





*You Are Beloved  
And Longed For*

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## **Introduction**

Do you long to be accepted in God's love, but it seems you can't do all the right things to find that acceptance? Do you long to have gifts and talents and use them for Him, but your imperfections stop you? Do you fear drawing close to God and His people because they might see your faults and reject you? Are you bound from your past, its sin, or your failures? Do these stop you from being able to run to God's arms and draw close to Him? Are you always looking for acceptance from those around you out of a hunger to belong? Are you insecure in who you are and compare yourself to others constantly? Do your insecurities cause you to be critical of others? Are you so afraid of being wrong or afraid of failure? Do you constantly get messed up in bad relationships that draw you away from God because of the void in your life that needs to be filled? If someone rejects you or chastises you do you reject yourself? Do you lash out at others when you have been rejected or chastised? Do you have a weakness to people's opinions of you? Can other people's opinions talk you out of your relationship with God, because they don't believe you have one, you actually feel as if you don't? Is your love for God and your understanding of His love for you so great that it has broken your will and you are submitting

your way and your flesh to Him? Is your relationship with God real?

If the answers to most of these questions are negative, you need to read this book. You have been made accepted in the Beloved. You need to know what that means and walk in that understanding. If you know what it means to be accepted in the Beloved, then you still need to read it to be reminded of the power of God's love in your life and to bask in the glory of that love. If you have not given your heart to Jesus or haven't found that wonderful relationship with Him, you will need to read this book most of all, so that you can find His great love for you.

Child of God, we are beloved of Him.



## **Chapter 1. The Closest Thing To the Heart of God**

Matthew 3:17 and many other verses tell us about the closeness of God and His Son, Jesus. "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Luke 20: 13 says, "Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; it may be they will reverence him when they see him." Jesus was very close to the heart of God. He was not born in a little manger on Christmas, but He dwelled in eternity with God from the beginning of time. He is so close to God that He is a part of God. The Bible tells us in John 1:1-2 and 14, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." There is a great love between the Father and His Son. John 17:21 tells us in Jesus' Words, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." This is a wonderful love. They exist as one in complete harmony and fellowship with one another. Love is a powerful force when it unites in this way.

This kind of love can only come from God. When Jesus hung on the cross, God could not stand to look on our sins that His Son took on Himself to die for and turned away. Matthew 27:46 tells us that Jesus cried out, "...My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?" We can barely comprehend how great and wonderful God's love is for His Son.

This book was written to remind you that there is one thing that is closer to the heart of God than His Son, Jesus. That one thing prompted Him to sacrifice His Son on the cross. That greater love is the love He has for you, for us, for all of His children who are born again into His kingdom, who obey and cherish His Word, who love His fellowship and praise, those that will one day be His eternal bride. We look at our failures, our fears, our past, our struggles, our imperfections and weaknesses, and we more often than not fail to see ourselves as we are in the eyes of God. *We are His beloved.*

Why did He send His Son that He loves so dearly to suffer like He did. John 17:22-23 says it so well. "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one..." He wanted you to share in that love that He has with His Son. He wanted to adopt you to be an heir to His kingdom. (Romans 8:17: "And if

children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him that we may be also glorified together.") He wanted to draw you to Himself and pour out His riches on you (Deuteronomy 7:13-14: "And He will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee...Thou shalt be blessed above all people....")

We see our imperfections and pull away because we think He can't love us. Oh, but He does. He wants us to forget our own opinions of who we think we are, and become wrapped up in who He thinks we are. If we would just run to His love and not away from it. Who does He call to Himself? Proverbs 8:17 tells us, "I love them that love me: and those that seek me early shall find me." How long will He love us? Jeremiah 31:3 tells us, "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." We will fail. God knows this better than we do. We will have many imperfections. But when we seek Him with all our heart, and with all our heart desire to serve Him, His love will be there for us. He will call us His Sons (I John 3:1: Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...). He will call us His beloved. (Romans 9:25: "As He saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my

people; and her beloved which was not beloved.") (Psalm 60:5 "That thy beloved may be delivered; save with thy right hand..."), (Romans 11:28- "...they are beloved for the Father's sake.") (II Thessalonians 2:13- "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren, beloved of the Lord...."), ( I John 3:2- "Beloved now are we the sons of God...."). *You are Beloved.*

## **Chapter 2. That Ye May Be Able To Comprehend**

Ephesians 3:16-20 tells us, "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, *may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge*, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." I have italicized part of this passage for emphasis because it is the part I want to concentrate on.

Picture this for a moment. There is a very wealthy man who has a son and an adopted son. The adopted son left home at an early age and separated himself away from his father. The man dies. He leaves his unimaginable riches to his son. His son gives all of it to the adopted son. The adopted son receives notice of the passing of his father and is notified that the son has passed the inheritance to him. He can't believe that this has happened. He can only think of all the time that he failed his father and his adopted brother. He can only think of the time that he was separated from them both. He is sure that the notice of his inheritance couldn't be real. He never claimed it and lived as a beggar the remainder of his life.

We have an inheritance, children of God. Our older brother inherited a multitude of promises and blessings. We are His adopted brothers. Our elder brother died to be able to give us His inheritance. (Romans 8:17: "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ..."), (Titus 3:7: "That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs, according to the hope of eternal life."), (Galatians 4:7: "Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.") When He died He named us sole heirs, beloved sons of the Father. The Bible is full of the promises we inherit as children of God, but just like the adopted son in the story we refuse to read and believe the will (God's Word) and accept what Jesus died to give us. We never comprehend what the love of Christ is for us, or what riches He has laid in store for us. We never know the power that can work in our lives. We never allow the fullness of God to be formed in us.

Romans 11:28 tells us that we are beloved for the Father's sake. God doesn't call us and choose to show His love on us for our sake. He doesn't call us because we are perfect, talented, smart, religious, but He calls us beloved for His sake, because He chooses to love us. He wants to love us. He seeks the world over searching for those that He can pour His Spirit on. He searches for those hungry for

His love and seeking His face. II Chronicles 16:9 tells us, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him..." He wants to love you. He wants to show Himself strong in your behalf. You are beloved.

You belong. You are a part of the greatest thing anyone on earth can belong to, the love of God and His family. When we know we are a part, it can change our whole nature. We all need to belong. How often have you felt that you didn't belong anywhere, that you were a misfit? How often have you thought you didn't want to belong, because you were afraid to? Or you just weren't good enough? Well beloved, you belong to something and someone you can trust. Romans 9:25 tells us, "...I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved." We were once not a people. We once didn't belong to anybody. Now, praise God, we not only belong, but we are beloved.

We live in a world that is full of hurt. Satan specializes in burying scars in our hearts and minds that keep us from being able to love and receive love. Just like Lazarus who was still wrapped in His grave clothes when he came out of the tomb, we are made alive, born new in Christ. But the bondage of a life of sin, the world, and the pain it caused still holds us

wrapped up away from the freedom we can find in the love of God. Just like He spoke to Lazarus, Jesus is saying to us, "Come forth". "Come forth out of sin, its bondage that separates you from the love of God. Come forth out of the scars from yesterday. Come forth out of fear and failing to trust that I will be there for you. Come forth out of doubting that I love you. Come forth out of the grave clothes of yesterday. Come forth out of the bondage of feeling that you aren't good enough for my love. Come forth out of the bondage of fearing that I don't accept you as you are. Come forth out of the bondage of thinking that I can't use you for my work. Come forth. Come forth."

The truth of God's Word tells us that He has made us accepted in the beloved. Ephesians 1:6 says, "To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved." We have not made our own selves to be accepted. He has and will make us accepted by the work that He has done and will do in us. It is done by His grace. We need to submit to His grace and love, be filled by His Spirit, obey His Word and let Him be formed in us. We need to be drowned in His Spirit, baptized in it and filled to over flowing.

It is hard for us to submit to His will and His Word so that He can work in our lives. It is hard for us to submit to His Spirit that wants to work in us. But when we come to the



realization of the greatness of God's love toward us, that very knowledge will break our self wills so that God can work His perfect will in and through us. The truth of the Word of God says that you have been made accepted in the beloved. The truth of the Word of God says that you are beloved for the Father's sake. The truth of the Word of God says when you have confessed your sin, repented and turned away from it, when you are determined to follow God's Word because you love him with all your heart, then you are beloved of God. Accept God's truth about who you are. Let this truth sink into your mind and spirit and transform how you think of yourself. Let it sink into your heart and transform how you love others around you. Until you love yourself you will never be able to really love those around you. Let this truth set you free. God's Word has the power to set you free. John 8:32 says, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." *You are beloved.* Know it in your heart. It will change your whole life.

### **Chapter 3. He Hath Made Us Accepted**

Jesus has, and will, make us accepted in Himself. How did He do that and how will He continue? First, He died to give us forgiveness of our sins. He then sent His Word and His Holy Ghost to perfect us and sanctify us daily, to make us pure and whole in Him. Ephesians 1:9-10 tells us, "Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He hath purposed in Himself: that in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; even in Him." He will gather us to Himself. He will perfect His work in us. We must want Him to, with a whole heart and submit our selves to His working in us. As Christians we get into a rut of trying to be perfect, trying to walk the Christian walk by ourselves because we think that is expected. We can't do it by ourselves. The only way that we can walk in a way that pleases God is to submit every part of our minds, our wills, our heart, everything we have been, are, and will be, whether it's good or bad, and let Him have His will in our lives.

