

Matter

By Timothy Richards

God has been speaking to me about “*matter*,” which is part of the word *materialism*. I shared with you, our church family, how God has been delivering me from wanting “things” to fulfill me. Just recently He has taken away my desire to buy a house. When I prayed about buying a house, He showed me that it was not the right time and that I should not worry about it until other events unfolded in my life. He showed me that my desire was only motivated to impress people and to show them that I was capable of taking care of a house. The Lord revealed to me that the need to impress stems from insecurities within me and has been the root problem to my spending habits. He’s been showing me that when I operate out of materialism, I am operating in a lower mindset that hinders me from being in the spirit realm; mainly because my mind is focused on the material possessions that I own and I have made them my self-worth.

I looked up the word ***materialism*** and this is what I found:

Materialism is, ***the theory that worldly possessions and well-being constitute the greatest good and highest value in life. It is the theory that reality is made up of only matter and our emotions and feelings are simply because of the matter around us. That they (emotions and thoughts) exist because of matter and can only be explained in terms of matter.***

If materialism is made up of matter, then what is matter? The word ***Matter*** means - *occupies space, has mass, physical material that which makes up something, substance, physical objects. Mass being an object which has gravitational pull and is a body of matter with no definite shape.* The Strong’s Concordance defines ***matter*** as, “*Fleshly, carnal, having nature of flesh, under control of the carnal appetites, governed by mere human nature not by the Spirit of God.*”

Matthew 12:43-44 says, "Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. (44) Then it says, '***I will return to my house from which I came***'; and when it comes, it finds it ***unoccupied, swept, and put in order.***"

This was an awesome revelation for me. Now I understand that what was attempting to overtake the Spirit within me was basically matter.

Our heart is a throne that either Christ sits upon or the enemy of our souls, our carnal desires, emotions and intellect, sits upon. When our heart is dormant and unoccupied it leaves an open door for something else to come in and take the throne. I am realizing that this can only happen if we do not allow Christ to occupy our heart.

We see this truth in **Revelation 12:7-10** which says, *"Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his **angels** (a messenger of God, a pastor, prophet, priest or teacher; also elohiym – ruler, judges, divine ones, angels) went forth to battle with the **dragon** (a fabulous kind of serpent), and the dragon and his angels fought. (8) But they were defeated, **and there was no room found for them in heaven any longer.**" (9) And the great dragon was **cast down**, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was **cast down** to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him. (10) Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been **cast down**, he who accuses them before our God day and night.*

In order for the dragon to be **cast down** he had to see that Christ ruled and that there was no more room in the "heavenlies" for him. Michael who is symbolic of the overcomer, whose name means "who is like our God", stood and waged war with the dragon and won. We have to stand in the power of God and walk by faith if we are to come out of the state of matter and come out of being ruled by our fleshly carnal thinking. Matter occupies space. We must make sure there is no space in our heart that it can occupy.

Matthew 14:28-31 says, *"Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." (29) And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. (30) **But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink,** he cried out, "Lord, save me!" (31) Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, **"You of little faith, why did you doubt?"***

Jesus wasn't weighed down by the gravitational pull of this world. He walked on water because **matter** was not a part of His world. **Romans 8:5** also tells us, "For

those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”

Jesus’ mind was not set on the flesh but on the Spirit and so he walked according to the Spirit. He was not focused on the wind and the waves like Peter but His whole focus was on the Father and so **He lived in a higher dimension than matter**. He walked according to faith and not by sight. He even said to Peter, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” Jesus’ statement shows the “gravity” of how much there needs to be emphasis on “faith” because without it we stay in a mindset of physical limitations. Living in Christ is an unlimited place. Faith takes us out of the impossible and into the possible. Matter also affects how we feel. We let situations and things that surround us dictate how we feel causing our emotions to rule us. Faith takes us out of our emotions and feelings because we know we can hear from God and gives us peace and joy because we are learning to stand in it and Trust Him. I was worrying about buying a house and how I was going to get one, but when I gave my worry to Jesus, He took all that worry and fret away from me. Now I know He will allow me to have one when I am ready, when my life is in order and when it’s His timing.

