soul's realm, when we are being controlled by our feelings, emotions, opinions, intellect, desires, etc. In 1 John it says that the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life all proceed from out of the world. Jesus says in John 16:33:

- **John 16:33** - *I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have **TRIBULATION and TRIALS and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer** [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]; For **I have OVERCOME THE WORLD**. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]*

So we see from this scripture that we will have **TRIBULATIONS** and **TRIALS** when we are operating out of our desires and self-effort which proceeds from out of the world; but when we are living in Christ, the Life-giving Spirit who overcame the world, we will be victorious in every area of our lives. The scripture says in John 16:33 (Amp.), "In the **WORLD** you have **TRIBULATION** and **TRIALS**" but Jesus said, "**IN ME YOU HAVE PERFECT PEACE AND CONFIDENCE.**" We will not be moved, agitated, distressed, confused, or frustrated when we are standing upon the Rock, Jesus Christ. We are purified by the fire through trials and tribulation when we are living in our false identity, our carnal flesh! Paul states in **Gal. 2:20**, "**I have been crucified with Christ, and no longer do I live but Christ**

liveth in me, and the life that I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me”.

- *1 Peter 1:6-7 - In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various TRIALS, (7) that the GENUINENESS of YOUR FAITH, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is TESTED BY FIRE, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, NKJV*
- *1 Peter 4:12-13 - Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the **FIERY TRIAL** which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; (13) but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. NKJV*

FIERY TRIAL means - drawn from the refiner's fire, calamities or trials that test character; ignition, i.e. smelting; (fig) conflagration, calamity as a test; to kindle, i.e. to be ignited, glow (literally), be refined; be on fire, try.

When the priests offered the **whole burnt sacrifice** on the brazen altar, they knew God accepted the sacrifice when He sent His fire to consume the whole thing and there was nothing left. The **baptism of fire** reveals the revelation of Christ in you. We are being molded into the image of the Son and are being totally consumed by Him (Rom. 8:29-30). We recognize that the 1st Adam was destroyed, crucified on the cross with Christ. We are a new creature, a new creation man in Christ Jesus, and now we have His identity and His character manifesting in our lives. Nothing is left but His GLORY! (Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 5:17)

WORKS TESTED BY FIRE

- *1 Cor 3:13-15 - each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be **REVEALED BY FIRE**; and the **FIRE WILL TEST** each one's work, of what sort it is. (14) If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. (15) If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. NKJV*

God's fire reveals whether our works are of our flesh or of the Spirit. God's fire cannot burn what is of Him, because He is the fire. Just like the burning bush that God spoke to Moses out of, it was not consumed or destroyed by the fire because it was God, the bush remained. Another example was when the three Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were thrown into the fiery furnace, they were not consumed because the fire of God in them superseded the fire around them. Daniel chapter 3 tells us that they were bound by the strongest men and cast into the fire and that the fire was so hot that it killed the strong men and destroyed the chains that bound them in the fire. They were walking loosed in the midst of the fire and they were not hurt because they were with the fourth man (Jesus Christ) who "is like unto the son of God". God's fire only destroys what is not of God. (Hebrews 12:27). God uses His all consuming fire to destroy the very things that have bound us and kept us in captivity.

GOD IS PURIFYING HIS ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

- ***Malachi 3:3** - He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness. NKJV*

Silver is symbolic of REDEMPTION. God's fire is to bring forth His Royal Priesthood to fulfill His redemptive purposes in the earth. He is calling forth His priesthood after the order of Melchizedek, an order of all Spirit. His sons will be purified in the fire so that they reflect His Image, and His Glory.

- ***2 Cor 3:16-18** - But whenever a person turns [in repentance] to the Lord, the veil is stripped off and taken away. 17) Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (emancipation from bondage, freedom). 18) And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit. AMP*
- ***Ps 50:5** - "Gather My saints together to Me, Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice." NKJV*

- *Ps 51:17 - The **sacrifices of God** are a **broken spirit**, A **broken and a contrite heart** — These, O God, You will not despise. NKJV*

SACRIFICE MEANS – from a Latin root “to make sacred”; to slaughter, forfeiture of something highly valued for the sake of one considered to have a greater value or claim.

The **SACRIFICE** God desires are a **BROKEN** and a **CONTRITE HEART**. Because of the Baptism of Fire we decrease and Christ increases, we recognize that we are nothing apart from Him and that there is nothing good in our flesh. This fire is to bring about repentance and brokenness in us, so that the veil of our flesh is stripped away, so we can see clearly to behold Jesus in His Word. We must approach His Word with a sincere heart and motive to be changed and transformed, knowing that His Word is a sharp two edged sword that will judge the thoughts and intentions of our hearts (Heb 4:12). And what we behold, we become, so that we are constantly being transfigured into His glory, and increasing from glory to glory.

The baptism of fire and consecration brings us into the third dimension, the third room of the Tabernacle, the Holy of Holies, where the only thing that remains of us is transformed and transfigured into His likeness; where God’s glory through His Son is being manifested in our lives. This is His finished work in us – to be a people set apart for His purpose and plan to cover the earth with the knowledge of His glory, fulfilling His redemptive purpose for mankind, becoming His manifested sons to be an expression of His love, representing Christ, having authority and dominion to dictate His will.

In *Acts 13:22* it says, “. . .**I have found David son of Jesse a man after My own heart, who will do all My will and carry out My program fully.**” God is raising up His Church, Christ’s body, His bride, who will have His heart and do all His will and carry out His purpose fully; not their purpose or their desires, but His. Even as David had to leave the palace and go to the caves and Joseph was put in the pit by his half brethren and unjustly thrown into prison, and Moses had to go to the desert so they could be purified and sifted, molded and shaped, so are we going to have to endure that same fire so we can fulfill His purpose for full deliverance and redemption of all mankind.

THE FINAL OUTCOME

So finally, my brothers and sisters in Christ, I will remind you what the Word of God says. We are to rejoice in trials and tribulation knowing that we are entering into the complete and finished work of Christ in our lives, going beyond the veil of our flesh into His very presence; being conformed to His **IMAGE**, where all that **REMAINS IS HIM! HE ALONE IS GLORIFIED!**

- ***Matt 24:13** - But he who ENDURES TO THE END SHALL BE SAVED. NKJV*

ENDURES means – Strong’s NT:5278, to stay under (behind), i.e. remain; figuratively, to undergo, i.e. bear (trials), have fortitude, persevere. Thayer’s Greek Lexicon - . to persevere: absolutely and emphatically, under misfortunes and trials to hold fast to one's faith in Christ.

- ***Rev 3:21** - He who OVERCOMES (is victorious), I will grant him to SIT BESIDE ME ON MY THRONE, as I Myself OVERCAME (was victorious) and sat down beside My Father on His throne. AMP*

OVERCOMES means - NT:3528 (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon) used of Christians, that hold fast their faith even unto death against the power of their foes, and their temptations and persecutions; (Strong’s) to subdue (literally or figuratively): conquer, overcome, prevail, get the victory.

Those who **ENDURE** and remain in the **fire** until all their flesh has been consumed by **His consuming fire** and **OVERCOME** to the end (the end of self) shall be saved; and He, Jesus will grant them to sit beside Him on His throne. We endure the fire **NOW**, so that we can possess all of Him **NOW**. Not one day in the sweet by and by, when we are physically dead, but right **NOW**. Today (right now) is the day of salvation!

OH, HALLELUJAH! IT IS WORTH IT ALL!