What is His will? That He might gather all things in Christ. That He might gather you to Himself and fill you with all His fullness. That is what He has purposed for His own good

pleasure. Can He save you sinner? Can He keep you saint? We can't do anything in our own selves. Ephesians 2:8 and 9 tells us, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." We have no good in us. Our best is but filthy rags in the sight of a perfect and holy God. We have to be saved by faith in Him, not faith in our own works or what we can do, but faith in His work that He will do in us. We will have good works when He perfects Himself in us, because that is His will, but our good works won't be what will get us into heaven. It takes time for Him to perfect Himself in us. How long it takes Him to do so will depend on our faith in His ability to do it, our trust in His keeping His Word, our desire for it, our submission to Him, our separating ourselves from sin, and other things that we control. His Holy Ghost will keep us and His love won't let us go.

We are His beloved. Rest in that thought. Let go of the fear that drives you. Let go of trying to do it on your own, your own way. Let go of doing what you do because you think you should, that's what everyone expects of you. Let go of clinging to those around you out of fear that you can't make it. Trust Jesus.

Trust your beloved to keep you and present you to His Father. (I Peter 1:3-5, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.")

Ephesians 2:4-10 and 13-22 tells us of His keeping power. Read these verses and accept them in your heart. They were written for you, too. He has broken down the walls between Himself and us. He has shed His blood for your forgiveness. He has sent the Holy Ghost for power to overcome. He has given us the keys to death, hell, and the grave (Matthew 16:19, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.") He has healed you (Proverbs 4:21-22, "'Let them (His Words) not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart, for they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.") He has set you free. (Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to

preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.") He has promised to do all these things and He will keep His promise. He has already given you all that you need. We have to accept His love to receive it. We have to accept all these other things to receive them. We have to take Him at His Word and believe that when He says it's done, that means it is done for us, too. God loves you.

You are His beloved. Why would He say these things in His Word and make them happen for everyone but you? The devil will work overtime to make it look like this is what is happening. He will bring circumstances into your life to make it seem that the Word of God and His love is not working for you. Press on through these times. Hold on to the truth and watch God's Word work for you. Let Him heal your heart. Let Him heal those scars of hurt that have caused you not to be able to open your heart to Him and trust His love. Let Him deliver you from that fear that He will not keep you. Let Him pour out His Word on you, every promise, every blessing, every assurance that it holds. Claim it all for yourself. It is all for you. You say, "But you don't know me, or all the problems in my mind and heart and who I am. You don't know what I've done in my past, how I've failed God." How much right now do you want His love? Enough to run toward Him

leaving all of that behind? When the prodigal son put on the robes that His father had for him when he returned home, he had to put off the clothes he wore in the pig sty (Luke 15:22). I'm sure the son didn't save those old clothes so that he could remind himself of all the sin he had done, or the suffering because of it. I imagine His Father threw them away and forgot them. God has thrown away your sin garments and the suffering. Don't hold onto them. Don't wear them under the new robes of righteousness. Give the old clothes to the Father. He will throw them away and remember them no more. (Jeremiah 31:34, "...for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.")

Ephesians 5:25-27 tells us, "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Jesus wants to cleanse you, iron out your spots, wrinkles, and blemishes so that He can present you to Himself. You can't do that yourself. Yes, you have to want it more than anything else in your life. Yes, you have to obey Him because obedience is the key to showing God that you really believe in Him and obedience is the key

to unlocking the Word of God and the power of God in your life. Yes, you have to desire it enough not to be double minded about who you are and what side of the fence you are on, because a double minded man need not think that he'll get anything from God. When we make up our minds, set God as number one in our heart and lives, obey Him so that He can work in us, and submit our flesh to His Spirit in us, then we can be perfected in Him. He will one day present us to Himself and to His Father.

Romans 8:35-39 tells us, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, for they sake we are killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord." Ephesians 1:17-19, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the

saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to usward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power." Galatians 2:20," I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." *He has made us accepted in the beloved.* He will keep doing that work until the day we see Him, and we will be like Him.

And finally, we have to trust Him to be able to see us through death. That is the last and final trial that we will go through. We have to trust that, true to His Word, we will one day say, "Death where is thy sting?" I Corinthians 15:54-55&57 says, "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." When we face that crossing, we will see His face. He will hold us close and take us over. We will come to that place that He has prepared for us. What a welcome homecoming that will be. It will be worth it all. We have nothing to fear.



## **Chapter 4. Dearly Beloved And Longed For**

Loneliness is a killer in these last days. In a time that the love of many is waxing cold, people are literally dying from loneliness, (Matthew 24:12, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold"). Teenagers (and often adults) do anything to fight against it, so that they can stay in a crowd. They wind up drug addicts, alcoholics, teenage mothers and fathers, just to have a crowd that accepts them. Then they wind up committing suicide because their life is still empty. Adults walk away from families to fill a void of loneliness that they have inside of them. They want to belong to someone, to be special to someone and have them long to be with them. Part of this comes because we are a society that puts too much emphasis on what people think about us if we are alone. We worry about whether or not someone accepts us as we are, and if they don't, we may even stop accepting ourselves. We'll change to find approval. We are not true to our own selves and our standards of what is right or our relationship with God. The church is as bad or worse than the world in these things. We even let those around us condemn us or talk us out of our relationship with God. We let those around us set our standards of right and wrong and what is true

instead of letting God's Word be the standard.

Everywhere we go we can feel people's hearts crying out just to belong, and when they do, they are still lonely. Why? Because we were created to belong to God. We were created to serve Him and worship Him. We try to serve those around us and this only fails because that's not what we were created to do. Living up to expectations of those around you will only let you down. People aren't perfect. They will fail you. God's load is easy and His burden light. Matthew 11:29-30 tells us, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." The yoke of the world will destroy you. The yoke of flesh bound people around you will destroy you, but His yoke will bring rest and peace to your soul.

What does He expect from you? He expects you to love Him and He expects you to let Him love you. Isn't that so simple. Isn't that full of joy just to know that you don't have to compete any more. You don't have to struggle to be someone you aren't, just let Him love you as you are. You don't have to feel like you are always running a race, but coming in last. You will always be first in His love if He is first in yours. He knows you better than any one else. He has known you even since before the day you were born. He has been there for you all

the way through your life. You belong to Him. Not only do you belong to Him, but you belong to one of the greatest families there are, the family of God. The greatest thing about this family is that they will love you not only like God loves you, but with His love that He has put in their heart to love you with. If they don't, then you will know they really aren't part of His family. (I John 2:5, "But whose keepeth His Word, in Him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him.")

You don't have to struggle against the battle of loneliness. Let God deliver you. It is a spirit that can cause you to be defeated as a Christian. One that will separate you not only from God's love, but the love of everyone around you. It will cause you to leave God's love and go toward things that are not right. It will lead you out of the will of God into destruction. Let God deliver you from this bondage.

You belong. You are beloved. You are also longed for. Philippians 4:1 tells us, "Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for...." It is hard for us to comprehend the love Jesus has for us, or the love of God. God once spoke to me about His love. "I see their past and their future, whether or not they will serve me. I see their hearts completely without anything hidden. I see when they honor

me and when they fail me in a way that is completely honest and without wrong judgment. I understand their hearts' desire in a way no one else can, often not even they themselves, yet my love for them is total and complete. I would move mountains for my people, yet they often cannot see my love. They are blinded by their hurt, by the chains the world wraps around their mind, by their disobedience, by bondage satan puts around them distorting how they see my love. All these things cause them to be separated by my love, but my love does not fade or fail. Trust my love. I will never stop loving you." We can't comprehend the love of God. In our humanness we only love something that is safe to love. I hear so many people say about others, "They did this or that. I don't like them because they did." Human love is so fickle. The divorce rate today is unreal. This is separation between people that have stood and promised a life-long commitment. Often they divorce because they get hurt or because the other one hasn't done what they expected or has done something they didn't like. We are this way with our love. Because we are, we can't even comprehend God's perfect and unconditional love. How can God love me after I've done what I've done, you ask. Knowing about God's love you should ask, how could He not love me. The devil is a master at condemning us so that

we can't see God's love, dragging up the last decade of our sin, our faults and failures. Romans 8:1 tells us that "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Our human love is based on what we do, so we think that God's love is too. We need to get an understanding of the love of God so that nothing can shake us away from it.