One of the words for “material” is “**garment.**” This reminded me of **Genesis 3:21** which says, “*The Lord God made **garments** of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.*” God made them garments of skin when they sinned against Him. This is so apropos because when we sin and come under that carnal thinking we are exchanging, like Adam, the glory of God for that of the beastly nature. **They put on material, matter, when they had already been made in the image and likeness of God.**

Genesis 1:26 says, “*Then God said, “**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.**” 27 **God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**”*

This verse just reemphasizes how we were made in His image. The Bible says to know God is to know Him in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24). God is Spirit and if we were made in His image and likeness we too are to be spirit beings, not ruled by matter but by His Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 also says, “For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; **for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**”

The thing I am realizing is just how temporal it all is.

2 Peter 3:10-13, in the Amplified version, explains this truth when it says, “*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will vanish (pass away) with a thunderous crash, **and the [material] elements [of the universe] will be dissolved with fire, and the earth** (soil, a region, the inhabitants of the earth) **and the works** (deeds, employment, effort of occupation) **that are upon it will be burned up.*** 11 *Since all these things are thus in the process of being dissolved, what kind of person ought [each of] you to be [in the meanwhile] in consecrated and holy behavior and devout and godly qualities,* 12 *While you wait and earnestly long for (expect and hasten) the coming of the day of God by reason of which the flaming heavens will be dissolved, and the [material] elements [of the universe] will flare and melt with fire? [Isa 34:4.]* 13 **But we look for new heavens and a new earth according to His promise, in which righteousness (uprightness, freedom from sin, and right standing with God) is to abide.**

The Greek word *elements* means – *principals (fundamental), rudiments, elements from which all things have come, the material causes of the universe. **Element – constituents of matter.** Each element is distinguished by its **ATOMIC** number, i.e. the number of protons in the nuclei of its atoms. Each of more than one hundred substances that cannot be chemically inter converted or broken down into simpler substances and are primary constituents of **matter.***

This goes along with 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 which tells us that the overcomers who are alive and remain at Christ’s appearing in the earth will not experience death, but they will all be changed or transformed (metamorphose) in a “moment” or as the Greek word *atomos* denotes, in the atoms. An *atom* is the smallest indivisible particle of matter. It means – *uncuttable, that which cannot be cut in two or divided, indivisible*; for it cannot be broken down any further. Everything about us, to the smallest particle of matter is going to be transformed and changed for His glory.

The scripture says the elements are going to be dissolved with fire. The Greek word *dissolve or shall melt* in this passage means – to loose any person (or thing) tied or fastened, to loose one bound up or bound in chains – loose from prison, let go, to unbind, release from bonds, to set free; to loosen, undo, dissolve, anything bound, tied or compacted together. Laws, as having a binding force, are likened to bonds, the law of sin and death. To deprive of authority, to declare unlawful, to break up, demolish, destroy, to overthrow, to do away with. **“TO LOOSEN” (literally and figuratively) means, break up, destroy, dissolve, (un) loose, melt, put off.**

Then this physical body made up of matter that is passing away will be LOOSED from its bondage to the perishable and will put on the imperishable - the immortal (deathless) glorified body. How is this mortality of the physical matter destroyed, dissolved or burned up? It is destroyed by fire or as some other translations say, intense heat? The word *heat* means, **“to set on fire”** – *burning, burning up, light, to consume with fire*. To burn means to change. When something is burned up, it is not destroyed, meaning it does not exist anymore, but instead it is changed into another form and it is always upward in its motion. We are consumed by His divine fire, since God is an all-consuming fire. (Heb. 12:29) The purpose of the fire is to purify us and change our character so we can receive our new bodies (1 Peter 4:12; James 1:2 & 12; Rom 5:3). This is when we will receive our New Heaven and New Earth. The New Heaven being our minds and the New Earth being our bodies, where righteousness will dwell - complete, full salvation in Christ.

We see that God’s purpose from the beginning was to bring us back to the garden where we are no longer consumed by matter and dependent on it to survive, but we are sustained by the Word of the Tree of Life (Jesus Christ). What would we rather have, something temporary or eternal? I can’t worry about things or continue to try to get things to fulfill me. When my focus is on God, He provides for all my needs. If we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, then all things will be added unto us.