Complete Salvation

Salvation - Greek word “soteria” (verb is sozo) means deliverance, preservation, protection, made whole, health, safety. A complete deliverance. This misunderstood term is commonly used to refer to the new birth. The new birth/ born again/ regeneration is the beginning of salvation. This complete redemption has made provision for the deliverance of man’s spirit, soul and body. Our spirit has been saved, our soul is being saved, and our body shall be saved. There is a common (30 fold), great (60 fold) and eternal (100 fold) salvation. Passover- Salvation, Pentecost- Baptism of Holy Spirit, Tabernacles- Fullness of Spirit.

What is complete salvation? Your spirit is saved, your soul is being saved and your body shall be saved. This completion is the original state of Adam before he fell. Remember man came short of the glory. The Lord is the glory and in Him all the fullness dwells. *“Whom all things have their existence, in bringing many sons into **GLORY**, should **make the Pioneer of their Salvation perfect through sufferings.**”* (Hebrews 2:10) **Perfect means to come into complete maturity.** I cannot do this in myself, but in Christ I can do all things. Christ in me the hope (confidence and expectancy) of glory. (Col. 1:26-27)

God’s Word is full of patterns, types and similes to teach us how to be overcomers and experience Christ’s full salvation. Therefore, if we study these patterns we will have a fuller understanding of “*salvation*”. **A major key to understanding the full and complete salvation that Christ has purchased for us is found in the appointed feast days of the Lord.**

- **Hebrews 9:28** - Even so it is that Christ, having been offered to take upon Himself and bear as a burden the sins of many once and once for all, will **appear a second time**, not to carry any burden of sin nor to deal with sin, but **to bring to full salvation** those who are [eagerly, constantly, and patiently] waiting for and expecting Him. AMP

GOD'S APPOINTED FEASTS
(Feast of Passover, Feast of Pentecost, Feast of Tabernacles)

The feasts teach us of God's plan for full redemption causing us to inherit a complete salvation through Jesus Christ, spirit, soul, and body.

Our initial salvation begins with the Feast of Passover, when our spirits experience an awakening to our true identity in Christ, we pass from the a realm of death unto a spiritual realm of life. We then move on the experiencing the Feast of Pentecost where the Holy Spirit has been poured out into our hearts and the Spirit of God teaches and trains us, transforming us into the image of the Son, Jesus, to become "sons" of God.

- **Galatians 4:6-7** - And because **you are sons**, **God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"** 7 Therefore **you are no longer a slave but a son**, and if a son, **then an heir of God through Christ**. NKJV

This is the sanctifying work of the Word and the Spirit of God in us to prepare us to move on to experience our complete inheritance. This is symbolic of the Feast of Tabernacles when mortality puts on immortality and we receive our glorified bodies, becoming like Christ in the fullness of all that the Father is. In this feast we are no longer servants, but we have become mature sons.

- **Romans 8:23** - And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the **redemption of our body**.
- **2 Corinthians 1:10** - who **delivered us** from so great a death, and **does deliver us**; in whom we trust that He **will still deliver us**, NKJV
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23** - And may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you** through and through [separate you from profane things, make you pure and wholly consecrated to God]; and may your **spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and complete [and found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** (the Messiah). AMP

- **2 Corinthians 5:2-4** - For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, (3) if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. (4) For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. NKJV
- **Colossians 3:10** - and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him NASB

FEAST OF PASSOVER

The **Feast of Passover speaks of our initial salvation experience**. Jesus was the perfect Lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world. He was the ultimate sacrifice for all humanity. Our spirits are awoken to Christ's redemption, the shedding of His blood to pay the price for our sin, delivering us from the law of sin and death, reconciling us to God our Father. Historically, Passover celebrates God's deliverance of the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt, where they were slaves to the Egyptians. Egypt is a type of the world and the world's system. Its ruler, Pharaoh, was a type of adversary (Satan). The bondage people are in when they live according to the ways of the world's system is sin. This feast was to celebrate God's deliverance from death to life, symbolic of their deliverance from Egypt.

APPLYING THE BLOOD

God commanded them to kill and sacrifice an unblemished, spotless lamb (Ex. 12:5). We know that the Lamb is symbolic of Jesus and that the books of Hebrews and Revelations as well as throughout the Old and New Testaments speaks of Jesus as being the Lamb of God who was slain before the foundations of the earth (Rev. 13:8). They were to take the blood of the lamb and sprinkle it on the lintel and two side posts of the household door (Ex. 12:7), providing protection, spiritual immunity (Luke 10:19). This is symbolic of us applying Christ's blood to the doorposts of our hearts. We need to understand that Christ's blood has purchased our deliverance and complete salvation. His blood has set us free to live according to His Spirit and His Word, no longer being enslaved to the lust of the eyes (coveting), the lust of the flesh (appetite) or the pride of life (ambition). We have passed

from the death of the 1st Adam, the law of the flesh, to live out of the life of the Last Adam, Jesus Christ, the Life giving Spirit.

- **1 Peter 1:18-20** - knowing that you were not **redeemed** with corruptible things... (19) but with the **precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.** (20)... foreordained before the foundation of the world,

EATING THE WHOLE LAMB

The lamb was to be roasted with fire and bitter herbs and with unleavened bread and the household was to feast on the entire lamb (Ex. 12:8).

- **Exodus 12:8** – And they shall **eat the flesh** in that night, **roasted with fire**, and **unleavened bread** (*sincerity & truth*); and with **bitter herbs** (*heart of repentance, crucified life-style*) they shall eat it.
- **John 6:53** - Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man** (*the bread of His body, as in Jn. 6:51, His substance, His Word*) and **drink His blood** (*His Spirit*), you have no life in you. NKJV

Unleavened Bread is symbolic of **separation from EVIL INFLUENCES** (leaven) and fellowship with Him and His people (1 John 1:7). The **bitter herbs** reveal repentance and the crucified life-style (Gal. 2:20). The **fire reveals** the purification and preparation of His sons, the brethren. (Rom. 8:29; Mal. 3:3; 1 Peter 1:7).

The people were instructed to eat the **WHOLE lamb**.

- **Exodus 12:9-10** - **Eat not of it raw, nor sodden (boiled)** at all with water, **but roast with fire**; his **HEAD** with his **LEGS**, and with the **PURTENANCE** (*center, midst, middle part; entrails*) thereof. (10) And ye shall **let nothing of it remain** until the morning (*no corruption*); and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall **burn with fire**. KJV
- The Lamb's **HEAD** = His **MIND**
- The Lamb's **LEGS** = His **MOBILITY**

- The Lamb's **PURTENANCE** = His **MOTIVES**

This is symbolic of us eating and consuming the whole Lamb, which is the Word of God. If I am applying God's Word to my life and my mind, the way I think and what I desire is being renewed by it, then I will think and act like Jesus having a pure and a holy heart just like His, to please my Heavenly Father. What we behold and partake of, we become.

The people were instructed to eat the lamb in haste and to be dressed and ready to leave Egypt at the midnight hour. We are to apply the complete finished work of Christ to our lives through His Word and His Spirit and we are to walk in the victory and authority of what He accomplished through His death, burial and resurrection.

At midnight the death angel passed through the land and those who did not apply the blood to their doorposts suffered the judgment of God. Those who were obedient to God's command and applied to blood of the lamb, the death angel passed over them. This is symbolic of passing over in judgment from death and sin to life in Jesus. As we apply His blood to our hearts and lives by faith we can live in His divine protection and divine healing (Isaiah 53:5).

