



This book is dedicated to the loving memory of

Sgt Maj. Robert F. Keating 11

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Preface

Thank you for purchasing this book. The proceeds from the sale of this book and my first book "Created in His Image" are used to develop and maintain Alive in Christ's Project Oasis. Project Oasis is a Drug and Alcohol Rehab Camp. You are helping us to help bring others to deliverance from addictions and into a life in Christ.

The purpose of this book is to provide you with revelation knowledge. If you are a Christian believer, this information will bring you to a higher level of worship and a deeper relationship with the Lord and Savior of mankind.

If you are a skeptic or non-believer or an uncommitted Christian, this book may just be the answer to questions you have that are preventing you from a full commitment to Jesus Christ. Please, read this material with an open mind.

Many Christians today are satisfied with a superficial relationship with Jesus. Some Christians are satisfied to simply go to church once and a while to appease their conscience. Other Christians are actively involved with a church but have not made a full commitment to Christ because they are unable to give up certain things in their life that are pleasurable. The information in this book is the meat and potatoes of Christian belief. I hope that you enjoy it.

Christians fall into two categories. Consider a breakfast of bacon and eggs. The hen was involved. She provided a basic necessity for breakfast, the eggs. The pig, however, was committed. He gave his all for the sake of the breakfast. The non-believer simply has coffee, neither involvement nor commitment.

Are you on the outside, no involvement, or are you simply involved with no commitment? Are you truly committed to your Savior and give your all? In order to realize the beauty of a life in Christ, you must be ready to make a full and satisfying commitment to the Holy God who created us.

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Alive in Christ's Project Oasis

Chapter 1 Why is it important?

Why is it important to seek a life in Christ? So many say. “I’m a good person. I help others. I don’t hurt anyone. Why do I have to get involved with all of the religious stuff?”

First of all, don’t be so concerned with the religious stuff. Developing a close and personal relationship with the Savior of mankind is the important consideration. Religion can trap you into simply accepting what others tell you. Seek Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Pray and devour His Holy Word. Often people accept religion and are satisfied with going to church every now and then to appease an obligation. They develop a lukewarm attitude toward Christ. Read the Revelation of Christ Chapter 3 verse 16:

Revelations 3:16 (King James Version)

¹⁶So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Too many Christians today have satisfied themselves with religion and do not pursue a personal relationship with the Holy God who loves them. They are happy in a quiet church, one that does not require too much. They follow pastors and preachers who make them feel good about themselves but never challenge them, never confront them with the necessity to live their lives “in Christ”.

The answer to this question is a simple one. Theologians, bible scholars, preachers and teachers have, through the ages, ripped into, tore apart and analyzed every word, phrase, sentence and passage of God’s Holy Word. Searching for some mysterious revelation that will explain God’s intention for His creation. This is wonderful and I am sure that the majority of these scholars have the very best of motives.

I believe that our Holy God put the essence of His will for us in very plain terms. I cannot see the relevance of a Holy and Almighty God encrypting His message to us. I know, deep within my spirit, that Almighty God wants us to clearly understand His intention for us.

If you look at the creation of this world, you will see that our Triune God did not create this magnificent planet with all of its beauty and wealth for the humpback whale nor for the spotted owl. He created all of this beauty and wealth and life sustaining qualities for His special creation, mankind. He didn’t create this world for the enjoyment and pleasure of Satan’s followers nor for those who have a lukewarm attitude toward Him.

In my first book, *Created in His Image*, I discussed the divine nature of our Holy God and the fact that He created you and me as His special creation. He designed us for His pleasure, to worship Him. He created this world for us to enjoy. Every treasure, every resource was created for the children of a Holy God. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and fell from His Grace and provision, Satan usurped the dominion of this world.

The dark angel took control and centuries of trials and tribulations began for God's special creation. We became convinced that we were here simply to scratch out a living. We became convinced that we were second-rate creatures. We lost sight of the true nature and purpose of our existence.

God gave man dominion over this entire world and man relinquished that dominion to Satan. Thousands of years ensued and man grew farther and farther away from his Creator. Man moved away from God. God did not move away from man. The wonderful thing is that Almighty God has a plan for us. In the book of Jeremiah, God made a statement through the prophet that has instilled a delicious peace in my soul.