When we get an understanding of the love of God, we can then stand strong in Him and begin to win His favor. We can get wrapped up in His love, let go of our own wills and ways, and His love will give us the strength to overcome. We will be able to go on to find favor with God. For example, Samuel in I Samuel 2:26 found favor with God. David, Moses, and many others in the Bible found favor with God. God was pleased with them. We can find favor with God by the condition of our hearts, how we have submitted to Him, and allowed Him to work in our mind, our hearts, and our lives. We will find favor with Him in being obedient to Him. We have to know that real obedience will cost us. Real obedience will hurt our flesh, but when we fall in love with Jesus and His love is real to us, we will be willing and able to do the things He requires. This flesh-denying obedience will draw us even closer to Him. Our priorities will fall into line because we value His favor and peace with Him

more than we do anything else in our lives. All other things will fall into place, and because of the blessing and anointing He will put on our lives due to the favor we have found, even those around us will be blessed.

We can only find a true and complete fulfillment in our lives when we find His favor (a real favor, not one that we have invented in our own minds). Don't confuse His favor with His love. You may not have come through in your relationship with God to the place you have found favor. You might just have started on you walk and your relationship with Him, or you might just have come to the place that you have gotten real with your relationship. Getting favor with God is a process. Don't think that you aren't beloved because you have yet to find God's favor, but at the same time don't ever get settled in your relationship with God. I often hear the sound of those who get a corner of God's love and think they have it all. They settle for their sin in a half way relationship with Him and think it doesn't matter because they have God's love. They have not found God's love for real, and they will face judgment if they never do. When we fall in love with Jesus, and the closer we get to Him, the more we will change, and the closer we will want to grow. He has such a powerful personality that when we see Him face to face we will actually become just like Him. When we really see Him

in all His glory that will transform us into being like Him. The closer we get to Him the more we will become like Him.

What is your heart's desire? Do you long to love Him? Do you want to obey Him? Are you willing? God sees all these things. He will make you accepted if you are willing and will let Him. He longs to bring you to Himself. You are beloved and longed for. Mark 9:41 tells us that He loves you so much that He will even bless those that give you a cup of water. He will even bless those that meet your smallest needs. He loves you, child of God. He longs to be one with you. If you let Him, He will bring you to that place. He can take away the struggle you've had to try to serve Him. He can take away the hurt that makes you afraid to submit to His love. He can reveal Himself to you so that you understand for real the depth of His love for you. He can loose the shackles of condemnation satan has bound you with that keep you from running to His love. He can loose you from those things that keep you from committing your life fully to Him. He can release you from the way of thinking that binds you.

How much does God long to be one with you? II Corinthians 11:2 tells us Jesus' own words, "For I am jealous over you with Godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste

virgin to Christ." Revelations 19:7 tells us, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready." How much does a newly married groom long for His bride that He has become one with because He cherishes her with His whole heart? Jesus didn't speak of us as being His bride because it made a pretty picture out of pretty words. He said it because He longs to be one with us. He can make you accepted. Let Him love you. Release yourself to Him. Let Him test and try you and prove your heart. Lift up your hands, lift up your heart. You are His beloved and you are longed for.



## **Chapter 5. In the Name of Jesus**

Sometimes, when we look at the time period the Bible was translated into English, we can get an understanding of some of the terms they used in the translation. This happens when we research why the term Lord was used as a title for Jesus. The Bible was translated into English in the Old English time period. During this period, the feudal system existed. This came about when a lord with riches, power, and military might, who had the approval and sanction of the king, lived in a castle, on a manor which was almost like a walled city. All the poor people lived on his property. They were under the control of the lord. They submitted to his control because of his power, but also because this was a dangerous and warlike period. The lord had a walled castle and town for protection. When another lord or king attacked, the people could go to the lord and stay in his castle for protection. There were many that were rich and powerful because they had found the lord's favor. If they were given some task to do, some battle to fight, proxy gave them the lord's power to do what they had to do. They were given the same riches, power, and authority their lord had until they accomplished what they were to do. They had his authority to control the situation, the circumstances, the people; whatever there was

that was under the lord's command. They went in his power, in the name of their lord.

I have read hundreds of times the phrase in the scriptures concerning praying in the name of Jesus and have prayed that way, but I was only repeating what I heard with no understanding of why we should do that. As we grow in God, we will do this many times, repeating or doing what we feel like we should do without really understanding why we should. That works, but the real power to make it work in our lives comes when we do what we do in His understanding, not ours.

God began to show me what it meant, "in the name of Jesus". We know that Jesus is Lord of all. We even ask Him to be Lord, sometimes we mean it and sometimes we don't. Being Lord means having absolute power, control, and authority. More often than not we don't want to submit to Him in our lives to give Him that absolute control. That isn't human nature. I Timothy 6:14-15 tells us, "That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: which in His times He shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords." He has and will have complete control and authority. God Himself gave it to Him and He'll rule until all things are put under His feet. (I Corinthians 15:25, "For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies

under His feet.") We will have to let Him be Lord of our lives. We will either have to let our wills be broken and submit to Him and let Him willingly be Lord, or we will be at judgment forced to let Him be Lord. (Philippians 2:10-11, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.") Luke 20: 17 and 18 tells us, "That He beheld them, and said, what is this then that is written, the stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." Jesus is Lord. That is an established fact. What place his Lordship plays in your life will depend on you. If you fall on Him and let His love break your will and cause you to submit to Him, you will be broken. If He falls on you, if His judgment comes into your life, you will be ground. Until we submit to Him and allow Him to break our will, we will not be able to walk in His love and find fulfillment as an obedient child of God. We will never learn what it really means to His beloved.

Jesus also has absolute rule over the powers of hell. Satan is in submission to him. He is allowed a certain degree of power to test and try the saints, but He will at the time of the

Lord's choosing be bound up and cast into the lake of fire. No Lord has ever had the power that our Lord Jesus has. He controls not only the seen but also the unseen. We know that we are in spiritual warfare. This is a battle between satan and God. We are fought because we are close to God's heart. Because of this, satan wants to destroy us. We have to have the power to overcome. Where do we find that power? In the name of Jesus. What does that mean? It means that we have to become accepted in the beloved. We have to know our place in God. We have to come into favor with the Lord of all, so that we can go out to fight this battle that we fight daily with His power, with His authority with His riches in glory, in His name, in the name of Jesus. When we say, "In the name of Jesus, satan get out of my way, you are bound", we are telling satan he is bound from being able to work in a given situation. We are using the authority that God has given us, and he has to submit to that authority. There are conditions to having the power of the name of Jesus work in your life. You have to accept God's Word and believe it when it tells us we have that authority. James 4:7 tells us, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." For the authority of God to work in your life you have to submit to Him. We have no power or name of our own. The seven sons of Sceva in Acts 19 spoke

against satan in their name. The devils answered, Jesus we know, but we don't know your name. They proceeded to wreak havoc against them. You don't have any authority, but when you submit yourself to God and go in the name of Jesus, you will have the victory. This battle we fight is His fight. Go in His name with all the power and authority He has. You will not only be able to march in battle in victory, but you will overcome.

Here are other things that we receive in His name. Luke 24:47 tells us, "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name...." John 14:13-14 tells us, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." John 20:31 tells us, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing ye might have life through His name." Romans 10:13 tells us, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." I Corinthians 6:11 tells us, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." Go in His name. In our own selves we do not have the power to overcome, but when we go in His name, we have His power, and all that He has. How can we lose? Why do we have these things in His

name? Because we are chosen, set aside, made accepted in Him when we submit to Him. We go in His name as His beloved.

## **Chapter 6. If I Am Beloved, Then Why the Trials**

When we accept our place in being God's beloved, and we submit to Him, we no longer have to be afraid. I John 4:18 tells us, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear...." No matter what the circumstances are, we know that He will deliver us and that whatever we have to go through "we know all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). We will still have to suffer and go through things. II Corinthians 4:17 tells us, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory". We will have afflictions, but they will work things out in our lives that nothing else could.

Many people when suffering or trials come their way think that God doesn't love them any more, they allow the devil to condemn them and they quit. We have to understand that being in a relationship with God, being beloved, does not make our problems, trials, and temptations disappear. It doesn't take away the world around us, or our circumstances, or us and make them all perfect. This world is ruled in part by the prince of the air who is satan, our natural born enemy. He wants to destroy us. He controls the people around us that give into

him and let him. We are controlled by whatever we yield our members to. Regretfully, even Christians yield themselves to satan when they fail to overcome their flesh, because their flesh is at enmity with God (Romans 8:7, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God..."). If we fail to submit our flesh to God and allow His Spirit to control our lives, satan will be the one controlling us. Because we have people around us that are controlled by satan, we have problems. Also, this world is not perfect, our circumstances will not always be perfect. If we obey Him, He can direct our path and lead us out. He can give us strength to overcome. He is our constant help and companion. We can take authority over our circumstances and satan in His name.

If God allowed us to have a perfect existence with no problems, would that even be wise? We know "...that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." (Romans 5:3-5). If we had no tribulation, then we would lack patience, experience, hope, and we would have no real knowledge of the keeping power of God's love. We would be spoiled, weak in our character, and not able to overcome. Without the battles, we would never know God's ability to win.



