

October 1

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - PART 8

FOR OF HIM, AND THROUGH HIM, AND TO HIM ARE ALL THINGS

According to Dr. Stephen Jones: “The apostle Paul has begun to understand the ways of God, and so he does not hesitate to agree fully with the plan of God in locking both Israel and the world in blindness for a season. Why? Because *out of* Him, and *through* Him, and *into* Him are all things. These words indicate that all things ORIGINATE in God; all things are processed THROUGH Him, and all things are going back INTO Him. This is just another way of saying that in the end, God will be all in all (1 Cor. 15:28). He will not be All in just a few, nor in a tiny remnant, nor will He be limited to all Israel. He will be all IN ALL.” (Blindness In Part, Dr. Stephen Jones)

According to Dr. Harold Lovelace: “This verse (Romans 11:36), as much or maybe more than any other verse in the Bible, gives the entire picture in explaining all about God and His creation. Noticing the three prepositions, “of”, “through”, and “to” and are all related to Him (God) and ALL THINGS. All things are “of” God, all things are “through” God, and all things are “to” (returning to) God. See 1st Corinthians 8:6; 11:12; 15:28; 2nd Corinthians 5:18; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:16-20; and 3:11.” (Read And Search God’s Plan, Dr. Harold Lovelace)

If this verse of scripture is not a declaration of God’s sovereignty, then there are none that declare such. This verse tells us that **God is in control of all things**, including the origin, sustaining, and ending of all things. This is referred to as **THE LAW OF CIRCULARITY**, which in simple terms states: All things must eventually return to their point of origin. There is no such thing as going in a direction away from your point of origin (for ever and ever), never returning to that point of origin. This is a sovereign law of God that includes **the entire creation**.

According to Dr. Stephen Jones: “In other words, “the all” that was inclusive of all creation is also to be reconciled back to God by the blood of the cross. All creation had become God’s enemy in need of reconciliation. This is what Paul said in Romans 11, where Israel had become God’s enemy through their unbelief, joining the world of enemies in need of God’s reconciliation. This was accomplished on the cross, and its purpose shall be fulfilled, for this is the divine plan, and no man can prevent it from happening. Hallelujah!” (Blindness In Part, Dr. Stephen Jones)

Our next effort will be to show more scriptures that declare God as...

ABSOLUTELY SOVEREIGN!



October 2

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - PART 9

ALL THINGS ARE OF GOD

According to A. P. Adams: “There is no statement in the Bible that is more remarkable and even startling than this. When you think of it seriously, it seems as though Paul was very unguarded and careless in his language. We are apt to think that he ought to have modified and limited it in some way such as, for instance, all *good* things are of God. But no, Paul makes the sweeping, unqualified statement, “all things are of (literally, *out of*) God.” Furthermore, so important did Paul consider this truth that he repeats it over and over again. The direct statement is made no less than six times in the writings of the apostle. See Rom. 11:36; I Cor. 8:6, I Cor. 11:12; 2 Cor. 5:18; Eph. 1:11, and Heb. 2:10. Now was the apostle careless and a little too bold in these utterances, or did he mean just what he said, and are they true, taken full strength? I say without hesitation, yes, to the two latter questions. The more we learn of God’s works and ways the more we shall understand that in a sense absolutely “all things are of God”; or in other words, as it has often been expressed, *God is in everything.*” (*We Are God’s Workmanship*, A. P. Adams)

The question is then, what side of the fence will we be found on? Will we be found on the sovereign side, believing that ALL THINGS ARE OF GOD?...or will we be found on the traditional side, believing that God merely reacts to mankind, and is doing His best to fight off a powerful Devil, trying to save as many people as He can? It is time to recognize our God for WHO HE IS! **HE IS SOVEREIGN! NOT ONLY IS HE POWERFUL, BUT HE IS ALL-POWERFUL. NOT ONLY IS HE KNOWING, BUT HE IS ALL-KNOWING. NOT ONLY IS HE PRESENT, BUT HE IS ALL-PRESENT. NOT ONLY IS HE LOVING, BUT HE IS ALL-LOVING (HE IS LOVE). HE POSSESSES INDISPUTABLE POWER! HE IS ALMIGHTY!**

Let us stop vomiting out traditional teaching that strips God of His sovereignty. We must be honest and admit that the modern day church is weak in the things of God. This is due to the fact that **THEY VIEW THEIR GOD AS A WEAK GOD.** They are simply a product of their preaching and teaching. Most Christians have resigned themselves to a belief that God will lose most of humanity to an eternal torture pit. This poor, pathetic, and pitiful teaching has caused many to be blinded to the sovereignty of God. **THANK GOD THAT THIS TEACHING (eternal torture) IS NOT TRUE!** Not only is it not true, but it is not even close to a proper description of our Father, for...

ALL THINGS ARE OF GOD!



October 3

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD - PART 10

CONCLUSION

According to George Addair: “Almost every person who is familiar with the Bible readily agrees that God possesses a **foreknowledge** of everything that has been, is now, or will ever be. This is confirmed by many passages of the Bible among which are “known unto God are all His works from the beginning” (Acts 15:18); “but all things are open and naked unto the eyes of Him” (Hebrews 4:13). To understand this truth is to realize that nothing happens by mere chance and the course of your life as well as the course of the world is certain because **foreknowledge** indicates that the course is fixed. If it were not fixed it could not be foreknown. And the fact that it is fixed is so vividly revealed in Ephesians 1:11, “Being predestined according to the purpose of Him Who works all things after the counsel of His own will.” (*The Absolute Sovereignty Of God*, George Addair)

Our relationship with God will be greatly enhanced as we come to an understanding that God is sovereign. The fact that God is sovereign is what sets Him apart from anything or anyone else. It is what makes Him God. It is the GODHOOD OF GOD! His **foreknowledge**, **power**, and **love** are the very attributes that declare that HE ALONE IS GOD, AND THAT THERE IS NONE ELSE BESIDE HIM! Not only does He possess **foreknowledge**, **power**, and **love**, but these three attributes are to be seen as UNLIMITED in their demonstration and manifestation of WHO HE IS! HE IS THE GREAT I AM! He has the **knowledge**, **power**, and **love** to carry out to completion (perfection) that which He purposes from the beginning.

If we preach a God Who is lacking in any of these areas, then He is not sovereign. If His power is limited in any way, then He is not sovereign. If His love is limited in any way, then He is not sovereign. Some may ask the question, what does love have to do with sovereignty? It has everything to do with sovereignty. If sovereignty is to be found in the hands of a God Who is not love, then that God would be nothing more than a cruel dictator. But thank God that that is not the case with our God, FOR GOD IS LOVE! He is ALL-POWERFUL and ALL-LOVING! He is everything to everyone! He is...

ALL IN ALL!



October 4

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE - PART 1

THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

Ephesians 2:3 states...Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; **and were by nature the children of wrath**, even as others...

This verse of scripture gives us an explanation concerning man and the root of his problem. It tells us that...WE ARE BY NATURE THE CHILDREN OF WRATH...**This is the very root of our problem!** Man is born with a nature that is contrary (or against) to God. This nature can be referred to as: the sin nature, the beast nature, or that nature that is anti-Christ (against, or instead of Christ). The word “nature” refers to the intrinsic character of a person or thing. The word “wrath” speaks of intense desire and longing. This tells us that man is born with an intrinsic character that automatically desires and longs to fulfill the desires and lusts of the flesh. **The root of our problem is to be found in the nature that we are born with.** This nature, left up to itself, will ALWAYS be contrary to the things of the Spirit. It will always gravitate to the things of the flesh. This nature will always seek self-promotion and self-exaltation, which is that spirit of anti-Christ (that which is instead of or against Christ). As well, this nature causes us to constantly come short of the glory of God, bringing us into a lifestyle of sin. (The word “sin” means to miss the mark. The mark that is being missed is the very nature of God.) It is not so much that sin is our problem, as much as it is the FALLEN NATURE that we were born with that produces sin in our lives. That is the problem. This fallen (sin) nature could also be referred to as the ADAMIC NATURE, for we did inherit it from Adam.