- **Hebrews 9:21**- And according to the Law, one may almost say, **all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.** NASB
- **John 3:17** - For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the **world through Him might be saved.**
- **Acts 2:21** - And it shall come to pass **That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'**
- **Romans 10:9** - that if you **confess with your mouth** the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved.**
- **Romans 10:10** – **Salvation is confirmed with the confession of our mouth.** For **with the heart a person believes,** trusts in, and so is justified, and **with the mouth he confesses and confirms Salvation.**

Christ fulfilled the Feast of Passover, being manifested as the Lamb who was slain before the foundation of the earth. We have been justified by the blood of Jesus Christ, and have in Christ experienced the feast of Passover as our initial salvation in Him, and are confirmed through water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Mark 16:16** – He who **believes and is baptized will be saved**; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

The feasts that were connected with the Feast of Passover and are considered to be apart of it are as follows:

- Passover (*14th day of the 1st month) – **DEATH**
- Unleavened Bread (*15th day of the 1st month) – **BURIAL**
- Firstfruits (*16th day of the 1st month) – **RESURRECTION**

(* According to the Hebrew Calendar)

FEAST OF PENTECOST

The **Feast of Pentecost** represents the sanctifying work of God's Word and the Holy Spirit as our down payment and guarantee of our inheritance of anticipation of full redemption!

- **2 Thessalonians 2:13** – **You are saved through sanctification of Holy Spirit and belief in the Truth.**
- **Ephesians 1:14** - **That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it — to the praise of His glory. AMP**

Inheritance means – a possession, lot reward, inherited property, part, portion; that property in real estate which in ordinary course passes from father to son of the former; a portion of an estate made as the substance of a gift; **the prospective condition and possessions of the believer; what the**

believer will be. (Vines) The promise or the possession into which an heir receives upon the death of his ancestor.

FIRSTFRUITS THROUGH SANCTIFICATION

- **2 Thessalonians 2:13** - But we, brethren beloved by the Lord, ought and are obligated to give thanks always to God for you, because God chose you from the beginning as **His firstfruits for salvation through the sanctifying work of the [Holy] Spirit** and [your] **belief in** (trust in, and reliance on) **the Truth.**

Sanctification means - (Grk. hagiasmos, "separation, a setting apart"). The Heb. term qodesh, rendered "sanctify," has a corresponding meaning. The dominant idea of sanctification, therefore, is separation from the secular and sinful and setting apart for a sacred purpose.

- **Titus 3:5-7** - 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy **He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, (6) whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, (7)** that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. NKJV

THE HOLY SPIRIT POURED OUT AT PENTECOST

We see according to scripture that the **Feast of Pentecost** was fulfilled in Acts 2:1-4. It reads as follows:

- **Acts 2:1-4** - And when the **day of Pentecost** had come, **they were all together in one place.** (2) And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. (3) And there appeared to them **tongues as of fire** distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. (4) And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.** NASB

Peter goes on to explain in this scripture passage, that what had just happened was the fulfillment of the outpouring of God's Spirit that was prophesied by the Prophet Joel in **Joel 2:28-29**.

- **Acts 2:17-18** – (17) 'And it shall be in the last days,' God says, 'That I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams; (18) even upon My bond slaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy. NASB

So we can see from the above scripture the fulfillment of what Jesus spoke of in John 14:16 as “*another Comforter*” that the Father would give us, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth. Jesus goes on to explain in verse 26 about the Comforter, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in Jesus’ name, who will lead us into all truth and bring to our remembrance all that Jesus taught. And again Jesus reminds the disciples in Acts 1:5:

- **Acts 1:5** - for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. NASB

A LIVING SACRIFICE OF FIRSTFRUITS (Dispensers of the New Covenant)

- **Exodus 23:16** - Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labors from what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labors from the field. NASB
- **Exodus 34:22** - "And you shall **observe the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest**, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end. NKJV

This was the time of the **wheat harvest** and the **time that the wheat was prepared through threshing**; the hard outer shell being separated from the grain that it might be used as flour for the making and giving of bread unto the Lord. We can not impart to others what we do not possess ourselves. **This is symbolic of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God judging and correcting our soul’s realm** (our heart’s motives) **to prepare us to be pure vessels to impart the bread** (God’s Word, Jesus) **and the wine**, (God’s Spirit) **of life to others. We become dispensers of a new covenant through Christ and pure vessels that the Holy Spirit can flow through as a river of Living Water.** (John 7:38-39)

- **2 Corinthians 3:6** - [It is He] Who has qualified us [making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient] as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant [of salvation through Christ], not [ministers] of the letter (of legally written code) but of the Spirit; for the code [of the Law] kills, but the [Holy] Spirit makes alive. AMP
- **2 Corinthians 5:19** - It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor). AMP

This is a place of threshing, where our souls are experiencing salvation through the separation of our fleshly nature from our spiritual nature, (who we really are in Christ Jesus). This is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of tongues.

In this feast we understand that the Holy Ghost Baptism is the “EARNEST” of our inheritance as Ephesians 1:14 states:

- **Ephesians 1:14** - That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it — to the praise of His glory. AMP

The Feast of Pentecost prepares us to enter the Feast of Tabernacles to obtain the fullness of complete salvation and full redemption, spirit, soul and body.

SALVATION DEALS WITH THE SOUL

3 THINGS THAT SAVE THE SOUL

1. **WASHED** – (1 Corinthians 6:11) Greek *apolouoo* from *apo* away from & *louoo* – to wash the whole being not a part of it. When you are washed by the Word it brings you into COMPLETENESS.
 - **1 Corinthians 6:11** - And such were some of you. But you were WASHED, but you were SANCTIFIED, but you were

JUSTIFIED in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. NKJV

2. **JUSTIFIED** – (Romans 5:1, 9; 6:7) Greek *dikaioo* – to declare righteous or not guilty to render just or innocent. Free from sin. Justification declares him not guilty. One is justified the moment he repents and is forgiven. To die to a thing or person or situation is to have nothing to do with it and be free. We are justified through faith and by Christ's blood. **Not**, we are going to be, **BUT WE ARE---** through the blood that JESUS shed for us ON Calvary. Walking and living in the freedom and liberty of the power of the cross.
- **Romans 5:1, 9** - Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ... (9) Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood, we shall be saved** from wrath through Him. NKJV
 - **Romans 6:7** - For when a man dies, he is freed (loosed, delivered) from [the power of] sin [among men]. AMP
 - **Romans 8:30** - And those whom He thus foreordained, He also called; and those whom He called, He also **justified** (acquitted, made righteous, putting them into right standing with Himself). And those whom **He justified, He also glorified** [raising them to a heavenly dignity and condition or **state of being**]. AMP
3. **SANCTIFIED** – Greek *hagiazō* – to hallow, consecrate, to make holy, purify, to separate – separate from sin unto God. John 17:17 says we are sanctified through the Truth. Thy Word is Truth. Be ye holy for I am Holy. The Word of God is a two edged sword (Heb. 4:12). Living and walking in the Word of Truth; a holy consecrated life.
- **John 17:17** - **Sanctify them** [purify, consecrate, **separate them for Yourself**, make them holy] **by the Truth; Your Word is Truth**. AMP

- **John 17:19** - And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. NKJV
- **Hebrews 10:10, 14** - By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. . . . (14) For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. NASB

FEAST OF TABERNACLES (This Feast fulfills our GLORIFICATION)

The Feast of Tabernacles is the “Feast of His Appearing” in an overcoming people that have followed their Savior and Elder Brother, Jesus Christ, beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies, to possess our inheritance that Christ purchased for us with His very blood.

The essential meaning of this last feast is that God will Tabernacle Himself within and among a people. The church is the ongoing incarnation of God! In this feast we will be brought to the fullness of sonship and brotherhood (Psa. 91:1-6; Heb 4:9; Rev. 21:1-3). Jesus the Pattern Son, was the fullness of the Godhead bodily (John 1:1-14; Col. 1:19; 2:9). He is LORD in Tabernacles. He now intercedes for this great Day of UNITY (Psa. 133; Jn. 17; Eph. 4). He was the “BOOTH” in which the Father lived, and moved and had His being.