We may also have trials when God Himself is trying our heart. From the time I was very young I often wondered why God put the two trees in the Garden of Eden. He knew Adam and Eve and what they would do. Why did He tempt them? Why did He purposefully put things there to draw them aside and cause them to fall? Later in life, I asked Him why. He explained by telling me the difference between being tempted and being tried. God says we are tempted when satan comes and draws our weakness in our flesh to sin. James 1:13-14 tells us, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed." When I am on a diet certain things don't tempt me because I may not really like them. I don't have a weakness in the flesh for them, but please don't sit a pecan pie in front of me or I may eat the whole thing. We are tempted to sin because of a weakness we may have that we haven't let God fix or have control of in our life. It is these things that will eventually draw us to the side if we don't allow Him to have control of them.

That is what it means to be tempted. Being tried is something that God does, not satan with the support of the weakness of our flesh. Read these scriptures that tell about

being tried: Job 23:10, II Corinthians 4:17, Revelations 7:14, Psalm 66:10, Isaiah 48:10, Malachi 3:3, I Peter 1:7, I Peter 4:12. God tried Adam and Eve to prove their hearts. He will try you, you can be sure of that, and because He does you will grow. You will learn to overcome. You will be established in Him. Your faith will grow by exercising it. You will learn where your priorities really are. You will be broken, and when you are broken He will be Lord for real in your life. You will be purified, refined, and made like gold. When God chooses you in that furnace of affliction, rejoice. You are on the Master's potter's wheel, beaten until you are made supple, and then shaped into His Master design so that His perfect will can be worked in your life. We then can be perfected in His righteousness, not our own.

## **Chapter 7. To Whom Can I Go**

Who else do we need to go to but Jesus? Who else can meet our needs: physical, spiritual, or emotional? Who else can we trust to be perfect? So many times people let their relationships with other people stop them from serving God. They get a surface relationship, or a part of a relationship with Him, and eventually become convinced that a relationship with someone else is what they need more. The devil has probably sent that person to destroy them, so that relationship turns sour. They no longer have anyone, and they have lost hope and faith in God and people so that they shut themselves away. Jesus knows rejection more than we'll ever understand. For thousands of years millions and billions have rejected His Word. For thousands of years He has been mocked. He once asked some of His disciples after several of them had walked away, "Will you go also?" (John 6:66 and 67). They replied, "To Whom can we go. No one else has eternal life". (John 6:68). We get upset because we fear rejection from others. We compromise with our beliefs, our morals, and standards because we fear rejection. We fail to reach out to those around us because we're afraid of what they might think or say. We listen to everybody else's advice, because we think we should be like other's around us and do what they do, if

we don't we might not be accepted. All the while we turn our back on the One Who has eternal life in His hands. To Whom else can you go?

Don't turn away from God's love. Don't forsake your position in being His beloved for the love or approval of those who may be gone tomorrow. Don't forsake His eternal wisdom to be caught up in seeking the opinions of the world. Who else has eternal wisdom and knowledge? Sometimes we face life and death situations and God with His vast knowledge is the last One Whose wisdom we seek. If you need guidance in your life, to Whom else can you go? If you need comfort, to Whom else can you go that can comfort you with perfect love and peace? If you need financial help, to Whom else can you go? God can provide a miracle. If you need companionship in your loneliness, to Whom else can you go? God is the only perfect companion you can find Who will never forsake you for all of eternity. If you need someone or something to fill the voids in your life, to Whom else can you go? Who else can love those voids away, filling them, healing them, delivering you from what has caused them? To Whom else can you go? Let go of the crutches you hold on to. Let go of the people around you that you have allowed to control your life. Let go of the things that have crept in and possessed your life causing you to

turn away from Him. Let go of the material things you rely on. When I say let go of them, I don't necessarily mean give them all away. I mean stop letting them be Lord in your life. You could give them all away and still not let go of the bondage they bring. Stop relying on them and hold to the things that are eternal. Let go of everything else but Jesus and let Him make you accepted in the Beloved, wrapped up, tied up, tangled all up in God.

When we go to God, here are some of the things that we can find in Him:

1. He gives us strength in temptations. I Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

2. He promises deliverance. II Timothy 4:18, "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever."

3. He promises strength. Psalm 28:7, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him."

4. We don't have to fear. Isaiah 41:10, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee: yea, I will help thee; yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

5. He promises help. Isaiah: 50:9, "Behold the Lord God will help me; who is He that shall condemn me?...."

6. He promises we don't have to fear man. Hebrews 13:6."So that we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

7. He will hold us and keep us. Psalm 18:36, "Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip."

8. Angels keep us. Psalms 34:7, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."

9. He preserves our way. Proverbs 2:8, "He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of His saints."

10. He will be our refuge. Psalm 91:2, "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge, and my fortress: my God in Him will I trust."

11. He will be with us. Isaiah 43:1-2, "But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and He that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee I have called thee by thy name; thou are mine. When thou passeth through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

12. He will be a wall of fire. Zechariah 2:5, "For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her."

*To Whom else can you go? Who else can be for  
you what Jesus can be?*

## **Chapter 8. I Am Afraid**

In my understanding you can't write a book about the love of God and not cover the subject of fear. Fear, now more than any other time in history, is destroying the lives not only of young people but old. Especially since the terrorist attacks started, fear eats up people's lives. The Bible talks about some of the things Jesus said would come about in the last days right before He comes back. In Luke 21:26 Jesus says that in the last days "Men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Men's hearts today are failing with fear. Not just the old but the young as well. It used to be that heart attacks just happened to people who were old. Not I hear about people in their 20's having heart attacks.

Fear is a bad thing. One example of how bad it can get is the fact that terrorists have used it to nearly destroy our nation. They did one bad thing, and threaten regularly to do more. That's all they have to do to destroy us by fear. The markets are falling. The economy is failing. People are being destroyed by fear. The terrorists are smart. Fear can destroy people. It can cause people to have not only physical problems but mental and emotional problems too. Living in too much fear can eventually



cause people to become depressed and feel like they don't care. Fear takes away hope. What is the answer? The Bible tells us that the weapon to use against fear is God's love, and knowledge of Him and His Word. The Bible tells us in I John 4:18, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him, because He first loved us." When we get close enough to Jesus in a real and upright relationship with Him, that will in itself drive away fear.

I have a Strong's Concordance, which is a great help to studying the Bible. A concordance is a book with every verse in the Bible listed. You can find the verse if you know at least one word in it. For example I studied what the Bible has to say about fear. It lists all the verses that have that word. When I looked up fear, there were a lot of verses that said, "Fear not". A lot of them were ones that Jesus said Himself. The Bible builds our faith. Faith attacks fear. The Bible is even called the sword of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:17, "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.") When you start to feel fear, fight back with God's Word. The devil is the one that causes fear. II Timothy 1:7 says, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." God says we don't have to

be afraid. Refuse to go that route. Stand up and say, "I am a child of God. I put my trust in Him for what I will face today and for tomorrow. I refuse to be afraid." After all, fear is the same as doubt and doubt is a sin. After you refuse to be afraid, get out your sword and smack that fear a time or two. Get out your Bible and read some verses that drive fear right out of your mind.

Genesis 26:24, "And the Lord appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee...."

Exodus 14:13, "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more for ever."

Deuteronomy 1:21, "Behold, the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath said unto thee: fear not, neither be discouraged."

Deuteronomy 20:3-4, "And shall say unto them, Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither

be ye terrified because of them: for the Lord your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.”

I Chronicles 28:20, “And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee....”

Isaiah 41:10, “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee: yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

Luke 12:6-7, “Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.”

Hebrews 13:6, “So that we may boldly say The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

God has not called us to fear. He has called us to be filled with His Spirit, and power, with His Word and love. There is no room for fear in the lives of God’s people. The Bible

tells us in Revelations 21:8 that the fearful and unbelieving will have their part in the lake of fire. When we allow ourselves to be filled with fear, there is no room for love, or trust. God honors those who are full of faith. Just like any Father, He doesn't want us to constantly doubt His love for us and His ability to keep us. Fight fear with His love. Know that you are beloved and that you are special to God. Rest in His love. You'll look around for those things that you were afraid of, and one by one they will disappear in the light of His love for you.

## **Chapter 9. The Comparison Trap**

The greatest joy and peace we can find, comes when we realize that we are Beloved, that we are made accepted in Him by the work that He has done for and in us. We know that we are loved just like we are. We know too that His love, His Word, and the power of His Holy Ghost will not leave us like we are, but He will wash us, transform us, and keep us. We can accept ourselves because He accepts us as we are. We can love ourselves because He loves us. Because of that love, we can love those around us.

One of the most wonderful things in the world is the love and fellowship of true saints of God. His Holy Ghost unites their hearts and minds in one accord. They have agreement in the Word of God or they unite in spite of individual convictions. God's love melts them together. The church world needs to wake up, get into a real and right relationship with God. It needs to submit to His will, find His love, and unite together the way God intends us to. Unite as a mighty army, perfectly in step, carrying out the orders of their Lord in His power and authority. Our purpose is carrying God's love to a lost and dying world with haste, because the Lord is coming soon and the day we no longer can reach them is fast approaching. Jesus Himself said in John 9:4 that "...the night

cometh when no man can work".