Genesis 5:3 tells us that Adam lived 130 years, and brought forth a son IN HIS OWN LIKENESS, AFTER HIS IMAGE; AND CALLED HIS NAME SETH...This tells us that Adam brought forth children in his own likeness, passing on his fallen state and fallen condition (nature). This is the reason that we are by nature the children of wrath.

WE MUST **LOOK WITHIN** TO SEE OUR PROBLEMS AND FAILURES, for they are the result of our (inherited) Adamic Nature. It will do us no good to look without, pointing our self-righteous finger at others. We must deal with...

THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM!



October 5

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE - PART 2

THE MAN OF SIN

After seeing that our fallen nature is the root of our problem, we are then freed up to see, having revealed to us...“THE MAN OF SIN”. 2ND Thessalonians 2:3,4 states...Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and **that “man of sin” be revealed**, the son of perdition; Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God...

The key to understanding this passage (2nd Thessalonians 2:3,4) is to LOOK WITHIN YOURSELF, seeing your fallen nature as the “man of sin” that sits in the temple of God. Remember...

The apostle Paul told us that **WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD!** Well...This is where the “man of sin” is said to be found at. This would mean that the terminology “man of sin” is referring to the carnal (fleshly) nature within the temple of God that is opposing the things of God. What is it that opposes the Spirit of God? Well...**THE FLESH, OF COURSE!** The flesh wars against the Spirit, and the Spirit wars against the flesh.

The most important point for us to see concerning the “man of sin” is this: The “man of sin” is NOT something or someone OUT THERE. He (the “man of sin”) is not just one man who will rise on the scene to take over the world. This “man of sin” is **WITHIN US**, even in our members, stemming from our fallen nature. The apostle Paul referred to it in Romans 7:5, when he stated... For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, **DID WORK IN OUR MEMBERS** to bring forth fruit unto death...

After coming to the revelation that **our fallen nature is the root of our problem**, and that the “man of sin” is within us (the temple of God), we are then headed toward one of the most profound revelations in all of the Bible. This revelation will **SET US FREE** from self, including a lifestyle of pointing the finger at others. We must see that **all of our problems come from within**, that is, they are internal, not external. As long as we keep waiting for some literal “man of sin” to walk on the scene, not discerning that “man of sin” that is within, it will never be revealed to us that the “man of sin” is that **CARNAL MIND**...

WITHIN US!



October 6

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE - PART 3

O WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM!

Romans 7:23,24 states...But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. **O wretched man that I am!** who shall deliver me from the body of this death?...

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST PROFOUND STATEMENTS THAT THE APOSTLE PAUL MADE IN ALL OF HIS WRITINGS! When a person comes to the understanding (revelation) that **ALL THEIR PROBLEMS ARE TO BE FOUND WITHIN THEM**, it is equivalent to a pregnant woman whose water breaks, for then she knows the baby is sure to come forth. To realize that we are wretched outside of God does not at first sound like good news. After we get over the initial shock of seeing our total depravity (the condition of our hopeless nature), we are then **IN POSITION TO RECEIVE OF GOD'S DIVINE NATURE, WHICH GIVES US ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE AND GODLINESS**. It is not until we see ourselves for who we are outside of God that we can see the potential of **WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST**.

This process of seeing ourselves as wretched is not a pity party or false humility, but rather, we are coming to the place where we are poor in spirit, for Jesus said...Blessed are the poor in spirit: for

theirs is the kingdom of heaven...This could also be referred to as the BADGE OF BROKENNESS. It is an awareness of our inherited spiritual condition outside of God. After realizing this (being brought to a realization of this by God), we are now headed in the right direction, which causes us to look unto GOD AS OUR POWER SOURCE. We will begin to see Him as the AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH. This brings us to a place of total hopelessness in self, but of total victory in Christ. We become totally dependent on the grace of God, **having no confidence in the flesh.**

This is what Jesus was referring to when He explained the process of denying self, taking up our cross, and following Him. As we enter into this process, we will find that death (the carnal mind that is in us) is giving way to the life of Christ, being swallowed up in victory. This will take our attention off of trying to fight the Devil, which is really not our problem, for we are not told (in scripture) to fight the Devil, but rather, we are told to SUBMIT TO GOD. We must lose our life for His name's sake, for then, and only then, will we find life. This is the key to any and all victory in God. (Scriptures used: 2nd Peter 1:3-4, Matthew 5:3, Hebrews 12:2, Philippians 3:3, Matthew 16:24-25, 1st Corinthians 15:54-56, James 4:7.) Now for some hope from...

GOD'S DIVINE POWER!



October 7

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE - PART 4

HIS DIVINE POWER

2nd Peter 1:3 states...According as His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue...

Are you ready for some HOPE? Are you ready for some GOOD NEWS? Are you ready for a truth from God's Word that will set you free from a life of failure, frustration, and condemnation? We as Christians desire to walk in victory. We desire to be overcomers. We long for the ability and knowledge to walk in the Spirit each and every day. Many set out to serve God, trying to serve Him on zeal alone, but find themselves hitting a brick wall, not being able to apprehend that which they are seeking for. Is it that they just don't want God bad enough? Are they not totally sold out to God?...NO!

Remember...The apostle Paul found himself in the same condition. Romans 7:18 states...For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwells no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not...

So...The question is, HOW DO WE OVERCOME? HOW DO WE WALK IN THE SPIRIT? HOW DO WE BECOME LIKE THE SON OF GOD? We must first realize (as we have previously stated) **that this ability (the ability to overcome the flesh) is not to be found in us.** There must be another POWER SOURCE (other than us) that is available to us that will enable us to be who we are called to be. **THIS POWER SOURCE IS GOD'S DIVINE POWER!** It is SO IMPORTANT that

we understand this, for the scriptures tell us that **His divine power has given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of God...** If there is something available to us that gives us ALL THINGS that pertain to life and godliness, then we might want to learn of it, taking notice of what it is, even how to receive of it.

An understanding of 2nd Peter chapter one will deliver you from a life of trying to please God in the flesh, for the flesh (your ability) WILL FAIL GOD EVERY TIME! 2ND Peter chapter one is one of THE MOST IMPORTANT PASSAGES of scripture in the entire Bible. If we are able to discover its meaning, then we will be ushered into THE VERY ABUNDANT LIFE THAT JESUS SPOKE OF!

WHAT GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES!



October 8

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE - PART 5

THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

In order to be a partaker of something it is imperative that we have a knowledge of what it is that we are to partake of. In this case we are referring to a knowledge of partaking of GOD'S DIVINE NATURE. The word "knowledge" used in 2nd Peter 1:2 comes from the Greek word "epignosis", which means: clear and exact knowledge, expressing a more thorough participation in the object of knowledge on the part of the subject, knowledge which very powerfully influences the form of the religious life, and a knowledge laying claim to personal sympathy and exerting an influence upon the person. In this case (2nd Peter 1:2) it would refer to having an intimate and thorough knowledge of God. This knowledge would be based off of a person's experience in God, which knowledge would influence the life of that person, and which knowledge would result in a manifestation of the CHRIST-LIFE.