Jeremiah 29:11 (New International Version)

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

God knew that we would fall and He made a provision for our recovery. That plan, which was conceived before the foundation of the earth, was created and summed up in the scripture, the gospel of John 3:16

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

The plan was set and all through the Holy Bible we see snap shots of this wonderful plan. The Holy Bible is the true and absolute Word of God. The Old Testament is Christ concealed and the New Testament is Christ revealed.

When we read the 22nd chapter of the book of Genesis, we see the confirmation of the plan that Almighty God set in motion to redeem mankind and to return us to a position of dominion over this world. God made a covenant with us through Abraham.

The chapter begins "and God tempted Abraham..." Since God does not tempt us with evil, this was more of a test than a temptation. I thank God that He chose Abraham, a man who loved His Holy Lord. He instructed Abraham to take his beloved son, Isaac, with everything necessary for a ritual sacrifice to Mount Mariah. Abraham was instructed to sacrifice His dearly beloved son.

Abraham did not argue the point with God. He simply followed to the letter the instruction that God had given him. This is not the norm with Christians today. When God instructs us, we presume to have a better plan and say "but God, wouldn't it be better to do it this way?"

Abraham kept silent. I'm sure that to himself he was wondering why God wanted him to kill his only son. He was an old man and beyond having another son. God had promised him that he would be a father of nations. Even though he didn't understand the request, he silently set out to do as his Holy God had asked.

Abraham bound his beloved son and placed him on an altar made of wood. At the moment that Abraham was ready to plunge his dagger into Isaac, God stayed his hand and provided him with an alternate for the sacrifice. Abraham had proved the worthiness of mankind. Then and there God formed a covenant with His creation. Holy Father God put into motion His plan to redeem mankind. He knew that He would, at a point in history, sacrifice His only begotten Son on a wooden altar, The Cross, to pay the sin debt of mankind.

Through the incarnate Word of our Holy God, Jesus Christ, God's provision for our life here and our life eternal, is clearly stated. Just as the Hebrew children wandered through the wilderness, mankind has wandered through the wilderness, not realizing the provision that God has already provided.

Through Jesus Christ, God incarnate, we have been given the path and the source of all Grace. He provided the sacrifice to appease the wrath of a Holy God. He sacrificed Himself to pay our sin debt and to show us the path to a Holy existence with Him.

During His earthly life, our Lord and Savior walked this earth to teach us, to touch our lives, and to give us a model for the perfect life, a life in Christ. He demonstrated His love for us with His actions and taught us the way we should relate to Him and to each other in His commandments.

In the Gospel of John chapter 15 verse 15: ¹⁵*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

What are the commandments that Jesus gave us to follow? In The Gospel according to

Matthew 22:35-39 (King James Version)

³⁵*Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,*

³⁶*Master, which is the great commandment in the law?*

³⁷*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

³⁸*This is the first and great commandment.*

³⁹*And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

Jesus summed up the Ten Commandments in these two commandments.

When you look at the first five of the Ten Commandments we see that they deal with man's relationship with God. The second five Commandments, 6 through 10, deal with man's relationship to man.

First we must love our Holy God with every fiber of our being. We must love Him with all of our heart. A deep and rich desire for the presence of our Holy God must fill our heart. The heart is the seat of all our emotions. Everything we desire must be tempered with a true love for a True and Holy God.

Psalm 44:21 (King James Version)

²¹*Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.*

We cannot vainly profess our love when it is convenient for us. Our Holy God looks into our hearts to discern our true feelings for Him. When we give Him the highest place in our hearts, we can then begin to understand that divine nature that has been given to us in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 51:10 (King James Version)

¹⁰*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

When we confess our sins to Our Holy God, He not only forgives us but He also cleanses us of the stain of those sins.

Psalm 66:18 (King James Version)

⁸*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*

We must begin the journey toward a life in Christ by ridding ourselves of the lawlessness that consumed our life before believing. Iniquity is lawlessness. Satan will continue to accuse us of the things that we wallowed in before we made our decision to live in Christ. This is his favorite tool to discourage us. We must know that the more we pray to God, the more we read His Holy Word, the less likely we are to consider our previous sins. The more we fill our hearts and minds with God's love, the farther away from our sins we live. Our goal is for God to listen to our prayers. We must purge our hearts of iniquity (lawlessness) in order for God to listen to our prayers. However, don't lose heart when you fall into temptations snare.