Sadly this is not a picture of the church world today. I say church world to refer to man's structured church system, not to the church as God intends it to be. Today's churches are filled with a few that are Holy Ghost filled, obedient, committed and submitted. They have to do all the physical duties that should be done by others and have no time or strength for doing the witnessing, praying, and spiritual things that build the church. The rest of the congregation is sitting down instead of working, usually on top of the ones that are. They become a hindrance instead of a help. They are too far away from Jesus to really feel His love. They can't get their eyes off of the people around them enough to look at Him. They are too carnal and all they can see is the flesh around them. Because they are walking in the flesh, all they can see is flesh. They can't see Jesus. They hear what others tell them about Him, but they can't let go of their way and what they want. They can't let loose of their flesh and submit to God enough to walk in the Spirit. If they would turn loose of these things, God would draw them to Himself.

God is a spirit. You can't find Him, His love, or a real and complete relationship with Him until you get in the spirit. When people can't or won't get out of the flesh, when all they concentrate on is the flesh, they easily fall into

what I call the comparison trap. Because they haven't found that love of God and their place in Him, because they are not secure, and have no identity in Him, they feel empty inside, even though they may act like they have it all together on the outside. They start trying to be spiritual in the flesh and that isn't something you can do. They don't understand how come those that have a relationship with Jesus are blessed. They can't see why some have talents even personalities that are better than theirs. (The others have submitted themselves to God and are allowing God to perfect, love, and change them). They get caught in the comparison trap. You will hear them say things like, "I don't think that person should be that way. That isn't the way I think that should be done. I don't think they should do this or that." They take on a judgmental and critical attitude and God tells us the dangers of this in Matthew 7:1-2, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

Few things can cut off the love of God from your life as quickly as a critical and judgmental attitude. These are listed with the seven things that God hates. If we start finding fault and criticizing those around us, God plainly says with whatever judgment we give out we will get it back from Him. It is easy to

find fault with people, mostly because we aren't all alike. Thank God we aren't. Most of us would agree that truthfully it would be terrible to have a world full of people just like us, but we want to try to make the world line up to our expectations. People are not perfect. The Bible says none are perfect, no not one. If I started naming the things I don't like about you I could fill up half a page, and I don't even know you. If I let a critical attitude or spirit from the devil hop on my shoulder, I could come up with ten pages of things. Be careful not to sit in judgment on your brother because you don't want to be judged.

Get a relationship with Jesus. Get close to His love. Let Him draw you close to Him. Let Him make you accepted in the Beloved. Let Him make you His beloved. Don't look at people to find your relationship with God. Fall in love with Him. Get so filled up with His love that it splashes out on everybody you come into contact with. Then you can love others around you with a love that will change their life and change them. A critical attitude toward someone will hammer them down so that they can't stand and eventually they can lose out in their relationship with God. If that happens and you have helped it to happen because of your critical attitude against them, you will be judged and their blood will be on your hands. Matthew 18:5-6 tells us, "And whoso shall receive one



such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." Take a close look at yourself. Do you find yourself concentrating on the faults of others? Are you almost always negative when you look at others? Do you fail to see Jesus in them because you always look at their flesh? Ask God to change you. Draw close to Him and He'll draw close to you. Get filled up in His love and let it pour out on those around you.

Another thing the comparison trap can bring is jealousy. Jealousy is a major problem in today's churches. People get committed. They get real in their relationship with God and filled up with His Holy Ghost. They start working and obeying God. Here comes the crowd that hasn't done that. They usually drag along with them a few of the ones that are genuinely trying to work on their relationship with God but are new and weak. These get destroyed when they get caught up with this crowd. That green-eyed monster, jealousy, rises up. Song of Solomon 8:6 tells us, "...jealousy is cruel as the grave...." When a person has a weakness that causes them to be an easy target for a spirit of jealousy, or any other spirit, the devil attaches onto them a deeper feeling; a devil-filled feeling that echoes what is

already in their heart. This spirit latches onto them. It makes it harder for them to be set free from this problem. It makes it harder for them to be able to identify their problem because satan is using them and he will keep them blinded so he can continue too, because he knows when we identify a problem we can seek God's deliverance and get free from it. When a spirit of jealousy comes against us we not only can kill our brother, like Cain and Abel, but we also can kill the spirits of our brothers and sisters in God's family.

When someone gets a jealous spirit they almost always gather a crowd around them. They begin to convince the crowd that the person they are jealous of is wrong. They may even eventually convince themselves. They begin to work an undercurrent against them. They make sly little comments and actions. Because satan is using them and they are having bad feelings against that person, they will throw spirits against them by becoming a funnel that satan can use to attack that person. They pull them down until they can no longer work for God. What an effective way for satan to stop the work of God. If we allow ourselves to be filled with the love of God, we won't let jealousy use us this way.

Another problem with the comparison trap comes when the devil attacks people with a spirit of condemnation, a feeling of rejection, a

feeling of being put down by others, of being blocked away from the love of God and those around them. He causes them to feel as though others are pushing them away. They constantly feel condemned and often think what's the use, God can't help me. This usually happens to people that are trying to grow in their relationship with God and work for Him. Often this starts when the devil gets them to compare themselves to others. I don't care how wonderful someone is, when you get caught in the comparison trap you will come up short. Nobody can be you like you can. Nobody has experiences, your character, your personality, just like you. God made us individuals, each one unique. Nobody can take away from that God is working on you, perfecting you into what He wants you to be, not into what someone else is. We can only find God's love for real when we become ourselves and let Him love us as we are. When we become secure in who we are, we will not fall into the comparison trap.

Another problem that the comparison trap brings is to people who have a gift or talent to serve God. The devil will cause them to start to study their gift and the gifts of others and compare them. They will start to think that their gift isn't good enough. He will march someone in front of them and whisper, "You aren't as good as they are". They begin to pull

back and lack confidence. They may even stop using their gift altogether.

When I see people who think they have to be the center of attention, who are the loudest and the center of it all, who feel like they have to be in control of every situation, who can't work in a group because they are always striving to be something on their own, I know they have fallen in the comparison trap. They are feeling left out and left behind. The devil is beating their relationship with God and they have become insecure. When I see people who think they always have to be right, who can't stand being corrected or chastised (and because we aren't perfect, all these will come), who thinks that everyone is making fun of them, I know they have fallen into the comparison trap and they are losing their identity with God, or they have yet to find it. When I see people who have great potential to do mighty works for God, but they do nothing because they think they aren't good enough, I know they have fallen into the comparison trap and satan has succeeded in blocking them from being able to accomplish the things God has appointed them to do. If God has appointed you to do something, He will give you the deliverance and abilities and everything else you will need to be able to do it. Why would He call you if you weren't able? When He gets finished with you, you will be doing more than you ever dreamed

you could. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Don't compare yourself, your gifts, or talents to others. Look at His love. That will keep you headed in the right direction. When we do what we do because of His love, we won't be afraid. His love will stop the fear.

When I see people who have to hang in a crowd and cling to other people, who have no original opinions but are afraid to think for themselves, who have to think in groups because they are afraid to stand up and be the unique person God created them to be, I know they have fallen into the comparison trap. They are afraid to be themselves because they are too busy looking at those around them.

What a sad and boring world it would be if we all thought the same, acted the same, liked the same things, did the same job in God's kingdom. Oh how we limit God's work when we think that way. He created us and has worked in us to make us unique individuals to do the unique work that we are appointed to do. Nobody can do that work like we can. We look at whatever everyone else is doing and put down what we do because it's not like what they do. We get offended because someone else is doing something and we can't. Find what God has for you to do. Nobody will be able to do it like you. If you fail to do this, God can't use you. You'll find yourself being somebody you aren't and doing something that someone else is

supposed to do. You will fail at it miserably, and quit trying. Let God love you like you are. There will never be anyone like you. There is no comparison. Someone around you is dying and the love you have from God is what can save them.

In I Corinthians Chapter 12 we learn about what it means to be the body of Christ. Each part of our body functions doing the work it's supposed to do. The ear hears, the eye sees, the nose smells. If suddenly the eye decided it didn't want to do what it was appointed to do because it had compared itself to the nose. It then decided that it wanted to smell instead. Or if it compared itself to the ear, and because it couldn't hear as well as the ear could, it felt condemned and shut down, the whole body would fall down in a ditch. Do what God has appointed and equipped you to do. Be what He has perfected and worked in you to be. Don't look at others and compare yourself. It is a trap of satan.

As a footnote to this chapter, there will be many who will read this and it won't help them, because they will be thinking as they read it about all the people they know that this chapter describes. They won't take it to heart or benefit from it because they won't apply it to themselves. They will go away never admitting their faults and never getting convicted. They won't be able to repent and ask God to forgive

them. They have fallen into the comparison trap. The comparison trap can even take you to hell. We all sin. Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God". We have to get our eyes off of those around us, look at ourselves honestly, and let God convict our hearts. If we fail to do this, we will never change and never grow. Satan will eventually destroy us. We can't hide from our shortcomings and failures behind a mask of acting perfect. We have to be real with ourselves and with God or we will never make it to heaven. Don't get caught in the comparison trap.