Pay close attention to the word "knowledge" in 2nd Peter chapter one. It is used no less than six times. Peter was obviously placing an extreme amount of emphasis on the believer's need for THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. As well, Romans chapters six through eight places the same amount of emphasis on the importance of the believer having a thorough knowledge of God. This knowledge (the knowledge of the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ) is what leads us to be a partaker of God's divine nature.

Without a true and proper knowledge of God, we are doomed to failure and condemnation, being sentenced to the bondage of the traditions and doctrines of men. Hosea 4:6 states...My people are destroyed **for lack of knowledge**... This tells us that a lack of knowledge is what causes us to perish, keeping us in a life of failure, frustration, and condemnation.

The difference between a believer and a non-believer is this: One believes and **knows** about God, and the other does not. THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IS WORTH MORE THAN ALL THE

EARTHLY RICHES THAT ONE COULD ACQUIRE! IT IS WORTH WHATEVER IT TAKES TO ACQUIRE IT! It is to be seen as a mighty key in God's Kingdom that unlocks to us an experience that could not otherwise be experienced. The opposite of perishing is to live. Let us seek the knowledge of God...

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE!



October 9

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE - PART 6

SHARERS IN THE VERY NATURE OF GOD

2nd Peter 1:4 states...Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust...

If there are certain key scriptures in the Bible that unlock to us how to be all that God has called us to be in Christ, then this is definitely one of those scriptures, and just might be the most important one. We are told that...**WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN EXCEEDING GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES; THAT BY THESE WE MIGHT BE PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE.** The New Testament In Modern Speech renders this passage as follows: It is by means of these that He has granted us His precious and wondrous promises, in order that through them you may, one and all, **BECOME SHARERS IN THE VERY NATURE OF GOD**, having completely escaped the corruption which exists in the world through earthly cravings...

WHAT A PRECIOUS AND WONDROUS OPPORTUNITY THAT HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO US! CAN YOU BELIEVE WHAT HAS JUST BEEN STATED? WE HAVE BECOME SHARERS IN THE VERY NATURE OF GOD! This means that we are partakers and participators in all that God is. This is good news. This is **VERY GOOD NEWS!** This is our hope, and is in fact our only hope! It is the hope that we have been, are being, and will be saved from the nature that we were born with. This is our salvation!

The other aspect of this scripture that should cause us to rejoice is this: This passage speaks of something that **GOD HAS ACCOMPLISHED**, simply leaving us as sharers in **HIS ACCOMPLISHMENT**. We are not called upon to do anything, but rather, to receive (and be) that which will enable us to be like Him. We must **STOP** trying to live for God in the flesh. We will never accomplish godliness in the flesh. In essence, we are to simply take on God's nature, just as one would partake of a meal on a table that has been fully set. This is what it means to labor (be diligent) to enter into God's rest (Hebrews 4:1-11). As we take on, partake of, participate in, and receive of the **VERY NATURE OF GOD**, we are given one of the most unbelievable promises in all of the Bible. So let us make our calling and election sure, for we are...

SHARERS IN THE VERY NATURE OF GOD!

October 10

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE - PART 7

YOU SHALL NEVER FALL

2ND Peter 1:10 states...Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, **you shall never fall...**

This is quite an unbelievable promise, but if the Bible is true (which it is), then we must believe it and take it for what it says. This verse is telling us the result of partaking of the divine nature. It tells us of a position in God that gives us the ability to NEVER FALL. The word "fall" in this verse means to stumble. Well...If you are not able to stumble, how can you even fall? This does not mean that we are destined to never make a mistake, but rather, it speaks of a POSITION OF TESTIMONY that is sure and rock solid, and that will never fail. This "position of testimony" is to be found IN CHRIST, Who is the ANOINTED ONE OF GOD. To be IN CHRIST is to be a part of the **NEW CREATION MAN**, having God's divine nature as our power source. The old man is dead and buried! We have been raised with Christ in newness of life. It is the **exchanged life process**.

With these things being said, we are now on a path to CERTAIN VICTORY, having positioned and aligned ourselves with a POWER that will enable us to NEVER STUMBLE. Due to the fact that we have been born with a fallen nature, this becomes VERY EXCITING NEWS to the human race. All we know is a life of stumbling, falling, sin, frustration, futility, vanity, and condemnation. God's divine nature is the ONLY THING that is able to free us from the vicious cycle of constantly coming short of the glory of God, which leads to failure, frustration, and condemnation. As well, God's divine nature liberates us, causing us to be ushered into a new dimension of living, in which we are promised to receive of God's abundant life. This new and living way is the opposite of falling short of the glory of God. It introduces us to the potential of never falling. How can we fall as long as we are sharing in the very nature of God? It is impossible to fall when one is walking in the Spirit. God's nature is bringing us to the place where we only do those things that please our Father. After partaking of Who God is, godliness will become a...

BYPRODUCT OF GOD'S DIVINE NATURE!



October 11

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE - PART 8

DOING...A BYPRODUCT OF GOD'S NATURE

2ND Peter 1:5-8,10 states...And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these

things be in you, and abound, they make you that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ...Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, you shall never fall...

As one takes a first glance at this passage of scripture it appears that we are being given a list of things that we must do to become like God. In fact, MANY Christians spend a lifetime trying to “work up” or “muster up” enough strength in and of themselves to try to become like God. BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE!

We must go back to the original statement that Peter made. 2nd Peter 1:4 states...**we have been made partakers of the divine nature**...The statements that Peter makes in verses four through eleven are to be seen in light of his original statement. This means that faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity are BYPRODUCTS OF PARTAKING OF THE DIVINE NATURE. If you think that you are capable of producing these attributes of God in your life outside of the divine nature, then you will find yourself right back in your original predicament, which is...O WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM!

We must be careful not to get the cart before the horse. MANY think that what they do will produce the divine nature. This is just the opposite of the truth. We must understand that it is the divine nature at work within us that will produce godliness in our lives. This is what James meant when he stated that...faith without works is dead...Did James mean to tell us that works produce faith? NO! His statement (faith without works is dead) simply means that proper faith in the Lord Jesus Christ will produce proper godly works. When Peter mentioned doing certain things which would result in never falling, he was meaning that the doing of these things would be a byproduct of God's divine power and nature. It is God's divine power that stems from His divine nature, producing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, for...

WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP!



October 12

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE - PART 9

A TRIUMPHANT ADMISSION INTO THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

2ND Peter 1:11 (The New Testament In Modern Speech) states...And so a triumphant admission into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be freely granted to you...

The message of God has always been...THE KINGDOM OF GOD. To partake of God's divine nature is to partake of God's Kingdom. The working of God's nature within us is at the very heart of the true meaning of what His Kingdom is to accomplish. His Kingdom, which is within us, is His rule and reign within our hearts and lives. That which is to rule and reign in us is HIS DIVINE NATURE! In times past we have all been ruled by our fallen nature, but now, through the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have been introduced to a NEW NATURE. This new nature

comes in with the Holy Ghost and fire. Its purpose is to **burn up** our old nature, which is to be characterized as wood, hay, and stubble. In essence (spiritually speaking), we are going from wood, hay, and stubble to gold, silver, and precious stones. Gold (in the scriptures) is always a symbol of DEITY, DIVINITY, OR THAT WHICH IS GOD-LIKE. Since God's Kingdom is the Kingdom that is within us, we can now see what it is that causes His Kingdom to grow and flourish from within. IT IS HIS DIVINE NATURE THAT IS AT WORK INSIDE OF US! As His nature becomes our nature, and His power becomes our power, we are sure to find ourselves triumphantly entering into the eternal Kingdom (the Kingdom of the ages).