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

The Feast of Tabernacles points to our adoption as full-grown sons and the redemption of the body.

- **2 Corinthians 5:1-5** - For we know that if our **earthly house**, this tent, is **destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens**. (2) For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, (3) if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. (4) For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, **that mortality may be swallowed up by life**. (5) Now He who has prepared us for

this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. NKJV

- **1 Corinthians 15:53-57** - For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. (54) So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (55) "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" (56) The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. (57) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. NKJV

We are to become the **mature sons** ("huioi") of God, to be conformed to the image of Christ, to enter His Sabbath rest (Heb. 4:1-9), to become the many-membered Tabernacle for all the fullness of God.

- **Ephesians 2:14-18** - For He is [Himself] our peace (our bond of unity and harmony). He has made us both [**Jew and Gentile**] **one [body]**, and **has broken down** (destroyed, abolished) **the hostile dividing wall between us,** (15) **By abolishing in His** [own crucified] **flesh the enmity [caused by] the Law** with its decrees and ordinances [which He annulled]; **that He from the two might create in Himself one new man** [one new quality of humanity out of the two], so making peace. (16) And [He designed] **to reconcile to God both [Jew and Gentile, united] in a single body by means of His cross,** thereby killing the mutual enmity and bringing the feud to an end. (17) And He came and preached the glad tidings of peace to you who were afar off and [peace] to those who were near. [Isa 57:19.] (18) For it is through Him that we both [whether far off or near] now have an introduction (access) by one [Holy] Spirit to the Father [so that we are able to approach Him]. AMP
- **Romans 1:16** - For I am not ashamed of the **Gospel (good news) of Christ, for it is God's power working unto salvation [for deliverance from eternal death] to everyone who believes** with a personal trust and a confident surrender and firm reliance, to the Jew first and also to the Greek, AMP
- **Ephesians 2:21-22** - in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, (22) in whom you

also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. NKJV

This fullness of the Kingdom will be seen and manifested in an overcoming people ruling and reigning with Jesus Christ in the earth. He is coming in a people before He comes for His people. Paul teaches us in 1 Corinthians 15:46-57, *“it is not the spiritual life which came first, but the physical and then the spiritual.”* Christ came first in the physical to be a pattern and an example for God’s children to be overcomers in the flesh. Paul goes on to teach us in the rest of this scripture passage that those who have borne the image of the 1st Adam who was of the dust and corruption, shall also bear the image of the Last Adam, the Life-giving SPIRIT, Jesus Christ, who is the Incorruptible Seed. Paul goes on to further explain in verse 50 that, *“flesh and blood cannot [become partakers of eternal salvation and] inherit or share in the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable (that which is decaying) inherit or share in the imperishable (the immortal).”* He further teaches us in verses 51-52 to, *“Take notice! I tell you a mystery (a secret truth, an event decreed by the hidden purpose or counsel of God). We shall not all fall asleep [in death], but we shall all be changed (transformed) (52) In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the [sound of the] last trumpet call.”*

Let me ask you the question, “What trumpet is Paul referring to?” It is the **“trumpet” used in the Feast of Trumpets** sounding forth the Day of Atonement that Christ paid our debt in full. This is the Trumpet of Jubilee, that declares every debt forgiven and a new life, a new day in Jesus Christ when God Tabernacles among His people. Paul further explains, *“For a trumpet will sound, and the dead [in Christ] will be raised imperishable (free and immune from decay), and we shall be changed (transformed).”* This is the Feast of Tabernacles manifesting in His people when *“this perishable [part of us] must put on the imperishable [nature], and this mortal [part of us, this nature that is capable of dying] must put on immortality (freedom from death).”*

This is the first resurrection and the receiving of our glorified bodies. We won’t all have to experience death to receive our glorified bodies. There will be a generation that will not experience a physical death, but they will be transformed and receive their glorified bodies along with the overcomers who fell asleep in death awaiting the “better resurrection”.

- **Hebrews 11:35, 39, 40** - Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, in order that they might obtain a **BETTER RESURRECTION**; . . . (39) **And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, (40) because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect.** NASB

This “*better resurrection*” is referring to the “*first resurrection*” of Revelations 20:4-6 and of the overcomers who will rule and reign with Christ in His Millennial kingdom on the earth. This is when the earth will begin to experience the Feast of Tabernacles, and we will experience FULL SALVATION, spirit, soul and body.

Again, this is the pattern of complete salvation. The Feast of Passover symbolizes our initial salvation; where we apply the blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb who was slain before the foundations of the world, to our hearts. Our spirits have been saved. The Feast of Pentecost symbolizes the sanctification of our souls; our souls are being saved. In this realm we are being trained by God’s Spirit and His Word how to hear and be obedient to the voice of God whereby we grow up in holiness and maturity to prepare us to be “sons” to manifest the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit, the nature of the Son, Jesus Christ. This takes us beyond the veil of our fleshly nature to experience the Feast of Tabernacles whereby we experience a complete transformation and change in our mortal bodies to put on immortality, our glorified bodies, being free from death to life in Christ Jesus. Our bodies shall be saved.

We are admonished to practice this until it becomes a reality. This is the baptism of fire whereby we are completely consumed by God Himself, for He is an all consuming fire! (Heb. 12:29)

We are partakers of Christ Jesus because when He died, He left us **His will and testament—a new covenant**, His Spirit, a foretaste, anticipation acquiring complete possession of our inheritance, the redemption of our bodies. (Romans 8:23) We are heirs of promise, possessing our full inheritance as we appropriate the Christ, the Last Adam, the Life giving Spirit. Christ was begotten by the incorruptible Seed of the Father and we have been begotten by Christ. We are heirs of the Father and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. The Father calls us sons and Christ calls us the brethren.

- **Galatians 3:29** - And if you belong to Christ [are in Him Who is Abraham's Seed], then you are Abraham's offspring and [spiritual] heirs according to promise. AMP
- **Galatians 4:6** - **God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, CRYING Abba Father!**

SALVATION THROUGH REVELATION

Our salvation is given to us as a gift from God our Father. We are saved by God's grace through faith. This complete salvation comes through the "revelation" or the revealing of Christ in us the hope of glory! (Col 1:27)

- **Ephesians 2:8** - For **by grace you have been saved through faith,** and that **not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,**

Grace means – to honor or favor, mercy, divine influence, quality of being, unmerited favor.

- **Romans 16:25-26** - Plan of **redemption according to revelation!**
- **Ephesians 3:3** – And that the **mystery** (hidden things, secret) was made known to me and I was allowed to comprehend it by **direct revelation**, as I already briefly wrote you.
- **Ephesians 1:17** - That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a **spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.**

Revelation means: The Greek word "**Apokalupsis**" means "an uncovering; a revealing; an unveiling; disclosure; a laying bare or making naked; instruction; an appearing; a coming; to lighten; manifestation." This is the communication of the word, the mind, the will, the purpose, or the Person of God to the spiritual and mental facilities of man. Revelation is an unveiling of divine truth from God to man. All revelation must be in agreement with the written Word of God.

- **1 Timothy 2:4** - Who desires **all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT CHRIST REDEEMED US!