When Jesus Christ hung on the cross, He made a statement that should convince us to move as far away from sin as we can. When all of the sins of the world, our sins, were placed on Him, our Holy God had to look away. Jesus Christ, at that very instance, felt the most excruciating pain deep within His soul. For the first instance, since before the beginning of time, He felt the absence of Almighty God the Father's gaze. He felt totally abandoned. Our Holy God could not even look upon His Holy Word made flesh because of our sins that he bore. How can a Holy God look upon us, look into our homes, our lives or even listen to us when sin is present in our hearts?

Psalm 112:7 (King James Version)

⁷He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

When our hearts are fixed upon The Lord, we have nothing to fear. The closer our hearts and minds are to our Holy God, the farther we move from the fears of this world. Jesus Christ defeated Satan. When we abide in Christ, Satan cannot get to us. Fear is a seed that Satan places in our hearts to destroy our faith.

Proverbs 23:7 (King James Version)

⁷For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he

If we hold anger or malice or hatred in our hearts, that is what we become and we move away from the source of our strength.

Matthew 6:21 (King James Version)

²¹For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

When we are idolatrous, when we value things of this world more than our Holy Lord, our hearts will be filled with the things of the world. When we realize that Jesus Christ is the most valuable treasure we could ever possess, our hearts will be filled with Him, filled with His love.

Matthew 15:8 (King James Version)

⁸This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

Not all who cry, “Lord, Lord” will enter into the Kingdom of God. When we profess love for Christ, when we simply talk about our faith in Christ, we do not abide in Him. When we only give lip service to our Lord and He is not in our hearts, He will not know us. We must hold dear to our hearts the image of God. In *Created in His Image* we discovered that the image of God, in which we are formed, could be best describe as “love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self control”.

We must love God with all of our heart, all of our soul and all of our mind. We must hold Him to be the most High God. We must treasure His presence and the knowledge of His Holiness in our hearts and in our souls and in our minds. We must let Him govern our feelings and our emotions. We must also fill our minds with Him, His Holy Word.

For every situation that we encounter, God has made a provision, a way out of the situation. In order for us to find the provision that God has set for these situations we must keep God in our minds. We must read His Holy Word constantly. We must pray and seek His presence in our lives.

Why is it important for us to seek to be alive in Christ? There is no other way for us to realize the wonderful life that God has planned for us. There is no other way for us to find the provision that our Holy God has set for us. In the book of Jeremiah, God tell us that He has a thought for us, a thought of good and not of evil.

Jeremiah 29:11 (King James Version)

¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

The same passage in the New International Version states:

Jeremiah 29:11 (New International Version)

¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

God has a plan for each one of His children. He has already made provision for every need that we will ever have. He has already chosen every blessing that He has in store for us.

Ephesians 1:3 (King James Version)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Ephesians 1:3 (New International Version)

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

How will we ever realize the wonders that God has in store for us if we do not live our lives "in Christ"? All of our blessings are there, in Christ.

Chapter 2 Alive In Christ

It is imperative that we understand who we are. It is also imperative that we understand that our Holy God created us to be His special creation. He did not make covenants with the whales. He did not cause His Holy Word to become incarnate to save the spotted owl. He considers us, humankind, to be His beloved creation. We are heirs to the Kingdom of God.

Romans 8:17 *Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

God did not create any other creature, not even the angels, to be heirs to His Kingdom. This will give you an idea of why the enemy wants so desperately to destroy you. He never did nor will he ever hold the same position that you and I hold in the sight of God.

We are special. Each one of us has the same worth to Him. It matters little to Him who we are.

Acts 10:34 *Then Peter opened his mouth, and said;” Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons”*

He loves you more than you will ever know. We need to realize that, on that cross on Calvary, Jesus Christ, the Holy Word of God, paid the same price for me, for you, for Billy Graham and for the drunk who is face down in the gutter. He loves all of His creations, even those who do not love Him.