God's purpose for His creation is that His Kingdom would fill ALL THINGS. Those who press into the Kingdom will no doubt become like their King, understanding that it is their King's nature which enables them to be conformed to His image. Without God's divine nature being stamped into the soulish part of man, there is no way to be given an admission into the eternal Kingdom. This leads us to the conclusion that God's goal for the human race is to triumphantly enter into His Kingdom. His divine nature is simply the means by which we will achieve this goal. Not only will we achieve this goal, but we will become like Him in the process. We will become one with our Father. How could we not become like Him? We are partaking of...

HIS NATURE!



October 13

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE - PART 10

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we have shown that the root of man's problem stems from his inherited Adamic Nature. We have also stated that all of man's problems are internal, not external. This leaves man in a predicament, causing him to be ruled by his carnal mind. Finally, he is brought to the reality of his condition, which is...O WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM! After coming to this grand and wonderful revelation, we are then driven to the only power source that will enable us to be who God has called us to be in Christ. THIS POWER SOURCE IS THE **DIVINE NATURE**! It is only through the knowledge of God's divine power that we will become sharers (partakers) in His divine nature. This realization then opens us up to the operating table of God, in which we will begin to undergo a spiritual transformation, being conformed into the image of the Son of God. We will find ourselves on a journey, going from the carnal mind to the mind of Christ, from the fallen nature to the divine nature, from the son of perdition to the Son of God, from weakness to power, from condemnation and frustration to victory and satisfaction, from death to life, and from being a part of that which is anti-Christ to becoming the body of Christ.

With this being said, we are now on our way to a state of being in God in which we shall never fall. Our position goes from being IN ADAM to IN CHRIST. This new position in the NEW

CREATION MAN causes us to be one with our Father in purpose and power. We are leaving the realm of religion (denominational death) and entering into the UNLIMITED realm of the eternal Kingdom of God.

Having found a triumphant admission into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we have aligned ourselves with the purpose of our Heavenly Father, which is...HIS KINGDOM COME. HIS WILL BE DONE IN EARTH, AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

These promises are to be seen as EXCEEDING GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES. HOW GREAT A SALVATION WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN! How great was our fall, but how great will be our rise in Christ. We are called to soar with eagle's wings FAR ABOVE all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world (age), but also in that which is to come: And God has put all things under our feet, and IN HIM to be the Head over all things, FOR WE ARE HIS CHURCH, HIS BODY, THE FULLNESS OF HIM...

THAT FILLS ALL IN ALL! (Ephesians 1:21-23)



October 14

PHYSICAL DEATH - PART 1

Although the Bible does not say much about physical death, it will be beneficial to at least take into account what it does say. In doing this we will put to rest many false ideas and teachings concerning the state of man after physical death (while awaiting the resurrection). To understand this subject in its proper light we must first be willing to discard any and all ideas about physical death that do not line up with the Holy Scriptures. In order to grasp what happens to a person at physical death we must also understand what man is made up of. In other words, we must see that man is a three-part being made up of **SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY**.

1ST Thessalonians 5:23 states...And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole **spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...

According to Dr. Stephen Jones: "When Paul speaks of "you entirely," he lists the three parts of "you." They are spirit, soul, and body. There is a difference between soul and spirit, which men can see if they rightly divide the Word of truth. Heb. 4:12 says that the Word is sharper than any sword and can divide soul and spirit. That alone shows that soul and spirit are two different things. They can be separated. The best way to understand the relationship between spirit, soul, and body is to think of them in terms of their physical counterparts.

Spirit = breath, or wind [Heb. *ruach* = spirit, breath]

Soul = blood (Lev. 17:11) / Body = flesh (self-evident)

The breath gives oxygen to the blood, which is then carried by arteries and capillaries in the body. Even so, the spirit gives life to the soul, which is in the flesh. The relationship between spirit and soul is pictured in the relationship between the breath and the blood. They are different, but it is

the spirit that gives life to the soul. It was only when God breathed the breath of life into Adam that he became a living soul. When the breath is removed from a man, his flesh and blood dies. Even so, when God removes the breath of life from a man, *both his body and soul die*. A man's mind, will, and emotion cannot function apart from his flesh (brain). The out-of-body experiences that men often relate to us after being revived from death are not a function of the conscious soul, but of the consciousness of the spirit. As we will see shortly, the spirit and soul each have a separate consciousness." (*The Judgments Of The Divine Law*, Dr. Stephen Jones)

This study will put to rest the CARNAL IDEAS of men concerning physical death. Most people believe that a person (upon physical death) is either shipped off to an eternal torture pit, or that they are flown to a literal mansion in the sky that exists on a planet called Heaven. We will seek to prove from this study that neither of these two views are correct. In fact, God's dealings with man (as far as reward or punishment are concerned) are not to be administered until the resurrection of the dead, whether it be the first or second resurrection. With this in mind, let us put off the traditions of men concerning this topic, heading boldly into the truth of the matter. In order to do this we must seek for an understanding of...

SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY!



October 15

PHYSICAL DEATH - PART 2

BODY, SOUL, AND SPIRIT

Let us now consider what takes place upon physical death concerning man's body, soul, and spirit. Since there is no debate as to what happens to our body upon physical death, we will concentrate most of our effort in explaining what happens to the soul and spirit. We are all fully aware that the body is buried, returning to the earth from whence it came. We have come to call it the GRAVE. Let us now turn our attention to what happens to the soul and spirit.

According to Dr. Stephen Jones: "Death is a return. The body returns to dust, the soul returns to "sleep," and the spirit returns to God. A more metaphysical way of putting it is this: the body goes to the tomb; the soul goes to Hades; the spirit goes to God (heaven). The best example of this in the Bible is Jesus' death. Jesus' body was put in Joseph's tomb (John 19:38-42), His soul went to Hades (Acts 2:31), and His spirit returned to God (Luke 23:46). The soul had no existence prior to God breathing the breath of life into Adam's nostrils, for at that moment, man became a living soul. When that breath is removed, the soul ceases to exist in its conscious state that we call "living." The spirit—that is, man's spirit, as distinct from the Holy Spirit of God—is the part of man that transcends death. Ecclesiastes 12:7 speaks of death, saying, **then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God Who gave it**. In the New Testament we find this idea continued in the death of Jesus. Luke 23:46 quotes Psalm 31:5 in giving Jesus' last words:

And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, Father into Your hands I commit My spirit. And having said this, He breathed His last. This detail is recorded in Matthew 27:50 in this way: And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. So we see that Jesus' spirit did not go either to Joseph's grave with His body, nor did it go to Hades with His soul (Acts 2:27). It went to God Who had given it to Him. The real question is whether or not a person's spirit has a consciousness that is distinct from the consciousness of the soul." (The Judgments Of The Divine Law, Dr. Stephen Jones)

DEATH IS A RETURN!