Christ redeemed us from what? Our sins, missing the mark, yes, but much more, not just to be sustained, but to inherit completion which is the Promise – Whom He is. This is the city Abraham was looking for, the New Jerusalem, the Holy City, the Bride made ready, adorned for her husband, Christ Jesus. Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men and He shall dwell among them and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them. (Rev. 21:2-3) This was God’s plan from the beginning, to bring man back to his original state of immortality. Not only did He restore us to our true identity, but He gave us full access into His very presence. Jesus was our forerunner behind the veil into the very presence of God. (Heb. 6:19-20)

Having the firstfruits of the Spirit, we groan within ourselves waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. (Rom. 8:22-23)

- **Philippians 3:10-11** - That **I may know Him**, and the **power of His resurrection** and the fellowship of His sufferings, **being conformed to His death**; (11) in order that **I may attain to the resurrection from the dead**. (out from among the dead)
- **Philippians 3:21** - **who will transform the body** of our humble state **into conformity with the body of His glory**, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. NASB
- **Romans 6:5** - For if **we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death**, certainly we **shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection**, NASB
- **1 Corinthians 15:20-28** - But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the **first fruits** of those who are asleep. (21) For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. (23) But

each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, (24) **then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.** (25) For **He must reign until** He has put all His enemies under His feet. (26) **The last enemy that will be abolished is death.** (27) For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. (28) And **when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all.** NASB

THE WORD OF GOD DESCRIBES SALVATION AS:

2 Samuel 22:47

JESUS IS THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION – SOLID FOUNDATION

Isaiah 59:17; Eph. 6:17

HELMET OF SALVATION – TOTAL ATONEMENT THROUGH THE BLOOD

Isaiah 61:10

GARMENTS OF SALVATION – COVERING

Luke 1:69

HORN OF SALVATION – POWER

2 Samuel 22:36

SHIELD OF SALVATION – PROTECTION

Isaiah 49:8; 2 Cor. 6:2

NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION

Hebrews 1:14

HEIRS OF SALVATION – INHERITANCE AS SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ALMIGHTY GOD INTO A TOTAL NEW CREATION IN CHRIST JESUS.

Our **SPIRIT** has been saved...Our **SOUL** is being saved...Our **BODY** shall be saved!

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** - Therefore if any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature; all things have passed away and all things become new.

God's Plan of Salvation

Everlasting Life through Jesus Christ

If you have never had the opportunity to know Jesus Christ and begin a personal relationship with Him, let me share with you one of the greatest gift's you will ever receive. God offers it freely to you, although the price Jesus personally paid was great. You can have this gift right now, this very moment by simply accepting it.

- **Romans 6:23** - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. NASB

We all have sinned since birth, we were born into sin. This sin has separated us from God our creator and left us with an emptiness in our lives. We can attempt to fill this place with many things but nothing will satisfy the need we have to be reunited with God, our Father, our Creator.

- **1 John 1:8-9** - If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. NASB

All we need do is confess or acknowledge our sin and believe Jesus shed His blood and gave His life to pay the price and penalty for the forgiveness of our sins and that He was raised from the dead after three days. He has paid for the gift and offers it to us freely. He asks us to believe in Him.

- **Romans 10:9-10** - that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; 10 for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. NASB
- **Acts 16:31** - And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household." NASB

There is nothing we can do to earn this gift, we certainly don't deserve it. All the deeds we could possibly do could not begin to pay the price for the gift.

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast. NASB
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** - Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. NASB

If you would like to begin a new life in the family of God, and a relationship with Jesus Christ, simply say this prayer from your heart. Jesus is waiting to meet you with His arms wide open!

“Lord Jesus I know I am a sinner and You are my only hope for salvation...I ask you to come into my life and to be my Lord and Savior...I surrender myself to you completely...I thank you for the great sacrifice you made on the Cross to pay for all my sins. I accept the free gift of Grace you are offering to me...I desire to have a relationship with You...Come and live within my heart today...I confess You as my “Lord” and “Savior”. Amen.”

If you have sincerely prayed this prayer you have caused quite a party in heaven...You have caused the angels to rejoice.

- **Luke 15:10** - "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." NASB

I rejoice with you as well in your decision to follow Jesus Christ. He is a Friend that will never abandon you.

- **Hebrews 13:5** – For He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,” NASB

Redemption

Jesus Christ paid the ultimate price of **redemption** to **reconcile** us to the Heavenly Father that we might **inherit a full salvation, spirit, soul and body.**

- **Rom 8:23** - And not only this, but also we ourselves, **having the first fruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our **adoption as sons**, the **redemption of our body.** NASB

REDEMPTION means – deliverance, a ransoming, redemption from penalty of sin, repayment of the debt, paid the price in full.

RECONCILE means – to change or exchange; to be restored to the favor of God; to reconcile, to make things right with one another, reconciliation.

- **2 Corinthians 5:19** - It was **God** [personally present] **in Christ**, **reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself**, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and **committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor).** AMP
- **Colossians 1:22** - Yet now has **Christ, the Messiah reconciled you to God in the body of His flesh through death**, in order to **present you holy and faultless and irreproachable in His [the Father's] presence.** AMP

REDEMPTION IS NOT SALVATION

SALVATION means – The Greek word “*soteria*” means deliverance, preservation, salvation, protection, made whole, health, safety.” **A COMPLETE DELIVERANCE.** This misunderstood term is commonly used to refer to the new birth. However, it is an all-inclusive term with a broader scope of meaning. The new birth is the beginning of our salvation. This complete redemption has made provision for the deliverance of man’s spirit and soul and body. Our spirit has been saved, our soul is being saved, and our body shall be saved. There is a common (30-fold), great (60-fold)

and eternal (100-fold) salvation. (2 Cor. 1:10; Acts 4:12; Rom. 1:16; 10:10; 13:11-14; 1 Thess. 5:8; 2 Tim. 3:15-16; Tit. 2:11; Jude 3 with Heb. 2:34 and Heb. 5:8-9) – *Kelley Varner, “Tongue of the Learned”*

We must understand that without the redemptive work of Christ we can not inherit or realize our complete salvation. **The concept of religion says, there is no perfection in this life, the fullness of God can only be known in heaven after we die. If this were true than all we have is forgiveness, not redemption!** The power of redemption of what Christ did on the cross brings us into full salvation. Through faith we are saved by the price that Christ paid by ransoming us. Our new birth, being born again and regeneration is the beginning of salvation. Christ has redeemed all of mankind once and for all. All have been redeemed, but not all have been saved. Salvation occurs when we understand our redemption in Christ. Redemption works out salvation in us. We have been redeemed whether we believe it or not, this doesn't take away from the fact that Christ paid the price in full for our complete and total inheritance as heirs of the Father and joint heirs of **the SON of Promise of WHOM HE IS!**

- **Hebrews 9:11-12; 15** - But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. (12) Not with the blood of goats and calves, but **with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.** . . (15) And for this reason He is **the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.** NKJV - **COMPLETE REDEMPTION**

We have been redeemed whether we believe it or not – our belief doesn't change the fact that Christ paid the price in full for our complete and total inheritance.

REDEMPTION means a return to that place of wisdom, knowledge, brightness, life glory and dominion which we once had in God before the world began. We accept His free gift of redemption without trying to earn it through works. If you believe then you will experience the peace and fruit that comes from the redemptive work of the cross. It saves your soul from living a life of being at enmity with God.

REDEEMED WITH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

- **1 Peter 1:18-19** - knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. NASU
- **Ephesians 1:7** - In Him we have redemption (deliverance and salvation) through His blood, the remission (forgiveness) of our offenses (shortcomings and trespasses), in accordance with the riches and the generosity of His gracious favor, AMP

Our redemption was purchased with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Christ paid the ultimate price giving His very life and shedding His precious blood, to reconcile us back to the Father.

To understand redemption and why Jesus Christ had to shed His blood for us, we must look at what the Old Testament has to say about the lawful right of redemption.

RIGHT OF REDEMPTION

What happened when a man incurred debts, he was unable to repay?

Jesus tells us a parable about this in **Matthew 18:23-35**. According to verse 25 because the man was unable to repay the debt he owed, he, his wife and his children were sold as bondservants until he paid off the debt.