In our spirits, we must accept the fact that each one of us is special to God; each one of us has value in Gods eyes, no matter who we are.

Imagine that I am standing in front of you. In my hand I have a crisp new \$100.00. If I offer the bill to you, would you take it? Sure you would. If I took the bill and crumpled it in my hand, would you still accept it? Of course you would. If I were to drop the bill on the ground and, with my foot, grind it into the dirt, would you still take it? I imagine that you would. You would take the bill because no matter what condition it's in, it's still worth \$100.00. This is the same way that God looks at us. It doesn't matter to Him what condition we are in. It matters not at all that we are crumpled by the stresses of our daily lives. It doesn't make a difference to Him at all that we have been ground down into the muck and mire of this world, of our sins. To Jesus Christ, we still have the same value. He wants you to come to Him just as you are.

Remember the parable that Jesus told His disciples about the workers in the vineyard?

Matthew 20: ⁸*”When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'*

⁹"The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.

What I understand from this is that, to Jesus, the important thing is *that* you accept Him, not *when* you accept Him. When you accept Him determines *how* you will live in this life not what your reward will be in the next life.

Please, understand that you are a special creation of God Almighty. You, personally, hold a very special position in this universe. No matter how you feel about yourself, Jesus sees you as a unique and wonderful child of the One and True Living God. When He looks at you He looks with love and compassion.

Once you understand *who* you are you can begin to understand *where* you are. You are, from the instant that you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, in Christ. You are *alive in Christ*.

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵**made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up **with Christ** and seated us with him in the heavenly realms **in Christ Jesus**, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us **in Christ Jesus**. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

These ten verses tell the whole story. We, before we accept Christ, are dead in our sins. Our spirits are corrupted by the sin that was introduced into this world when Adam and Eve fell into the snare created by the enemy.

In chapter 6 of Paul's Epistle to the Romans we are told: "²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life **in Christ Jesus our Lord.**"

If we do not accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, we will die physically and spiritually. The gift that God gives us when we accept His Holy Son is eternal life *in Christ*. When we accept Christ we then take our position in Christ. We are snatched from death in our sin and our spirits are brought to life eternal. We are raised up. When we believe Christ to be our Salvation, we are lifted up to heavenly places with Christ. We are in Christ and seated by the right hand of God Almighty. This is truly a position of honor and power.

This is not figurative speech. This is actual fact. We are a special creation and our spirits are alive in Christ. As long as we are alive here on earth we are also alive in Christ seated at the throne of our Holy God. It is so important that we understand what *in Christ* means. It is not a euphemism. It is not just a figure of speech. It is a definite, real, actual and truthful expression of where we are when Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

Do not try to understand this using the concepts of this world. Step out of the boat! What does this mean when you pray? This means that you don't have to beg God's Holy Spirit to come down to you. You are already there with Him in Christ at His Holy Throne.

God loves us so much that He made us *alive with Christ*. Because Christ became our sin on Calvary, our sinful nature died with Him. When He arose from the tomb, our spirits were also resurrected with Him. We live *in Christ*. When God lifted Jesus Christ up to be seated at the right of His throne, He also lifted us up because we are *in Christ*.

Because we are in Christ, we must look at this world through our position *in Christ* and not from our flesh. When we realize that we are in Christ, we must realize that we are there for a purpose. When Christ was on this earth, He looked at the crowds with compassion and love. When He looked at the baker, the merchant, the fishermen, the housewives, the drug addicts and drunkards, He looked at them with love and compassion. When He looked at the good, at the sinner, at the innocent, at the children, at the old and the young, He looked with compassion and love.

What does this mean for us? It means that when we look at our neighbors, our husbands, our children, and our wives we must look thru Christ's eyes. When we look at the banker, at the nurse, at the clerk at Wal-Mart, at the drunk on the street, we must look at them with the same love and compassion that filled the heart of our Lord and Savior. We are in Christ in heavenly places and we must look at this, His creation, through His eyes. If we choose to look at our fellow man with our flesh eyes and judge them, we are denying Christ's reason for coming here to save us.

If we do not realize who we are and where we are, we are ignoring what the Holy Word of God is telling us. We are denying the reason that our Lord and Savior suffered for us. We are hanging Him right back up there on that cross.