October 16

PHYSICAL DEATH - PART 3

THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE SPIRIT

According to Dr. Stephen Jones: "Man's spirit has a consciousness that is distinct from the consciousness of the soul. The fact that spirit has a conscious mind should not come as a surprise. The Spirit of God (i.e., the Holy Spirit) possesses a conscious mind. God is spirit (John 4:24) and needs no physical brain or soulish mind in order to function consciously. Gen. 6:3 says, "*My Spirit will not always strive with man.*" Such striving would require conscious behavior. Isaiah 11:2 speaks of the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, and knowledge. Such things also require consciousness. In 1 Cor. 2:16 we are admonished to put on the mind of Christ. In Eph. 4:23, 24 "the spirit of your mind" is identified with the "new self" (NASB) or the "new man" (KJV)...and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth... It is obviously a spiritual mind and an inner self that has consciousness. Unclean spirits also have a consciousness, as we read many times in the scriptures. For example, Mark 9:26 says of an unclean spirit, "*after crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out.*" Man is made in the image of God. Therefore, it seems reasonable to say man's spirit also has a consciousness. Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 2:14 that divine matters cannot be understood with the natural (literally "soulish") mind, but must be understood with the spiritual mind. So what does this mean? Where does the spirit go when it "returns" to God? To answer that, one must stop trying to think carnally. Heaven is not "located" somewhere in or beyond the stars. The spirit does not have to travel anywhere. It does not take a certain amount of time to go from heaven to earth or from earth to heaven. Ezekiel 44:17 speaks of it figuratively as changing clothes. Paul uses the same terminology in 2 Cor. 5:2-4. When Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, He demonstrated His ability to move from flesh to spirit form in an instant (Luke 24:36). When a person dies, his spirit remains in the realm of spirit, where there is neither time nor distance. It is always in the realm of "I am." It is not "I was" or "I will be." It is not "I am here" or "I am there." All time is one. All space is one. In the spirit, all things simply are. It is

only in the earthly realm that we are bound by time and space. To understand spiritual existence, we must think “outside the box.” (The Judgments Of The Divine Law, Dr. Stephen Jones)

THE SPIRIT RETURNS TO GOD WHO GAVE IT!



October 17

JESUS, THE PATTERN SON - PART 1

JESUS IS GOD’S GREATEST SIGN

According to Bill Britton: “JESUS is God’s greatest sign! In Isaiah 7:14 the prophet cried out, “Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” Now, beloved, get your Bibles, for I want to show you that the Sign was not the virgin who brought forth. It was not the swaddling clothes He was wrapped in, nor was the miraculous birth itself the promised Sign, but rather it was the One Who was born and brought into the world in such a manner. He was and still is God’s greatest Sign. Now a sign is that which points to something, and this man Jesus, His birth, life, death and resurrection points unerringly to that great thing which God is doing in the earth, His eternal Purpose in Christ Jesus! The angels spoke to the shepherds in the field on that glorious night, “Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. AND THIS SHALL BE A SIGN UNTO YOU.” And then they went on to tell them where to find the child. In Luke, chapter two, that old prophet of God, Simeon, came by the Spirit into the temple and there he found Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus. Here we find hands being laid on Jesus and prophecy going forth over Him at the tender age of six weeks. For Simeon took Him up in his arms and began to prophesy. Hear, my friends, what the Spirit said about Him: “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and FOR A SIGN which shall be spoken against.” (Jesus, The Pattern Son, Bill Britton)

Now that we have established that Jesus is God’s greatest sign (a pattern), let us look to Hebrews 2:9-18, which states what He went through for EVERY MAN. In essence, Jesus laid down a PATTERN for all who would follow in His footsteps.

Hebrews 2:9,10,17,18 states...But we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became Him, for Whom are all things, and by Whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings...Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted...

As we can see, the Captain of our salvation was perfected through suffering and temptation, for this is...

THE SIGN AND PATTERN FOR ALL OF GOD'S SONS!



October 18

JESUS, THE PATTERN SON - PART 2

THE OPEN HEAVENS

According to Bill Britton: "Remembering now that everything about the life of Jesus is a pattern for His Body, let us look at the order of events that happen when Jesus came to be baptized of John..."

1. There had been a prophetic ministry in the land for some time now.
2. In the fullness of time Jesus was ready and came forth to meet His destiny.
3. Jesus, the Pattern, was recognized by the true prophetic ministry as God's Son.
4. Jesus submitted Himself to God's ministry for this hour.
5. In a figure, He died in Jordan's water and rose again to a new realm in God.
6. The heavens were opened unto Him.
7. He saw God the Holy Ghost in a bodily shape.
8. He received an anointing of the Spirit beyond what He had previously had.
9. He heard the voice of God announcing Him as the Son of God.
10. He was led by the Holy Spirit into a wilderness place where He battled Satanic forces hand to hand, face to face, and defeated and overcame Satan.
11. He began a 3-1/2 year ministry of love, life, and power such as the world had never seen, not even from the greatest of the prophets.

Matt. 3:16: "And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him." Mark 1:10: "And straightway coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opened." Glory to God! Something happened here that began the fulfillment of Jacob's dream of the ladder. You remember that Jacob dreamed as he lay there at Bethel with his head on a stone for a pillow and saw in his dream the heavens opened, and a ladder set up on the earth, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the ladder. Jacob awoke out of his sleep in fear and dread and cried: "How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven" (Genesis 28:17). So he changed the name of that place from Luz to Bethel because Bethel signified "HOUSE OF GOD". He had actually seen, in a type, the true house of God, the fullness of the Son of Man in Christ and His people." (Jesus, The Pattern Son, Bill Britton)

After having been called, recognized, and placed as a son of God, we will then have the heavens opened to us (spiritually speaking), being dead to our old life and anointed with the new life of Christ. We are now to be led by the Holy Spirit of God. It is quite interesting where the Spirit first leads us on this journey of SONSHIP. It is not the most desired place, but it does bring about the most desired results. It is...

THE WILDERNESS!



October 19

JESUS, THE PATTERN SON - PART 3

THE WILDERNESS

Matthew 4:1 states...Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil...

After being called, recognized, and declared as a son of God, having the heavens opened to us, we are then **LED UP OF THE SPIRIT INTO THE WILDERNESS TO BE TEMPTED OF THE DEVIL**. Notice that it is THE SPIRIT OF GOD that leads us into a wilderness experience to be tempted of the Devil. We must stop thinking that God is mad at us when we find ourselves in a wilderness experience. GOD IS THE ONE WHO HAS LED US THERE BY HIS SPIRIT! If God leads us into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil, then there must be a purpose for it, and it must be for our good.

The word "wilderness" means: solitary, lonely, and lonesome. This would mean that God is responsible for placing us in lonely circumstances in our lives. Many times we find ourselves all alone in what we are thinking, doing, or saying. We begin to feel the pressure of satanic forces coming against us to tempt us to go outside of the will of God. This is Satan (the prince of the power of the air) coming against our mind to try us, putting us to the test. Even though we do not enjoy our seasons of wilderness in life, we will come to understand that they are necessary, and even for our good. The wilderness is what brings us in contact with FIERY TRIALS. This causes us to go from glory to glory, growing up into a fully mature son of God. WE ARE GROWING UP IN GOD! WE ARE PUTTING ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! WE ARE LEARNING TO PARTAKE OF THE DIVINE NATURE! WE ARE HAVING HIS LAWS WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS! WE ARE LEARNING THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN! WE ARE LEARNING TO ACCESS HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS! WE ARE LEARNING TO CAST DOWN IMAGINATIONS, AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTS ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, BRINGING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST; (2nd Corinthians 10:5)...