He and his family would have to work for their master until the debt was paid or either until the Year of Jubilee when every debt was forgiven by grace or a relative came forth to redeem them, paying their debt in full.

Leviticus 25:47-55 tells us the law of redemption. It says a relative has the right of redemption as long as he has the means to pay the debt in full. If a friend tried to redeem the bondservant the master had the right to except or refuse. But if a relative wanted to redeem the bondservant the master had no choice but to accept, because only the relative has the right of redemption. Jesus alone has the right of redemption and He paid the purchase price in full with His blood.

JESUS, OUR ELDER BROTHER, OUR REDEEMER

Hebrews 2:11-17 says, that Jesus came to the earth and took the form of man, being the seed of Abraham, taking on human flesh and blood thereby qualifying as a **relative of all mankind**. **In verse 11 it says that we all have one Father and that Jesus is our brother. This gave Jesus the right of redemption for all men all the way back to Adam, delivering them from the power and fear of death which had enslaved them.**

- **Hebrews 2:11** - For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are **all from one Father**; for which reason **He is not ashamed to call them brethren**, NASB
- **Hebrews 2:14-15** - Since then the **children share in flesh and blood**, **He Himself likewise also partook of the same**, that through death **He might render powerless him who had the power of death**, that is, the devil; (15) and might **deliver** those who through fear of death were **subject to slavery** all their lives. NASB

The law of redemption says that those who agree to be redeemed by a near relative must serve their redeemer (Lev. 25:53). In other words, those who are redeemed are not set free to do their own pleasure. The redeemer has purchased their debt note, and therefore, they are still bondservants—**but now they are bondservants of One who loves them.**

Jesus Christ paid the purchase price with His very blood and has set us free from the bondage of sin and we are free to live according to righteousness. Sin no longer has dominion over us (Rom. 6:14).

- **Romans 6:18** - **And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.** NKJV
- **Romans 6:22-23** - But now since **you have been set free from sin and have become the slaves of God**, you have your **present reward in holiness (consecration or purification)** and its end is eternal life. (23) For the wages which sin pays is death, but the [bountiful] free gift of God is eternal life through (in union with) Jesus Christ our Lord. AMP

REDEMPTION CAUSES US TO POSSESS OUR FULL INHERITANCE IN CHRIST

We were sold into sin by Adam when he yielded to self-consciousness and his own fleshly desires. But now we have been redeemed, ransomed and purchased back, by Jesus Christ the Last Adam, setting us free to inherit a full salvation of everlasting life in Him.

What was the inheritance that Adam forfeited when he sinned and disobeyed God? To answer this question we must first understand what Adam had and enjoyed when God created him, placing him in the garden to tend and keep it for God.

In Genesis 1:26-28 it says that God created Adam, male and female, in His own image and likeness giving them complete authority over everything on the earth. God blessed them and commanded them to be fruitful, multiplying and filling the earth. He also commanded them to subdue it and have dominion over it. They had no need of anything, for God was their total provision, pleasure, and protection. They were totally fulfilled in Him enjoying His presence without separation from Him. They walked in complete and full health, joy, and peace without anxiety, stress or fear. There was no death or sorrow, no decay or lack, there was only LIFE and that being the **FULLNESS OF GOD'S LIFE**. They walked in the "cool of the day" or "in the Spirit of the day". **They walked in a state of glorification!** So we see that Adam forfeited and exchanged IMMORTALITY (a deathless state of being) for MORTALITY (decay and death).

- **1 Peter 1:23 - You have been regenerated (born again), not from a mortal (corruptible seed) origin, but from one that is immortal (incorruptible) by the ever living and lasting Word of God.** AMP

GOD'S SPIRIT IS THE GUARANTEE OF OUR INHERITANCE

- **Galatians 4:5-7 - in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (6) And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (7) Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.** NASB

Through the redemptive finished work of Christ on the cross we can now be called sons of God. The guarantee or the pledge of our receiving our full redemption and adoption as sons is through God's Spirit, which He has sent forth into our hearts whereby we recognize God as our Father and that we are sons of God, through Jesus Christ, the SON. We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ!

- **Ephesians 1:14** - **That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance** [the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], **in anticipation of its full redemption** and our acquiring [complete] possession of it — to the praise of His glory. **AMP**
- **1 Peter 1:4** - to an **inheritance incorruptible** and undefiled and that does not fade away, **reserved in heaven for you**, NKJV

ADOPTION AS SONS

I want to reiterate Romans 8:23:

- **Rom 8:23** - And not only this, but also we ourselves, **having the first fruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our **adoption as sons**, the **redemption of our body**. NASB

What does the phrase “*adoption as sons*” really mean? To answer this question let's look at what “*adoption*” means:

- Unger's Bible Dictionary takes “**adoption**” from the Greek word *huiothesia*, the “**placing**” as a “**son**” or **SONSHIP**. **Adoption** is a word of **position rather than relationship**. The believer's relation to God as a child results from the new birth (John 1:12-13), whereas adoption is the **divine act** whereby **one who is already a child is, through redemption** from the law, **placed in the position of an adult son** (Gal 4:1-5). The word adoption is also used by the apostle Paul with reference to the full and final outcome of salvation, the complete “revealing of the sons of God”.

We may now understand the scripture passage in Galatians 4:1-2 & 5 which says:

- **Galatians 4:1-2; 5** - Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, (2) but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. . (5) to redeem those who were under the law, that **we might receive the adoption as sons.** NKJV

In other words, we must first **learn to be obedient as servants** to the Lord, allowing the Holy Spirit to teach and train us according to the Father's heart, so that we can come into maturity. **Only through learning obedience to all the will of the Father do we come into maturity of "the adoption of sons", obtaining "sonship".**

- This "*adoption*" in Paul's day was not what we call adoption today. This is not a reference to adopting a child from another family. It was the **placement of the fully-matured son into a position of full authority over the estate, giving him full legal rights to the inheritance.** It is like giving someone power of attorney over the estate. From that point on, the son's signature on a document would be legally binding. This comes when the Father knows He can trust the son to do everything that He himself would do. In other words, the son has learned to serve and now is ready to rule. The **full placement of sons** is also called the **manifestation of the sons of God.** These terms are applicable to the **fully-matured sons who go beyond Pentecost into the experience of the Feast of Tabernacles.**

Only the Heavenly Father knows the appointed time for us. We can also relate this to the feasts. We have experienced the Feast of Passover with Jesus shedding His blood as the Passover Lamb and paying the price for our redemption, causing our spirits to be awoken and born from above. We have experienced the Feast of Pentecost, with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, a foretaste, the guarantee and down payment of full redemption, where we are learning to be obedient as servants, our souls (emotions, thoughts and desires) being governed and trained to come into subjection to Christ, as firstfruits, so that we can experience the Feast of Tabernacles (fullness of Spirit), the glorification of our bodies to be one body united to the head, Christ Jesus, to be one with the Father in all His fullness, ruling and reigning with the Son as sons of God. When we experience the Feast of His Appearing than we shall be like Him for we shall see Him just as He is, and only the Father knows the appointed and fixed time.

**ONLY THEN WILL WE EXPERIENCE FULL AND COMPLETE
SALVATION, SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY!**

PLAN OF REDEMPTION ACCORDING TO REVELATION

The effectiveness of your salvation depends on your revelation of the truth of the Word; not by works or by knowledge, but by pure motives of the heart to consecration and **hunger to pursue and water the seed for growth with Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

- **Roman 16:25-26** - Now to Him Who is able to strengthen you in the faith which is in accordance with my Gospel and the preaching of (concerning) Jesus Christ (the Messiah), **according to the revelation** (the unveiling) **of the mystery of the plan of redemption** which was kept in silence and secret for long ages, (26) **But is now disclosed and through the prophetic Scriptures** is made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, [to win them] to obedience to the faith, AMP

The Principle of the Tithe

TITHE MEANS – the word “*dekate*” means “*a tenth*”. **Ten** is the number of the law, which establishes “*divine order*”; it signifies “*the work of the law*.” First 10th is apart of the whole.