One of the greatest ways to avoid the comparison trap is to let God make you accepted in the Beloved. Know your relationship with Him is real and that it is the greatest treasure you have. Walk and talk with Him. When you feel things coming against you that I have mentioned, talk to Him. Find out what He says about His love for you. Don't allow thinking about what others think about you to become so important that it is greater than His love for you. Know you are secure in His love. *YOU ARE HIS BELOVED.*

## **Chapter 10. The Danger Of Proving Yourself Right**

One of the worst places we can ever put ourselves with God comes when we don't submit and we don't want to turn loose of our will. It is human nature to want to be right. We forget how dumb we are sometimes. Even at best, our human brain lacks a lot. God's ways are so far above our ways that sometimes, without His Holy Ghost to explain them, we would never comprehend them. Isaiah 55:8 tells us, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." I have often thought that we as humans act as if we know what God knows, even if what we know is only what He has graciously shown us. Were we there when He created the heavens and the earth. As He said to Job, "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth, declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? Or who hath stretched the lined upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" What do we really know about much of anything? Even when God tries to explain



the way things really are, sometimes we never do get it right. Yet we think that what we see is how it is, what we know is all there is to it. We might only have a little corner of the truth, but we will want everybody to know that that's how it is, and that we are right. God is waiting to send His Holy Ghost to open up all truths to us, yet we are too busy trying to prove what we know to listen to what He wants to teach us.

The Bible tells us pride goeth before a fall. "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted" (Matthew 23:12). The haughty find their own destruction. "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself" (Galatians 6:3). God doesn't want us to prove how great we are, all we can do, or what we know and believe. He wants us to submit to Him and watch Him be how great He can be, all He can do, and listen to what He knows.

Give up your will. You don't have to be right. At our best, we are very wrong. Psalm 130:3 says, "If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?" Don't strive against God and try to prove anything to Him. He knows all about you. You don't have all the answers. You may not even understand the question. Stop trying to always be right. Let God break you and guide you. Accept His will for your life. It may not be all your way.

But you have to admit sooner or later, the place  
your way may lead you to is hell.

## **Chapter 11. He Loves Me So I Can Do It Anyway**

I have taught children many years. I often see kids take advantage of teachers. I watch teachers come into a classroom full of love for the children. The children spot this a mile off. They are masters at taking advantage of a loving teacher. They think to themselves, "She loves me. So I can get by with things." As they start misbehaving, the teacher's attitude toward them starts to change. As they get rougher in their actions, the teacher gets rougher in her actions, and if the kids don't wise up and pull back, they have to face judgment, whatever the punishment may be. It is really sad, but I watch Christians do God much the same way. I heard a young lady say, "God loves me. I can smoke. I can cuss. I can treat my parents anyway I want to and it's OK. God will forgive me." Yes, God forgives. He is long suffering, but if we have an attitude of taking advantage of His love so that we can have an excuse for our sin, we will face His judgment.

Hebrews 10:26-27 tells us, "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." I heard a man not long ago say, "I believe I'm in the accepted will

of God. I'm not doing the perfect will of God, what He wants me to do, but I am doing what He will let me get by with." If our children all the time lived up to what our accepted will for them was, if they only did what they could get by with and not what pleased us, they would soon face our judgment. Why should we expect any less from our heavenly Father? Is He less wise than earthly parents? If we always let our children get by, they will become spoiled, self-willed brats that we can never control. What if in truth God always let us by? Wouldn't we be the same way? Maybe that's why people who believe this always act like spoiled brats, never denying their flesh to do the perfect will of their Father who loves them so. God's will is not something to play a game with. God doesn't have a will for our lives just because He likes to have control over us. He has a perfect will for us because He knows what is best for us in His perfect wisdom. He will guide you away from things that will harm you. He will direct your paths into things that will bring peace and joy into your life. He will keep you from harm. If you never let Him direct your paths, you will always be in turmoil and trouble. You won't be able to endure.

Never take the attitude of seeing how long you can get by. God says that we show our love by our obedience. If you only do what you can get by with, we know you don't love

God very much. You are not close to Him in your relationship, and your chances of making it to heaven are slim and none. If we know the truth of His Word, and continuously choose to do wrong there will come a time when the blood of Jesus that He sacrificed for our sin will not cover our sin, and we will not receive forgiveness. God is not a fool. Galatians 6:7-8 tells us, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For He that soweth to His flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

God loves those that love Him. Deuteronomy 10:12 tells us what God requires of us, "And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul." He tells us that He is a Father to those who obey Him. John 14:23 tells us, "Jesus answered and said unto Him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." Matthew 7:21-23 tells us, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy

name: and in thy name have cast out devils: and in thy name done many wonderful works: And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." These people were obviously saved, but they lacked one thing, a loving relationship with their Father. They had enough faith to do all those works, but they lacked knowing Him. He said, "I never knew you." If you are living so far from the love of God that you are taking an attitude that you can do anything you want and still get to heaven, you are seriously mistaken. Your relationship with Him is what really matters. You can't fake it. You can't pretend it's there. You can't get to heaven with a relationship with the preacher, or the members of the church. It is your relationship with Jesus that will matter. Does He know you? Are you close to Him? If not, then run to Him. Fix the things in your life that are wrong. He will help you.

You are longed for. If you draw close to His love it is so wonderful that the sin in your life that you are holding onto will slip out of your hands. Don't be luke warm. Revelation 3:16 tells us in God's own Words, "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Don't be like the Christians in Revelation that left their first love. God told them in Revelation 2:4-5, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against

thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou are fallen, and repent, and do thy first works; or else I will unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." Don't take advantage of God's wonderful love. If you feel like you can't come to the place of obedience, don't excuse away your sin. Don't become dead. Don't give up. Ask God to create in you a clean heart and renew a right spirit in you. Ask Him to make you a new creature in Him.

## Chapter 12. Back To Our First Love

The scripture talks about a church in Revelation 2:4-5 that had forgotten its first love. "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou are fallen, and repent, and do thy first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." Jesus is speaking to that church. He is reminding them in one short statement where they had been, where they were, and where they were going if this didn't change. He reminded them that they once had a first love. What does this phrase mean, *first love*?

When I think of that phrase *first love* I think of a newly married couple. They can't wait to get home from work to be with each other. Their love is still fresh, and new. They are caught up in every word the other one says. They are anxious to please and to do for, and give to. Their world is wrapped up in each other. Their relationship is fresh, if there are misunderstandings or wrong done, they are quick to repent and to make it right, and they would rather die than bring that same hurt to those beloved eyes again.

It isn't by accident that the book of Song of Solomon is included in the Bible. I confess that it took me a long time to figure out why



this book of the Bible was even included. It didn't seem to fit in. Then I go hold of the scripture in chapter 2 verse 4, "He brought me to the banqueting table, and his banner over me was love." That changed how I saw the whole book. Wow. If we will delight in God, He will give us the desires of our heart. This book is full of talking of the love of the Beloved for his beloved. It is full of words that talk of a tender love that God has for us.

All too often we have so many things between us and Him that we don't even have time to pray, or read the scriptures. How many days has it been since you fellowshiped with Him? When we have problems, we want to run and tell all our family, neighbors, and friends, and we don't take it to the Lord in prayer. We don't spend time worshipping Him, thanking Him, and praising Him. If we aren't careful our prayer sessions are grump and grumble sessions reminding Him of all the things that are going wrong. We are so caught up in our relationships with others, that we have no time left over for Him. We can get so removed from Him that we lose track of what is wrong and what is right, we are so far from Him that we don't feel His conviction or His Spirit dealing with us. We forget to read His Word. Our minds are filled with the world and how it thinks. We have plenty of time to fill our minds with the junk that we get off the TV, but no time for the Word

of God. We have lost our first love.

Song of Solomon 5:2-6 says, “I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night. I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them? My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door and my bowels were moved for him. I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped with myrrh, and my fingers with sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock. I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was going: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him but he gave me no answer.” In this section of scripture, she did not open the door right away because she was asleep. Then she wasn’t ready. There were some things that she had to do before she opened the door. She had to have a little time to do her little thing. When she did open the door, he was gone. You can feel the desperation in what she says when she sees that he isn’t there any longer. We hear people talking everywhere we go saying that the Lord is coming soon. Even sinners who don’t claim to have the Lord in their life say this. Who will get to go in the rapture? Those who open the door. Those who are not asleep.

Those who are ready. Those who know their beloved, and they know that they belong to Him. Those who know the Lord.

How do I know who gets to go in the rapture? Let's read this scripture in Matthew 7:21-23. We talked about this scripture briefly in the previous chapter, but I want to concentrate on it more in this one. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity." That certainly gives us some food for thought. These people had done all kinds of things. They had prophesied, they had cast out devils, and done many wonderful works. But God said get out. They were just working iniquity, sin. They did all this in His name, too. But it counted for nothing.