We must see that it is God Who places us in these experiences, for without going through the wilderness there is no possible way for us to be an overcomer. How can we overcome if there is

nothing to overcome? The purpose of the wilderness is to teach us to endure temptation, suffering, and fiery trials. It is in and through the wilderness experience that we are able to become like the Son of God. Every time we leave the wilderness, we leave...

IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT!



October 20

JESUS, THE PATTERN SON - PART 4

ENDURING TEMPTATION

James 1:2-4 states...My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith works patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing...

James 1:12 states...Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love Him...

1st Peter 4:12,13 states...Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy...

The reason that MOST CHRISTIANS remain as spiritual babes in Christ is due to the fact that they do not apply these scripture passages to their lives. Scripture passages such as these teach us that God has us in a process. This process is one in which we are becoming a (fully mature) son of God. Those that do not see that they are in a process (sonship) will find themselves continually fighting against the very will of God, not understanding that the things they are going through are for their benefit. Remember...The Son of God was tempted, went through fiery trials, and suffered. As well, the sons of God must be tempted, go through fiery trials, and suffer as a Christian (1st Peter 4:16). IT IS THE PATTERN THAT WAS LAID DOWN BY THE PATTERN SON. If you were to list out the recipe for the making of a son of God, it would include temptation, fiery trials, and suffering as a Christian.

The word "temptations" that is used in James 1:12 means trials. Surely we know that Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). So how could we be conformed to the image of the Son of God without going through the same? It is not that we ask for, wait for, or enjoy our temptations, fiery trials, and sufferings, but we must see why they are necessary when they do come our way. We must also see that they are for a specific purpose. THEY ARE FOR A PURPOSE! The purpose is that we are to be conformed to the image of the Son of God, THE PATTERN SON!

The apostle Paul understood this to a degree that most do not. Romans 5:3-5 states...And not only so, but **we glory in tribulations** also: knowing that tribulation works patience; And patience,

experience; and experience, hope: And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us...

BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT ENDURES TEMPTATION!



October 21

JESUS, THE PATTERN SON - PART 5

WE SHALL ALSO REIGN WITH HIM

2nd Timothy 2:11,12 states...It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us...

The work of the Lord Jesus Christ (The Pattern Son of God) is to bring man to the place that God has purposed from the very beginning. This is explained to us in Genesis 1:26, which states...And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness: AND LET THEM HAVE DOMINION...The word “dominion” obviously speaks of ruling and reigning, for one who reigns does indeed have dominion over that which he reigns. This *process of sonship*, which we currently find ourselves in, is that process which is bringing us from death to life, teaching us how to rule and reign with Christ. This is a threefold process that includes our spirit, soul, and body. Our spirit has been saved, our soul (mind, will, and emotions) is being saved, and our body is yet to be saved at the resurrection. We are learning to reign with Him one step at a time. We are currently learning to reign over our Adamic Nature by partaking of God's divine nature. With this being said though, this is not the fullness of our reigning experience with God. The fullness is to be realized at the **ADOPTION, THE REDEMPTION OF OUR BODIES**. This is what Paul referred to when he spoke of the manifestation of the sons of God, at which time we (the overcomers) shall be given power over the nations **TO RULE AND REIGN OVER THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON!**

At this present time we are in training. We are going through temptations, fiery trials, sufferings, and tribulations. These things must take place in order for God to qualify His people for the first resurrection. This (the first resurrection) is the time at which we shall receive the redemption of our body. This is the **TRUE PROMISED LAND** (our glorified bodies) that we have so long awaited to inherit. This process is to be seen in type and shadow in the Old Testament, in which God delivered His chosen people from Egyptian bondage in three phases (out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and into the Promised Land). It is also to be seen in the Feasts of Israel (Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles). These types and shadows apply to individuals as well as the entire creation. This is the purpose of God for His creation. It is for us to reign with Him. **IT IS TO HAVE DOMINION!**

WE SHALL REIGN WITH HIM!

October 22

JESUS, THE PATTERN SON - PART 6

DEATH TO SELF

Matthew 26:38,39 states... Then said He unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry here, and watch with Me. And He went a little farther, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as You will...

The most important thing that Jesus taught us (concerning our sonship process) was that there must be a death to the self-life. This is what enabled Him to do only those things that pleased the Father. The problem of mankind has always been... THE SELF-LIFE! Remember... It is the soulish part of man that is in need of sanctification. Well... This involves a death to our ways, causing us to embrace God's ways. The Father is bringing us to the place where our life clearly says... NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS YOU WILL!

This death to self (the soulish part of man) is what enables the Spirit of God to flow unhindered through man, causing his mind, will, and emotions to be conformed to the image of the Son of God. As we have already stated, this process is called sanctification, and is to be found at work in all of God's sons. Without the death of self there is no way to experience the resurrection life of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not possible to have a resurrection without a death first. This is why it is so important for us to understand what Jesus was teaching when He stated... NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS YOU WILL! He was laying down the pattern for all who would follow in His footsteps. It is the pattern which acknowledges that the Father's will is greater than ours. This was at the very heart of the Lord's Prayer, which states... YOUR KINGDOM COME! YOUR WILL BE DONE!

It is those who understand this principle in God that will grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. If self is not recognized for what it is and dealt with, it will prevail, causing the Spirit of God to be quenched in our lives. On the other hand, if self is recognized for what it is and dealt with, then we have tapped into THE VERY KINGDOM OF GOD! How is it that so many Christians do not see this aspect of the ministry of the Pattern Son of God, AND THAT IT APPLIES TO ALL OF GOD'S SONS? Blessed is the person who is able to see that their greatest enemy is to be found when they look in the mirror. It is this person that will experience all that the Father is and has to give. It is this person who understands the person, work, and ministry of...

THE PATTERN SON OF GOD!



October 23

JESUS, THE PATTERN SON - PART 7

YOU ARE THE CHRIST

Matthew 16:15,16 states...He said unto them, But whom say you that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God...

Many people are able to recognize Jesus as the Christ, but do not see that He laid down a pattern for us to be a part of the Christ as well. Jesus, Who is the Christ, opened the door for us to become a part of the Christ. He is the Head and we are His body. **WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST!** The reason that many people do not understand this simple point is due to the fact that many do not grasp **THAT "CHRIST" IS NOT JUST MADE UP OF JESUS, BUT IS A MANY MEMBERED MAN, INCLUDING HIS BODY!**

1st Corinthians 12:12-14 states...For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: **so also is Christ.** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many...

This revelation will set your soul on fire to serve God! When a person realizes that he is a part of the Christ, the Savior of the world, it is all the motivation you will ever need to press into the high calling of God. In essence, Jesus is **THE CHRIST**, and we are **HIS CHRIST**. Remember... "Christ" is a many membered man (body) with the Lord Jesus as the Head. The Head needs the body, and the body needs the Head. **THEY ARE ONE!**

The word "Christ" means **Anointed One or Messiah**. With this in mind, let us look to Psalm two, which does speak of the Anointed and what He is to accomplish. Remember...The Anointed One is a many membered man (body). Psalm 2:2,7-9 states...The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against His Anointed...I will declare the decree: the LORD has said unto Me, You are My Son; this day have I begotten You. Ask of Me, and I shall give You the heathen for Your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel...This same scripture verse is repeated in Revelation 2:26, and is said to include all the overcomers, showing that the Christ is a many membered man (body). It is also stated in Revelation 11:15 that the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord (Jesus), and of...

HIS CHRIST!