THE PRINCIPLE OF SOWING AND REAPING

- **2 Corinthians 9:6** - But this I say: **He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**
- **Luke 6:37-38** - "Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. **For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.**" NASB
- **Matthew 13:23** - But he who received seed on the good ground is he who **hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.**" NKJV

To the measure that we give out, is to the measure that we will receive. If we sow sparingly we will reap sparingly. If we sow liberally, we will reap liberally. It is the law or principle of sowing and reaping. If we live by this principle, giving out of ourselves, not putting limitations on what we give we will reap from an unlimited storehouse of blessings.

Let me give an example. In 1 Kings 17:8-16 we see that there was a famine in the land and God sent Elijah to a widow woman in Zephath. Elijah was instructed by God to ask the widow woman for water and bread. She responds by saying in verse 12, "*As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.*" Elijah tells her not to fear but to take *what she has* and to make him a cake first and than to make for herself and her son. He tells her that the provisions will not run out until the famine is over. She was obedient to the Word of the Lord and gave to God first then

God multiplied it and it did not run out according to the Word of the Lord. This is the principle of sowing and reaping.

30-FOLD TITHE Realm of Body (Natural)

We give a tenth of our finances. (Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 7:2; Mal. 3:8-10; 2 Cor. 9:6-7). The realm of 30-fold is an “*in part*” realm. As children we must be taught this principle. There must be a beginning or a starting point in our lives to teach us this principle, *until* it becomes apart of our hearts. Paul tells us in Galatians 3:24-25, “*Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*” In other words the tenth or the divine law is a starting point to establish “*divine order*” in our lives which leads us to living in the unlimited realm of faith that goes beyond what we can comprehend in the natural. Paul goes on to say in verse 25, “*But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*” Why? Because this truth overtakes us and our faith in God’s Word causes us to live in unlimited provision whereby we have no need. Our security and dependency is totally in Him thereby allowing us to release and give all that we have because He is our total source. That’s FAITH!

- **2 Corinthians 9:6-9** - Now this I say, **he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.** **7 Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.** **8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;** NASB
- **Malachi 3:9-12** - "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! **10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.** **11 "Then I will rebuke the devourer** for you, so that it may not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts. **12 "And all the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land,"** says the LORD of hosts. NASB

60-FOLD TITHE Realm of Soul

We give love, mercy, faith, justice. (Matt. 23:23; 1 Thess. 2:7; Phil 2:1-5)

- **Matthew 23:23** - "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and **have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.** NASB

Isn't this what we do as well when we think we can give a tithe and this justifies us and makes us spiritual? "I've been obedient; I've given my ten percent, so now I can spend the rest on me!" Isn't that what we say to ourselves? All along neglecting what is really important to God, which is having a heart to love, serving Him and others with all our resources and all we possess.

God is about building His children into a spiritual expression of His heart and love to administer His mercy, His justice and His righteousness in the earth. God is not interested in our building our ministries, but building up a people to become His called out ones, His church in the earth. This is done through the governmental ministry to teach and train God's children; Christ's church, until we all come into unity of faith unto a mature, spiritual man.

- **Philippians 2:1-6** - If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by **being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.** 3 **Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;** 4 **do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.** 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, NASV

100-FOLD TITHE

Realm of Spirit

WE BECOME THE TITHE. (Isa. 6:9-13; Num. 18:26; Neh. 10:38; Is. 53:6; Mat. 18:12; Jer. 3:14) Acts 2:41-47

- **Exodus 25:2** - Speak to the Israelites, that they take for Me an offering. From every man who gives it willingly and ungrudgingly with his heart you shall take My offering. AMP

- **Acts 4:32-35** - Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. 33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. 34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. NKJV

WE ARE NOT TO GIVE THE TITHE; WE ARE TO BECOME THE TITHE! THE HIGHEST ORDER OF ANYTHING IS TO BECOME IT!

WHAT IS THE TITHE?

The tithe is 10% of the increase, established in Leviticus 27:30-33 as an offering Holy to the Lord. The scripture identifies the tithe as grain and fruit, herd and flock. The tithe was food. A good example of this would be that if you were a shepherd who had 100 sheep and you were blessed with an increase of 50 lambs in the spring, than you would offer as a tithe to the Lord five of those lambs. You would than take the tithe and offer it in the temple in Jerusalem in acknowledgment and appreciation of God's provision for you.

WHAT WAS THE TITHE FOR?

The tithe was instituted to establish divine order in giving. The tithe is just a beginning to teach us the principle that God owns EVERYTHING. The tithe

was to provide for the needs of the priestly tribe of Levi, so that they were free to minister unto the Lord in behalf of His people. They had no earthly inheritance like the other tribes, but God was to be their inheritance or their portion.

Jesus Christ came into the earth and fulfilled the divine law, becoming our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. We are now called to be a royal priesthood unto Jesus Christ. Our giving now goes beyond the tithe or the 10th. Rather than giving of the tithe and offerings, we become the tithe and offering, not only in our finances, but in our time and talents with our whole being, because the divine law has been established in our hearts.

Jesus did not teach the giving of the tenth or the tithe. We see this in Mark 10:17-30, where the rich young ruler came to Jesus and asks Him what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus recites the 10 commandments to him and his reply was that he was careful to guard and observe all these since his boyhood. The scripture tells us that Jesus *“looking upon him, loved him, and said to him. . .”* :

- Verse 21 - . . . **You lack one thing; go and sell all you have and give [the money] to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come [and] accompany Me [walking the same road that I walk].** (AMP)

We see that this young man was faithful to keep the tenth, but Jesus was commanding him to become the tenth. Jesus goes on to explain to the disciples in verse 23, *“with what difficulty will those who possess wealth and keep on holding it enter the kingdom of God!”* Jesus gives his disciples in the following verses a promise to those who have been willing to give up everything to follow Him.

- **Mark 10:29-30** - Jesus said, Truly I tell you, **there is no one who has given up and left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for My sake and for the Gospel's. 30 Who will not receive a hundred times as much now in this time** — houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions — **and in the age to come, eternal life.** AMP

We must be willing to go beyond the tenth to the hundredth. Under the NEW COVENANT we become the WHOLE TITHE AND OFFERING.

IT'S ABOUT THE HEART

God's heart of victory for us is all about obedience. Jesus only did what the Father desired for Him to do. There have been times in my life that I thought if I gave enough to the Lord financially He would bless me, not realizing I had wrong motives. When He didn't bless me or answer my prayer, I would try and con God by giving more, reminding God of His Word that says, "Give and it shall be given unto you....etc." But the Lord was not moved by that. I wasn't dealing with the real issues of my heart. James 4:2b-3 says, "*You do not have because you do not ask. **You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.***" We continued to struggle for a long time in financial lack and bondage to credit cards, trying to con God by faithfully giving and even giving above our tithe. It wasn't working and one day my mother had a word for me from God which was "***obedience is better than sacrifice***"! We must learn this principle. Being obedient in one area doesn't void out the disobedience in another area. It doesn't work that way; God desires the WHOLE BURNT OFFERING, which is a CONSECRATED LIFE. We can not pick and choose what areas we want to be obedient in if we are to be overcomers. We must learn the obedience of Christ to become a living sacrifice whereby we give unconditionally without expecting anything in return but because we truly love Him.