If our position *in Christ* were not important, it would not have been mentioned more than 90 times in the New Testament of the Holy Word of God. The Holy Word of God became flesh to save us. He also said that He would never leave us. By living in us and by providing us with a position in Him, Jesus has connected us to Himself.

John 14:15-20

¹⁵If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

¹⁹*Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.* ²⁰*On that day you will realize **that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.***

Jesus is telling us about the unity of the Holy Trinity. He is also telling us that we have a direct and perfect union with God. Since He is in the Father and we are in Him, then we are also in the Father through Him. Since He is in the Father and He is in us, we have a perfect union with the Father.

Understanding this concept is the first step to living as Christ would have us live. When we pray and meditate on the idea that we are special creations closely tied to our creator, we can then begin to explore the reasons that all of the ideas and concepts that we are told about, concerning our relationship with God, are true.

When we begin to accept the premise that we are in Christ, we can then begin to see how we can live here in this life on earth in God's favor. So many are disappointed in their lives and wonder why they are not living a blessed life. It's not because Christ doesn't want us to have all of the wonderful things that He has created for us. Why would God create all of this wealth on earth if He didn't want us to have it? Did He create all of the gold, diamonds and precious things for the devil to give them to those who have forsaken God and live according to his (the enemy's) values.

God created us for Himself and created this world for us. In the first chapter of the book of Genesis God said:" ²⁶ *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and **let them rule** over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, **over all the earth**, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

"Let them rule over all the earth." This means over all of the land, creatures trees, rocks, minerals and everything else that is in or on this earth.

When Jesus Christ defeated death, He defeated Satan (our enemy). He, through His shed blood, returned dominion over this world to everyone who would believe in Him. When He is in us and we are in Him, we are given power over this earth. This is power over the creatures, the land and all of the wealth that is there. By understanding "*who*" we are and "*where*" we are, we can then begin to understand that we are living in the favor of the Holy One who created it all.

You are very special.

Chapter 3 Faith In Christ

We have discovered that we are special creations. We have value to our Heavenly Father. We are children of the King of Kings. We are heirs to the Kingdom and co-heirs with Christ Jesus Himself. Also we have discovered our position in this magnificent plan of God Almighty. We are in Christ in heavenly places. We are in the Holy Son of God who is seated at the right side of God the Father. We are spiritually at the right side of the Holy Throne of God's Heaven.

In the first chapter of Paul's epistle to the Ephesians, we learn:

*³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us **in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.***

He is telling us here that God the Father has (past tense) already blessed us in the heavenly realms with every (not some, not with a few) spiritual blessing. Where are those blessings now? They are *in* Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

All of us have heard the expression "have faith in Christ". What does this mean now that we have begun to understand what "in Christ" means?

Let's begin by exploring what the Holy Bible says about faith. One of the best-known verses in the New Testament is from eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 11:1

¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for. A substance is a measurable thing. It is what our hopes are made of. Well what are hopes? Webster's Dictionary defines hope as "A wish or desire accompanied by confident expectation of its fulfillment".

Therefore faith is a measure of my wishes and desires accompanied by confident expectation of their fulfillment. It is also the evidence of things that God has in store for me that I have not seen (or even imagined).

If my faith is in Christ, then every wish and every desire that I have resides inside Christ and every one of them is accompanied by the expectation of fulfillment. Also the evidence of all of the things that God has in store for me that I have not seen is inside of Christ as well.

If I believe that everything I could ever want is in Christ, then there is where I want to be. If everything that God has determined for me is inside of Christ then I need to do everything that I possibly can do to be where my blessings are. I need to be in Christ.

What must I do to be where my blessings are? Step out of the boat and into the world inside of Christ; outside of the mundane, into the spiritual. I now realize that I must take that step of faith that will put me in direct contact with everything that God has planned for my life here and my life eternal.

I cannot expect the results that I want to come to fruition if I keep one foot in the boat. I must be totally committed to Christ, living my life in Christ, in order to attain the blessings that God has in store for me. Too many people think that all that is needed is to profess that they believe in Christ in order to get the things that they want. No way! Confession of faith is useless without a commitment to back it up. The only true commitment is to realize who you are and where you are and that everything that you hope for is in Christ. Every desire and wish that you have is in Christ. The best part of this is that all of those wonderful things that God has in store for us are in Christ. Remember that faith is also the evidence of things not seen.