October 24

JESUS, THE PATTERN SON - PART 8

CONCLUSION

It has been our goal in this study to show that JESUS IS GOD'S GREATEST SIGN. He is a pattern for all who would follow in His footsteps. He was made a little lower than the angels (Elohim), for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man (Hebrews 2:9)...The Captain of our salvation was made perfect through sufferings in order that He might bring many sons unto glory (Hebrews 2:10)...It was for this purpose that Jesus went through all that He did. He laid down His life that He might be the Savior of the world, taking away the sin of the world. In doing so, He became a pattern (sign) as the only way to the Father.

The mistake that is so commonly made concerning the life and ministry of Jesus Christ is that we do not apply His life, ministry, sufferings, temptations, trials, death, and resurrection to our own life. WE MUST SEE OURSELVES AS PART OF THE CHRIST, WHO IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD, THE FIRSTBORN OF EVERY CREATURE (Colossians 1:15)...We must see that our life is to be patterned after His life. Philippians 3:10-14 states...That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus...

The apostle Paul obviously understood that Jesus had laid down a pattern in which we were to identify with His death, burial, and resurrection. This process of being conformed to the image of the Pattern Son includes the transformation of our spirit, soul, and finally, our bodies, for Paul stated that Jesus Christ would change our vile bodies, that they may be fashioned like unto His glorious body (Philippians 3:21)...We are to realize that there is no stopping place in God. We have not fully apprehended or attained, but WE PRESS INTO THE HIGH CALLING OF OUR GOD! We press into this glorious process of SONSHIP! We are destined to become like...

THE PATTERN SON!



October 25

**TEN DANGEROUS POSSESSIONS
(GROWING UP IN GOD)**

#1 - ZEAL WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE

According to Bill Britton: “For a man to possess such God-given gifts as knowledge, ability, talent, authority, or riches, would seem to be a great thing. But sad to say, **these things can become dangerous** and even destructive unless accompanied by that which puts it into force for the good of God’s Kingdom.” (Ten Dangerous Possessions, Bill Britton)

The apostle Paul told us in Philippians 3:6 that his zeal only resulted in persecuting the true church, and as well, he told us in Romans 10:1,2 that it is possible to possess a zeal of God, BUT NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE. The word “zeal” speaks of an earnest desire to do something. This “earnest desire” to do something for the Kingdom of God is good, but left alone, not being joined to knowledge, it becomes destructive and hinders our witness for God. UNFORTUNATELY, MANY CHRISTIANS TURN OFF MORE PEOPLE TO THE LOVE OF GOD THAN THEY DRAW TO THE LOVE OF GOD. Their earnest desire to “save souls” is not coupled with the knowledge of God, doing more harm than good. The apostle Paul, before his conversion, went about breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord (Acts 9:1). He did this as a result of acting solely on a zeal for God, BUT NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE.

Proverbs 2:1-5 tells us of the importance of finding the knowledge of God. It states...My son, if you will receive My words, and hide My commandments with you; So that you incline your ear unto wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry after knowledge, and lift up your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hid treasures; Then shall you understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God...

Once that knowledge comes alongside of zeal, then zeal becomes a powerful force in the Kingdom of God that can turn the world upside down. Knowledge is what guides zeal in the right direction, making it (zeal) a good thing rather than a destructive thing. Knowledge becomes a governor to zeal, not allowing it to get out of control or to be used in a destructive manner. If you are zealous for the things of God, by all means, DO NOT LOSE YOUR ZEAL, but please **study** to show yourself approved unto God. You must acquire...

THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD!



October 26

**TEN DANGEROUS POSSESSIONS
(GROWING UP IN GOD)**

#2 - KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT WISDOM

After seeing our need for knowledge (the knowledge of God), we must then see our need for wisdom, for knowledge becomes a dangerous possession when it is not bridled by wisdom. The apostle Paul told us in 1st Corinthians 8:1,2 that...we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up (causes one to be puffed up in pride), but charity (love) edifies. And if any man think he knows any thing, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know...With this being said, we can see that man finds himself in a maturing process of GROWING UP IN GOD. Each step of the journey is to lead us to another level in God. To stop at any one of these levels is to not completely grow into all that God has for you.

Knowledge without wisdom becomes a dangerous possession, causing people to be elevated into thinking more highly of themselves than they ought to. Many people go about spewing out their knowledge to everyone, hoping that others will recognize how smart they are. They try as much as possible to use big words that neither they nor their listeners understand. They lean on intellect rather than the Holy Spirit, always using an abundance of words, hoping to confuse the listener while maintaining the upper hand in the conversation.

Proverbs 17:27,28 states...He that has knowledge spares his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. Even a fool, when he holds his peace, is counted wise: and he that shuts his lips is esteemed a man of understanding (WISDOM...i.e., A WISE MAN)...What a beautiful scripture! This shows that knowledge, when it is accompanied by wisdom, becomes very beneficial and fruitful in the Kingdom of God. But knowledge without wisdom becomes dangerous, hurtful, and begins to STINK with the smell of self-righteousness.

WISDOM is that godly attribute that knows how to, when to, and in what manner to distribute knowledge. Knowledge that is spoken in love (at the right time) is more precious than all that this world has to offer. So...Let us GROW UP IN GOD, praying for zeal, knowledge, and wisdom to be added to our Christian walk. As this takes place, we will find ourselves growing up into the son of God that we are called to be. We will find that people will be drawn to us to see what it is in our life that causes us to walk in such zeal, knowledge, and...

WISDOM!



October 27

**TEN DANGEROUS POSSESSIONS
(GROWING UP IN GOD)**

#3 - ABILITY WITHOUT CHARACTER

According to Bill Britton: “Ability is a wonderful possession, but without godly character behind it, it is dangerous and destructive both to yourself and others. Seemingly everyone does not have great ability, but there is no excuse for not having a Christian character. Anyone, with the help of the Holy Spirit, can develop a Christ-like nature and character. No matter how much or how little ability you have, you do not have to be corrupt, deceitful, dishonest, or greedy. God is more interested in you being like Jesus in character, rather than you having His power and authority.” (Ten Dangerous Possessions, Bill Britton)

The word “character” means: the features and traits that form the individual nature of a person or thing. The character and nature that we are speaking of is (of course) the character and nature of God. This character (through partaking of God’s divine nature) is to be written on our hearts. God gives men and women ability to do certain things, giving some tremendous ability, that is, above and beyond the ability of others. It is very important that we realize that to whom much is given, MUCH IS REQUIRED! With this God-given ability comes a calling. THIS CALLING INVOLVES US BEING CONFORMED TO THE CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD! Without the character (nature) of God in our lives, ability becomes a dangerous possession that will be used for self-promotion, corruption, deceitfulness, dishonesty, and greed. THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE WITH SO MUCH ABILITY, HAVING SO LITTLE OF THE CHARACTER OF GOD IN THEIR LIVES!!!

The Bible refers to a person not having the character of God as a WORKER OF INIQUITY. This is to be found in Matthew 7:22,23. A “worker of iniquity” refers to a lawless person, speaking of lawlessness, and refers to people who do not have God’s laws written on their hearts. The people spoken of in this passage possessed tremendous ability, being able to prophesy, cast out demons, and do many wonderful works in the name of the Lord, but did not possess the character (nature) of God. They did not experientially know God. These people will depart into judgment for the purpose of correction. The purpose of the correction will be to have the character of God applied to their heart and life.

As for the true servants of God, WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF HAVING THE DIVINE CHARACTER (NATURE) WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS. May we be diligent to pray for godly character, for ability without character is...

A DANGEROUS POSSESSION!