Why did He cast them out? We read the reason in these words, "I never knew you". There was a time in my life when I did what I thought God wanted me to do. I even made sacrifices that I thought God wanted me to make. I read the Bible, and prayed, I did all the things I was supposed to do. I just lacked one

thing. I had no relationship with God. I had it all in my head, but it was not in my heart.

I guess one way to explain this would be to use this for an example. I knew a couple who had been married for several years. They did everything that a husband and wife should do. Outside they were the picture of a perfect marriage. They split up. What was the reason they gave for that? They were lonely. They did not have a relationship with each other. They didn't even know one another. They fell in to having affairs because someone else paid attention to them. Someone talked to them for real. Someone else got into their hearts. From that they realized how empty their relationship was.

If we aren't careful we can do God the same way. We talk at Him, we pray at Him, we do all the things we think we are supposed to do, but we don't have a relationship with Him where we talk to Him and find out what He want us to do. We don't talk to Him. We don't let Him talk to us. We aren't obedient to Him, because we only do the things we think we are supposed to do instead finding out what He wants us to do. We don't know Him, and He doesn't know us. We do not have a relationship that is real. When we do that we are far from Him. We have lost our love. There is a little saying that I heard once. "How can you miss heaven by 13 inches? That is the distance

between your head and your heart.” We can have it all in our head, and nothing for real in our heart if we aren’t careful.

I am reminded of Saul, before he met Jesus and his name was changed to Paul. He refers to himself in many of his writings as being the “chief of sinners”. He was right to do that. In Philippians 3, Paul writes about himself. He talks about how in his zeal to serve God, he persecuted the church. He was going about trying to produce his own righteousness. He wasn’t serving God. He thought he was, but look what a terrible thing he was doing in the name of the Lord. He didn’t know God, but He thought that He did. He was establishing his own righteousness, and missing out on the righteousness of God altogether.

I see so many people like this. I met someone recently who is a prime example of this. When I first met him, he was the picture of righteousness. He had a photographic memory that had enabled him to memorize scripture. He was doing this because he claimed that the Lord had called him and anointed him to preach. He was consumed with a desire to do something for the Lord full time. He had a good personality. We thought he was surely going to do something great for the Lord. However, as time went on, the more he started quoting scripture, the more irritated we got. I had never been so irritated over the Word of

God before. It made no sense to me. Bishop Goad had seen someone like this before, and the Lord reminded him about that person. That person that the Lord reminded him about hadn't had a relationship with the Lord at all even though it had seemed that he did.

As we got to know this person more, we began to notice little things that didn't add up. We prayed and asked the Lord to reveal what was going on in this person's life. We found out that he had a habit of dipping tobacco. Now regardless of your own personal feelings about tobacco, the Bible talks against it and it is a sin. It doesn't say tobacco specifically, but we know it is a sin. Why? Our body is a temple, and how can God be pleased with you putting something in His temple that has a warning label on it that it can kill you. The Bible in many places warns against anything that is addictive and controlling.

How else do I know this is a sin? When people who have had this sin in their life were saved, and they asked God about it, He would tell them to give it up and He would deliver them. I have seen this time and time again. They were convicted of their sin, and delivered from it. What about the people that are saved, but still bound? They are not allowing God to convict them. They are silencing the voice of God and they are not allowing His conviction. That is a dangerous place to live in over

something as nasty as tobacco. If you let something like tobacco control your life, then forget serving God. If you aren't letting God clean you up this corner of your life, then the devil has a hook in your jaw that he can use to reel you in with. Your testimony is not any good to others around you. Especially when you are running around quoting scripture to everyone, telling them you are going to be a preacher like this fellow.

There were some people that this fellow had witnessed to and he paid them to slip off and buy his tobacco. That ruins your testimony quick. That was our first revelation that all wasn't as it seemed. Then we started noticing other things. Come to find out, when God revealed it all, and He will, we discovered he had a bad problem with alcohol. He had come to work around the ministry to get help, and he had received help to a point. But he decided that he didn't want to give up his problem. He drew a line on God. Boy, did things turn out bad after that. He really got bad off. He is living in shelter after shelter, he can't hold down a job, and his life is a total wreck. He still is going from place to place, quoting scripture. He is zealous to work for God, but He doesn't know Him. He professes, but He doesn't possess.

This is one illustration of the scripture that we mentioned in Matthew 7: 21-23. I see

this so often. People are zealous to do something for the Lord, but they do not know Him. They are confessing something that they are not professing. How do they get this way? They walk away from their first love. They gradually begin to slip away. When He comes, they don't wake up, or they are too busy, or they want to do something else. When He asks them to do something, they fail to hear His voice, because they really don't want to hear it. Or they don't want to do what He says, so they don't obey. Gradually by doing this, they silence the voice of God in their lives. They think that they are fine, because there is no more conviction. They deceive themselves into thinking that they are doing great things for the Lord, but they are far from Him. They are far from their first love. They don't let His Spirit work in their lives.

How can we go back to our first love? Go back to where you started going away from the Lord. Go back to where you left Him. If you find yourself saying, "I used to be more concerned with my relationship with the Lord. I used to do more for Him. I used to spend more time in prayer. I used to be fired up with the Holy Ghost. I used to attend church and worship the Lord. I used to shout and dance in services. I used to witness and the Lord used me. I used to preach. I used to sing." If you hear yourself making these statements, it is time



that you get back to your used to's. It is time that you get back to your first love. It is time that you get on your face before God and ask Him to renew and restore you. Let Him fill you with His Spirit to empower you and strengthen you so that you don't get lost from Him again.

One of the areas that builds our relationship with God is prayer. All too often, our prayer life can be just us talking and never listening. We talk at God. Our conversation is all one sided. We tell Him what we want Him to do, and we even tell him how to do it. We tell Him when we want it done. God isn't our servant, we are His. We should be saying, "God, what can I do for you. God use me. What do you want me to do about this situation? God lead me." We need to submit to God so that we feel His leading, and we obey, not just when we are in prayer, but every day in our lives. That is what love is all about. That is what an obedient relationship is all about.

To be victorious in our prayer life, in our lives, we have to yield and listen. To be able to obey Him, we have to yield our self will. We have to yield to His Spirit that is inside of us. This is called *walking in the Spirit*. When we fail to walk in the Spirit, we are walking in the flesh. Yielding only to our flesh, and walking in the flesh is what the scripture calls enmity with God. Romans chapter 8 talks about walking in the Spirit as opposed to walking in

the flesh. Study this chapter. We can only serve God and obey Him if we have learned how to walk in the Spirit. To learn more about walking in the Spirit, read my book *Walking in the Spirit*. You can find it at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), or you can go online and download it free at [www.freechristianonlinebooks.com](http://www.freechristianonlinebooks.com).

We don't have much time left. As I started saying in the beginning of this chapter, even the sinners talk about the Lord coming back. His coming is a lot closer today than that it has been any other time in your life. Don't put off making yourself ready. Get back to the place where you know that you are beloved in Him. The bridegroom is coming. He is coming for His bride, His beloved. Make yourself ready.

When I think of the person we talked about earlier in this chapter, I think about how he knew all the verses by heart. He would quote scripture in every conversation. I think of this scripture in II Corinthians 3:6, "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." He had the Word but not the anointing of God in his life. God's Spirit will give us life. Just having the Word, like this guy had, will bring death. God's Spirit lifts us up, strengthens us, empowers us, enables us, and equips us. His Spirit is His presence. If we take the Holy

Ghost out of our churches, if we take Him out of our midst, out of families, out of our lives, and out of our hearts, we have taken out the presence of God. We need to get all of the spirit of God that we can get. We need be filled with Him. In the next chapter we will talk about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

## **Chapter 13. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost**

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is an experience that is a key experience to enable and empower the church today. If there has ever been a time when the church, the bride of Christ, needs to have power, victory, boldness, faith, and the quickening power of the Spirit, that time is now. All these things are brought about by the Baptism of the Spirit. Sad to say, a lot of churches teach that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost was an experience that only the Christians in the beginning days of the church could have. My question to those who believe that way is this. Why would God give early Christians an experience to empower them, and take it away from us today? We could be called the last day church. Do we need that power today? Why would God deprive us of something that we need?

If you don't have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, you might be saying to yourself, "But I thought that we got the Holy Ghost when we got saved." That is true. When you get saved, you get a portion of God's Spirit. Jesus comes into your heart through the power of the Holy Ghost. God's Spirit enters into your heart. That is the beginning. Let's start by explaining just what the Baptism of the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit is all about. I call Him the Holy

Ghost because that is what the Bible mostly calls Him.