Many preachers and teachers try to convince us that all we have to do is believe and, from that moment that we confess our belief in Christ, we are home free and life will be a bed of roses. We must remember that no matter how beautiful roses are and no matter how soft and sweet smelling the rose petals are, all roses have thorns.

Jesus does not guarantee us a life without pain and strife. In fact, in the book of Luke, Jesus says:

Luke 6:22 (New International Version)

²²*Blessed are you when men hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.*

There are over 200,000 believers who loose their lives every year because they refuse to denounce their belief in Jesus Christ. Those of us who live in countries with a semblance of freedom do not, as yet, understand the peril of a life dedicated to Jesus. Someday they will change.

I have heard people ask, "Why does God allow believers to go through "tough" times?" The easiest way to understand this is by learning the process of metamorphosis that a caterpillar goes through to become a beautiful butterfly.

When I was a young fellow, I was walking in the woods across the road from my house. I loved walking there. It was always an adventure. I found treasures beyond belief there. (To me they were treasures.) I would often find chrysalides (plural for of chrysalis) or cocoons. Most of the time they were empty and dry. The butterfly had already broken free.

Once, though, I found one (a chrysalis) that was still occupied. I was amazed. I could feel the butterfly inside struggling to free itself. I felt sorry for him struggling so and I took out my little pocket knife and cut a slit in the side of the chrysalis to help free the trapped butterfly. I widen the opening and pulled the little creature out. I freed him!

The truth of the matter is that I, in my fit of compassion, killed the butterfly. I didn't find out until later that the struggle to free itself was one of the most important stages of the development of the butterfly. Without the struggle, the butterfly would not be able to develop its wings and other necessary organs. In my attempt to help, I actually denied the creature what it needed to develop.

We, too, must learn to accept what life brings us. More often than not, the struggles we face are nothing more than a necessary struggle to make us stronger. Instead of giving the devil credit for making us miserable, let's turn the tables on him and meet each challenge with the expectancy of winning and growing stronger.

Life often brings us face to face with struggles. Look at them as opportunities to strengthen your spiritual muscles for the even greater challenge ahead. When you live your life in Christ, every circumstance in your life will take on a different perspective. When you realize that everything that you desire and wish for is inside of the wonderful Christ who suffered, died and rose for each one of us, being alive in Christ brings on a different posture in your life.

In the second chapter of Paul's epistle to the church in Galatia, the apostle tells us that we are not justified by the law but by our faith in Christ. We have looked at our *faith* in Christ. Now let's see how faith in Christ not only provides us with a position of power and abundance but also justifies us in the sight of God the Father.

Galatians 2:16 *know that a man is not **justified** by observing the law, but **by faith in Jesus Christ**. So we, too, have put our **faith in Christ Jesus** that we may be justified **by faith in Christ** and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.*

Justification is a forensic term (belonging to, used in, or suitable to courts of judicature or to public discussion and debate) and is in opposition to condemnation. It is the judicial act of God, by which He pardons all the sins of those who believe in Christ, and accounts, accepts, and treats them as righteous in the eye of the law, i.e., as conformed to all its demands. In addition to the pardon of sin, justification declares that all the claims of the law are satisfied in respect to the justified. Everything that is required by the law is satisfied. The law is not weakened or discarded, but is declared to be fulfilled in the strictest sense; and thus the person justified is declared to be entitled to all the advantages and rewards arising from perfect obedience to the law. Through the shedding of the blood of Christ, all of our sin debt is paid. The law is satisfied and we are set free. All we have to do is believe and have our faith in Christ.

It proceeds on the crediting to the believer, by God himself, of the perfect righteousness of his Representative and Surety, Jesus Christ (**Rom. 10:3-9**). Justification is not the forgiveness of a man *without* righteousness, but a declaration that he possesses a righteousness that perfectly and forever satisfies the law. Christ's righteousness justifies the believer.