October 28

**TEN DANGEROUS POSSESSIONS
(GROWING UP IN GOD)**

#4 - RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT FAITHFULNESS

According to Bill Britton: “Many are crying to God daily to give them a ministry, a job, a responsibility in the Kingdom. And Paul told Timothy that if any man desired the office of a bishop, he desired a good work. But he went on to say that such a one should be proved, tested and tried, to see that he was faithful in that which God gave him. For if a man is not faithful to his own family, how can he be faithful to the church of the living God? And if he cannot rule in the temporal relationships in his earthly home, how can he rule in the eternal glory of God’s house? If he is faithful in that which is small, then he will be faithful in the greater things. It is a great thing to have a large responsibility in God’s house. But it is a dangerous thing to have, unless you have a spirit of being faithful.” (*Ten Dangerous Possessions*, Bill Britton)

There is much preaching today on faith, but very little preaching on faithfulness. This is talked about by Jesus in Luke 19:11-27 where He teaches a parable about the good and wicked servant. The good servant, who is rewarded and given authority over all that belongs to his Lord, is that servant who has been FAITHFUL in that which is small. The wicked servant is that servant who was entrusted with that which belonged to his Lord (given responsibility), but did nothing with it, and was not faithful to bring forth the desired fruit which his Lord required.

The very reason that the Lord gives us responsibility is for the purpose of teaching us faithfulness. A person who is faithful is unwavering and dedicated, being diligent in what God has called him to do. Without faithfulness it is impossible to experience the Father in His fullness. Man is only able to partake of the Father in small doses. This happens little by little, day by day, causing us to be changed from glory to glory. We can not handle all of our Father’s power and love at one time. It requires for us to be faithful, receiving our daily bread one day at a time. In an age of everything being handed to us on a silver platter, it is difficult to learn this principle in God. Nevertheless, those who take responsibility and add to it faithfulness will be the ones to rule and reign with Christ. How we long to hear these words from our Lord...WELL DONE MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT...

ENTER INTO THE JOY OF THE LORD!



October 29

**TEN DANGEROUS POSSESSIONS
(GROWING UP IN GOD)**

#5 - GIFTS WITHOUT LOVE

According to Bill Britton: “In chapter 13 of 1st Corinthians we hear Paul saying that it is possible to have gifts of the Spirit, such as tongues, prophecy, faith, and knowledge and still not profit from their use, because we do not have the divine motivation of “agape” love. Without love, the gifts are useless, meaningless, and even dangerous. Used in love and humility, the gifts are a means of communication with heaven, a mighty weapon against the forces of hell. They strengthen, edify, and build up the church, bringing glory to God. But God have mercy on that one who uses a gift from God to bring fame and fortune to himself, to build himself a kingdom, or to attack or mislead God’s dear children.” (Ten Dangerous Possessions, Bill Britton)

1st Corinthians chapter 13 is probably one of the most important (if not the most important) passages of scripture in the entire Bible. It teaches us that the most important attribute of our Heavenly Father is LOVE. Remember...**GOD IS LOVE!** To operate in the gifts of the Spirit without love is to become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. The *gifts* of the Spirit without the *fruit* of the Spirit **WILL PROFIT US NOTHING**. This was the new commandment that Jesus came to give us.

John 13:34,35 states...A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one to another...Notice the importance of this statement that is made by Jesus. **BY LOVE** shall all men know that we are the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank God for the gifts of the Spirit that the Father bestows on us, but the gifts of the Spirit cannot bring us to full maturity in God. In order to mature and grow up in God we must learn to receive and partake of God’s great love. For whether there shall be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away, **BUT LOVE NEVER FAILS** (1st Corinthians 13:8)...

Let us cherish the gifts of the Spirit that have been given to us, but let us add to these gifts of the Spirit the fruit of the Spirit, for this is the more excellent way that the apostle Paul spoke of. It is by this more excellent way that men shall come to know and see that we are the true disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now abides faith, hope, love, these three...

BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE!
(1ST Corinthians 13:13)



October 30

**TEN DANGEROUS POSSESSIONS
(GROWING UP IN GOD)**

#6 - FELLOWSHIP WITHOUT LOYALTY

Hebrews 10:24,25 states...And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching...

There are three main reasons why that we should assemble together with other believers in Christ. They are: fellowship, worship, and instruction in the things of the Lord. As the Lord brings people into our lives to fellowship with, we will begin to create a tie and bond with these people. These people become important to our growth in the Lord, just as we become important to their growth in the Lord. We are members of the same body, working and walking together to achieve a common goal. We must recognize that we are members of the body of Christ.

This fellowship is glorious, wonderful, and strengthens us tremendously, but this same fellowship becomes dangerous when loyalty is not involved. After being introduced to like-minded people that we know that the Lord has brought into our lives, we then become responsible to remain loyal to them. This does not mean that we must agree with every word they say, having the exact same vision in God that they have, but it does mean that we are to remain in contact with them, love them, pray for them, associate with them, and continue to assemble ourselves with them (if at all possible). The idea of loyalty teaches us one very important thing. IT TEACHES US NOT TO ISOLATE OURSELVES!

Those who isolate themselves from others are sure to go downhill spiritually. Isolation is one of the great traps that many people fall into. If we think that we can make it on our own, that is, without the other members of the body of Christ, then we are proving by our behavior that we do not understand the principle of loyalty as far as fellowship is concerned. It is so very important that we understand this, for what our Lord is doing involves and requires a body of believers who are loyal to each other and their Lord. Think of your physical body. Can you imagine if your brain was not loyal to send the signal for your hand to move, or if your hand was not loyal to receive the signal from the brain and move accordingly? If this was the case, YOUR BODY WOULD NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY. In the same sense, when we are not loyal in our fellowship the body of Christ does not function properly, and that makes for a weak body. Let us be...

LOYAL IN OUR FELLOWSHIP!



October 31

**TEN DANGEROUS POSSESSIONS
(GROWING UP IN GOD)**

#7 - TALENT WITHOUT CONSECRATION

Those who are talented in areas of their lives are usually the first ones to know it, for a very talented person does not need to be told that he or she is talented. This talent, whatever it may be, is sure to be a blessing to all. But a person's talent can become a dangerous thing if their talent is not consecrated to God. If a person does not recognize that their talent comes from the Father, then they will fall prey to the clutching grip of this world, for the world will surely recognize their talent, looking for a way to market it for the purpose of making money. The Bible tells us that every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning (James 1:17)...If this is not recognized, then we will take credit for our talent, turning it over to the world for worldly gain, becoming a lover of this world. 1st John 2:15 states...Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him...

How many people have there been down through history who were given talents by God to be used for the Kingdom of God, but used them instead for the purpose of worldly gain alone? The very reason that God blesses us with particular talents is that we might recognize that He gave us the talent, be thankful for the talent, consecrate the talent back to Him for His use, and then use the talent to glorify Him and His Kingdom in this earth.

It is a sad thing to see a person take his God-given talent and give it over totally to the world for the purpose of becoming famous or rich. Please do not think that I am saying that it is wrong to be famous or rich, for it is not. The point that we are discussing is the consecration and dedication of one's talent to the Lord. If the Lord chooses to make you rich as a result of your talent, then that is His business, but do not use your talent to seek for worldly gain alone. **USE IT TO GLORIFY GOD!** Do not sell your God-given talent out to the world, but rather, consecrate it and dedicate it back to the One Who gave it to you. You must view it as a gift that came from above, and came down from the...

FATHER OF LIGHTS!