There was another time in my life when my husband and I were going through another time of financial bondage from disobedience. I thought I could con God into giving my husband and I another vehicle by giving our best vehicle to a family who had no vehicle. The next morning as I got up to spend time with the Lord, feeling very victorious and proud of myself, I heard the dreadful cutting words in my spirit "You have blessed rebellion!" Those words cut deep within my heart and I knew deep down the Lord was correcting me for my wrong motives. I also wanted to have a "testimony" to tell others what "I" had done. The Lord convicted me also of this and showed me my wrong motive. Is this not the sin of "*ambition*", which is rooted in the *pride of life*?

The ironic thing is that I was never able to share it as a "testimony" the way I had intended because my conscience before God would not let me. But now God is allowing me to share it as an example to teach truth. Our hearts are deceitfully wicked, only when we really want to live in truth can the Lord use these things to put His finger on the wrong desires and motivations

of our hearts. I thought at the time I was being obedient to the Lord, blinded by selfish ambition, I didn't realize at that moment that I was conning God. You see for some time afterwards I was still making the excuse that I was giving my best to the Lord and it wasn't until some time afterwards that I was willing to see the truth and admit to wrongful motives for giving that vehicle away. Brokenness came over my heart and as I wept before the Lord confessing my wrong motives in true repentance, He faithfully washed my sin and guilt away, replacing it with forgiveness that brought about a feeling of peace, joy and righteousness in Him. (*Testimonies by Pastor Valerie Richards*)

Psalms 50:5; 51:16-17 & 1 Sam. 15:22 tell us the kind of sacrifices that God desires:

- **Psalms 50:5** - "Gather My godly ones to Me, **Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.**" NASB
- **Psalms 51:16-17** - For Thou dost not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; Thou art not pleased with burnt offering. 17 **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.** NASB

OBEDIENCE IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE

Yes, King Saul thought he could con God too. In 1 Samuel chapter 15 verses 1-3 the Lord sends Samuel to tell King Saul to go and "*utterly destroy*" Amalek and put to death all the people and the animals including, the oxen and sheep, etc. As we read this account we find that Saul was disobedient to what God commanded him to do. Verse 8 says, "*And he (Saul) captured Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to destroy them utterly; but everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.*" In other words they coveted the best for themselves and destroyed only the worthless.

As we read on God reveals to the prophet Samuel how Saul had been disobedient and rebelled against following Him. God has Samuel go and confront Saul about his actions. Saul thought his rebellion against God could be justified by his excuse to the prophet that he was doing God's will and

they were going to make a sacrifice of the spoils to the Lord. It didn't work then and it won't work now! This is when Samuel tells Saul in verse 22:

- **1 Samuel 15:22** - So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. NKJV

God can not nor will He bless rebellion. God knows our hearts, no matter how much we want to justify or cover them up. He can not bless our fleshly realm of disobedience. That goes against His Word and it's not a matter of whether God is fulfilling His Word or not, no, it's that we can't pick and choose what we want to be obedient to. We must receive the whole of His Word if we want to reap the benefits of that Word. It is simply founded in this one truth; we reap out of the law that we are sowing out of. We either sow out of the Spirit or out of our flesh. From the Spirit we will reap life, and from the flesh we will reap death. It's black and white, there are no grey areas!

God desires truth in the inward parts; He desires obedience to His word and for us to be willing to be teachable in His dealings with our hearts. All it takes is a repentant contrite heart to deal with the issues to get on the right track to God's favor and blessings. The awesome thing is that when we are broken before the Lord and confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1John 1:9). I thank Him for His mercy as a loving Father and for His forgiveness. Dealing with these issues has caused the greatest growth in our lives to become like our Savior.

God does not need our tithe or 10 percent. **Psalms 24:1** tells us that "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness of it, the world and they who dwell in it.", and we also see in Haggai 2:8 that the Lord says, "The silver is mine and the gold is mine!" God has no need! It's all about the motives of the heart. If we truly put Him first we will do everything we can to build the kingdom of God in the earth.

We see this example in the story of the widow's mite found in Mark 12:41-44. She gave ALL that she had.

- **Mark 12:41-44** - Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put

in much. 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. 43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood." NKJV

WHAT GOD IS CONCERNED ABOUT IS THE MOTIVATION OF OUR HEARTS.

The Lord wants us to give out of an obedient, pure heart of love and devotion to Him and to His body.

Paul gives us an example of this in 2 Corinthians chapter 8 about the Macedonian believers who gave a financial gift (to relieve the sufferings of another fellowship in Jerusalem), *"in a **great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.** 3 For I bear witness that **according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability,** they were **freely willing,** 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints."* Paul further states this type of **principle and example** of giving by Christ in 2 Corinthians 8:9 whereby *"though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."* This is a sacrificial type of giving and is an example of the 100-fold type of giving; becoming the tithe or offering! This is the offering and sacrificial gift of the OVERCOMER!

When we allow God to deal with the issues of our heart and we have a repentant, contrite heart to live in truth, than everything we give will be a PURE SACRIFICE which is an ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE whereby He alone gets ALL THE GLORY! This is the type of giving God requires and desires.

Another awesome example of this is found in Mark 7:11 when Jesus rebuke's the religious leaders of Israel for putting emphasis on their traditions and the works of the law rather than the spirit of the commandments of God. The priests of that time allowed a person to neglect taking care of their parents and shirking their responsibilities by justifying their actions by claiming "Corban". In claiming "Corban" they were using the excuse that their land and possessions were given to God, but at the same

time retaining their goods for themselves. Their motives were clearly wrong and before God they were not acquitted from their responsibility to honor their father and mother. Jesus also rebukes the religious leaders in Matthew 23:23 for paying tithes in mint, dill and cumin, but neglecting the weightier or more important provisions of the law, like justice, mercy and faithfulness. He tells them, "These things you should have done without omitting or neglecting the other."

IN CONCLUSION

You may be asking the question, "How then shall I give?" There are three ways that 2 Corinthians 9:7 teaches us to give unto the Lord:

- **2 Corinthians 9:7- Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.**

1. **As each one purposes in his heart to give.**

- Your giving is between you and God. Ultimately you are not giving to man but giving to the Lord.
- As we seek the Lord and ask Him to show us how and what he wants us to give, He will speak to our hearts and direct us. Then we need to be obedient and purpose in our hearts to give accordingly by faith.

2. **Not grudgingly** (sadness; unwilling; sour, reluctant mind) or **under compulsion** (constraint or distress).

- This kind of giving comes from feeling pressured to help someone out of their problems, or giving out of our distress hoping that God will then bail us out of our troubles. Either way this is not the right motive for giving.

3. **But as a cheerful giver** (joyous; merry ("hilarious"), i.e. prompt or willing to do anything).

- This is the kind of giving God loves. His desire for us is to have a willing heart to give what He has put in our hearts out of our love for Him.
- God loves this kind of giver.

Paul also teaches in 2 Corinthians chapters 8 & 9 that the church of Corinth had purposed to help the saints at Macedonia with a financial gift in their time of need. Paul reminds them of their commitment in 2 Cor. 8:10-15 and tells them in verse 12 that they should give *“according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.”* Paul further adds in verse 13-15:

- **2 Corinthians 8:13-15** – “For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; 14 but by an equality, that now at this time **your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack** — that there may be equality. 15 As it is written, **“He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.”**

Again, we see the Spirit of the Law of giving. The first Apostles taught the children of God not to hoard their money for themselves when their brothers and sisters in other fellowships were in need. Paul uses the principle from Exodus 16:15-18, where God provides manna from heaven. The people were instructed to only take what they needed for the day. They were not to hoard the food as if God would not be faithful to provide for the morrow. Those who only took what they needed and trusted God to provide for the future had no lack. Do you trust God?