The Holy Ghost is a person. He is a part of the trinity of God. God is made up of three persons, three parts, much like an egg. An egg has a shell, the white, and the yolk. If you separate one egg, you have three parts, but there is still only one egg there. God the Father, Jesus His Son, and the Holy Ghost, are all three parts of God. You are a person. You have a spirit that will one day go back to God, and you have your flesh part, the part that people see. You may have a son. That son is a part of you, a part of your flesh. Your DNA, your blood, your genetics, and all the things that parents pass into their children is in your son. He is a part of you. This is much the same way as God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost are connected together, but that connection is stronger. That connection between them is so strong that they are totally one. One is in the other. They operate as one. One will never step out on His own, but they are all in total and complete agreement. That is something that we humans can't understand on our own. There is an old song that goes like this, "He's God in the Father, He's God in the Son, He's God in the Holy Ghost, He's God all three in one. I know God is God, and He won't ever change." Here is one example of part of the trinity and how they fit together. John 17:21 says, "That they

all may be one: as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us.” Jesus is saying here that He and His Father were one. He was also saying that He was dying on the cross so that we could be one with both of them. That is a lot of love in that passage. I guess you could say that the stuff that holds God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost together is love. That is the same stuff that holds us together to make us one with God.

When you get saved, you are born of the Spirit of God. God’s Spirit comes into your heart. Jesus comes into your heart through God’s Spirit. So you are right if you say that God’s Spirit comes into your heart when you are saved. But there is more. If you have been baptized or filled with the Spirit of God, then you know what I am saying. Baptized with the Spirit and filled with the Spirit are both terms that refer to the same experience. There are three reasons why I know that being baptized or filled with the Holy Ghost means more than just salvation. I know because I have read the full counsel of God’s Word and it is all through the scriptures. Also, I know because it has happened to me. The third reason I know that it is so is because millions of people down through time have experienced the same thing that I have experienced.

When you get saved, you get a portion of God’s Spirit. When you receive the Baptism of

the Holy Ghost, you get baptized, filled, empowered, filled up to the brim. Here is a little bit of what the Bible says about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. This isn't something that I've made up to entertain you. It is found throughout the Word of God. It is valuable truth that may make a difference in your life between victory and defeat as a Christian.

Luke 3:16 tell about the first incidence where the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is first mentioned. John the Baptist is speaking here. "John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." At Pentecost the Holy Ghost filled them, baptized them. This is found in Acts 2:4, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak in tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 8:15 talks about a group of people who had been saved, they had received the Word of God, and they had been baptized in water already. They received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. "Who, when they were come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Ghost." Verse 17 says, "Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost." (If this were talking about salvation, and receiving the Holy Ghost because they were

saved, then why hadn't they gotten it when they were saved? Why did they have to go and lay hands on them so that they could receive it? We'll talk more about this later.) Acts 19:6, "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." This is talking about more than salvation. We need this experience of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost now more than ever. For more information about this read my book, *Baptism of the Holy Ghost*. It is available by ordering it on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Or you can download it free from [www.freechristianonlinebooks.com](http://www.freechristianonlinebooks.com). We need to allow the Holy Ghost to operate in our lives, and in our churches.

The church world as a whole has taken down the altars in their churches because they don't want people who come to church to be made to feel uncomfortable. They have let God know that they don't want His presence in their midst. They don't want to be made to feel uncomfortable, and one of the purposes of the Holy Ghost is to convict us. Conviction will make you uncomfortable. I praise God that the Holy Ghost makes me uncomfortable. When I start to fall away from Him, or fall into sin, or bad attitudes, He convicts me and draws me back. Yes, we know that conviction is definitely uncomfortable. He loves us enough to make it be so. If it wasn't that way, how would we be



stopped from sliding into our seem-right ways. What would turn us away from sin? Don't push away God's Spirit when it comes either in the midst of your services, or in your own personal worship and prayer time. Let His Spirit deal with your heart. Repent when He shows you what is wrong in your life. Repent and then turn away from it. We need to rebuild the altars in our churches, in our homes, and in our hearts. We need to welcome His Spirit back into our lives and into our churches. We need to be filled with His Spirit, baptized with the Holy Ghost. We need to get back to the Word of God. When we do these things, we will be able to get back to our first love, and stay there.

## **Chapter 14. What Is Our Part**

So what is our part in all of this? When you have read these chapters, I pray that you have been encouraged to draw closer to the Lord. I also pray that if the enemy has made you feel that you are not beloved in the Lord that you come to the place where you realize that you are. Through these pages, I pray that you are drawing closer to the Lord. Here is an illustration as to what drawing closer to the Lord can mean.

I used to wonder a lot why, if God is no respecter of persons, some people seemed to have more of His blessings, anointing, gifts and talents, and more of His favor than others do. I asked God why? He showed me that His love is the same for us all, but some have found more of it. I asked Him how. He showed me this simple little scene that illustrated so much. I am so simple that often when I ask the Lord to explain something, He shows me in a picture because I can't get it any other way. He showed me a circle of children. Jesus was in the center of the circle. Some were gathered right around Him, as close as they could be. Around that circle was another ring of children, then another, so forth and so on. I thought to myself why did He gather that one circle closer to Himself and not the others? Why was He partial to them? Then God showed me the

attitudes and faces of the children.

He showed me last the ring of children that were closest to Him. He showed me first the ring of children who were second from Him. They looked on Him and the ring of children that were closest to Him with longing. You could feel their desire to run to Him, but they were afraid to. They were afraid He might reject them, because others had rejected them. They were afraid He wouldn't love them as much as He loved the ones closest to Him. Some were condemned from past sins. Others were beaten down by satan. Jesus would glance longingly at them, but you see, God loves us and draws us to Himself, but we are the ones that have to come forward. He cannot go against our free will. His love was as great and true for them all. He would in a minute have wrapped them all in His arms, but they wouldn't come closer. They wouldn't receive.

The next row of children further away looked at Jesus with longing, but more than they looked at Him, they looked at the other children. They wanted to be a part of the children more than a part of Jesus' love. They couldn't press on past those others to run to Him. They did this or that to get the other children to notice them, not to get Jesus to see them. They soon became jealous and full of envy because they weren't accepted by Jesus like the others. That wasn't being fair to them,

they would say. They wanted the gifts and attention, but they wouldn't do what they needed to do to get it. Some of them had in their hands weights that weighed them down so that they could hardly move closer. These weights were the world, sin, fear and doubt, because they were not close enough to see Jesus' love. If they would only have set the weights down, they could have moved closer. God can't take these things away from us. We have to lay them down and give them to Him. Many would eventually give up trying to move up and move back instead of forward.

The next ring of children further back was looking at what was all around them, instead of looking at Jesus. They glanced at Him, but were infatuated with everything else and distracted from Him. They looked at the world and were eventually drawn by it away from even glancing at Jesus. They looked at their circumstances and eventually, because they weren't wrapped in His love, fear and doubt caused them to drift away. Some in this group wanted some of the time to be a part of Jesus love, but they didn't want to do what the others there were doing. They wanted to do their own thing their own way, so they did just that. This got them further away. Disobedience and self-will can cost us God's love.

Then God showed me the circle of children closest to Jesus. They sat with their

hearts and minds riveted to every Word He said. They wanted to please Him in every detail; they loved Him so much. They were full of joy because He was there. There was glow coming out from Jesus. His love was so bright it glowed. Those children closest to Him were wrapped in this glow. Jesus was passing gifts to those around Him. Gifts like talents, anointing, spiritual and physical blessings. The children were joyously receiving them. The last and most precious gift He gave them was eternal life with Him; the One they loved and desired to follow with all their heart.

God showed me that sometimes some of the children in the outside circles would break away and move up a ring. Sometimes they would get all the way to the circle closest to Jesus. Many never made it. Those that were able to, when they struggled and broke through to Him, were made very welcome by the One Who honored their struggle. Jesus' love was the same for them all, but only those that pressed closest to Him received it in the fullest measure. Only those closest in the circle around Him received His gifts, because they were the ones who reached for them, trusting Him to give them to them.

What is our part? Press on closer. Don't put your eyes on the others around you or on the world or it's circumstances. Don't get caught up in anything or anyone that will hold

you back from drawing nearer to Him. Give up your way and your will so that you can do what He wants you to do. His ways is so much better than yours is. Ours can only eventually destroy us. Hebrews 12:1 says, "Wherefore we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..." Let Him make you accepted in the Beloved. Bask in His love for you. Don't let the enemy steal His love from you by making you feel that you aren't good enough to deserve, that you aren't accepted in Him. Let Him draw you to Himself. He is the author and He will be the finisher of your faith. Trust in His love for you. In I John 3:1 we read, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...." In I John 4:16-19 we read, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us, God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us." **YOU ARE BELOVED AND LONGED FOR.**

## Closing

So now, beloved, are you made accepted in Him? Lift your hands up and praise Him and rejoice in the love of God. Ask Him to make this truth a deep part of who you are and how you see yourself. It will change your life and your relationship with God. It will even change your relationship with others. This truth of God's love for you will open your heart and mind to receive healing and deliverance. It will set you free to be filled with all His fullness. It will deliver you from depression, fear, and loneliness. It will make you able to serve Him in a capacity you never could before, you will be able to do great things for Him. Every day thank Jesus for making you accepted in the Beloved. Everyday repeat over and over, I am beloved of God. Then run to Him and let Him prove His great love for you. Let your relationship with Him be real. Remember II Thessalonians 2:13, "...for **you** brethern, beloved of the Lord."

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