2 Cor. 5:21; *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Rom. 4:6-8; *David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: ⁷"Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. ⁸Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."*

The sole condition on which this righteousness is imputed or credited to the believer is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith is called a "condition," not because it possesses any merit, but only because it is the only instrument by which the soul apprehends Christ and his righteousness (**Gal. 2:16**).

The act of faith that thus secures our justification also secures our sanctification and thus the doctrine of justification by faith does not lead to lustfulness.

Rom. 6:2-7 ²... *We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

⁵*If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.*

Good works are the consequence of justification and not the basis of justification.

Romans 6:14; ¹⁴*For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.*

Romans 7:6; *But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.*

Faith in Christ places us in a position of power and abundance. Being alive in Christ and dead to sin fulfills the law through the shed blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and frees us to live the life that Almighty God intended for us to live.

Who are you? **Galatians 3:26** (New International Version)²⁶ *You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,*

Where is my righteousness and justification?

Philippians 3:7-11 (New International Version)

⁷*But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through **faith in Christ**—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

Knowing what faith is through the scripture (Hebrews 11:1) and knowing that in order for us to realize the fruition of our existence we must be alive in Christ, we must explore just how we are to be alive in Christ, to live our lives “in Christ”.

Chapter 4

The Significance

There are a great number of both non-believers and believers who have no idea what a life in Christ can mean. Simply knowing that you are a special creation of the Most High God does not explain the significance of a life spent pursuing the life that God meant for us.

There are thousands of preachers and teachers who tell us that God will bless us and that we can live the good life now. There are more who tell us that the life of a Christian is a life of humble piety, that we are meant to simply live the life that we were dealt at birth and hope that someday things will get better.

I am inclined to take God *at His Word through His Word*. In Jeremiah 29:11 God tells us that He has a plan for us, a plan to prosper us.

Jeremiah 29:11 (New International Version)

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

This tells me, in the Lord's own words, that He wants me to be prosperous and to live my best life now, not after I die. This is a very clear statement of God's intentions for me and for all believers.

But how do we accomplish this? Throughout the Old Testament (Christ concealed) we see examples of God making provision for His people. We can see, time after time, God's chosen people getting into situations and God bailing them out. When we explore these situations, we see that God made a provision for every situation that we might encounter.

Almighty God has a plan for each one of His children. Since He knew us before we were even conceived (Jeremiah 1:4,5), His plan for us was formed before time began. Our Holy God has provided the solution to every problem or situation that we might encounter in life before we encounter the problem or situation. God has made provision for each one of us.

Consider the following examples. These are only a few of the examples of God's provision accounted in the Holy Bible.

1. Abraham was face with a dilemma. His Holy God wanted him to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac (Genesis 22). This was a definite situation (problem) for Abraham. God knew that Abraham would be faithful and carry out His request.

- God had already made a provision for Abraham's situation. There was a ram already caught in the bushes by his horns to substitute for Isaac, his son.
2. Moses was provided the provision of a basket as a child. Moses, himself, was the instrument provided by God for the deliverance of the Hebrew people from bondage in Egypt.
 3. When the Hebrews left Egypt, they came to the Red Sea. Behind them was the enemy, hot on their heels. In front of them was a mighty body of water blocking their progress toward the promise of freedom. God knew that would be their route of escape. He knew that they would come to an impasse there. He already had the solution to this problem planned but the Hebrews could not see it. It was the faith of Moses that God used as a provision of escape for them. He opened the sea and they walked across on dry land.
 4. Several days later, after walking in the wilderness, the Hebrews needed fresh water. They came to a place where there were pools of bitter water. God knew beforehand that they would encounter this situation. He had already made a provision for this situation. He had caused a tree to grow there that they could throw into the water and the water would become sweet and fresh.
 5. At the edge of the Promised Land, the people received reports that there were giants in the land and they had better not venture forward. There seemed to them that there was no way for them to claim the promise that God had made to them. Where there is a promise from God, you had better believe that there is also a provision for the possession of that promise from God.
 6. When Gideon was face with an enormous foe, God made the work easy for him.
 7. When Ruth and Naomi found themselves without husbands and sons to provide for them, God made provision for them to survive. His name was Boaz.
 8. When Zacchaeus, a very short fellow, needed to see Jesus he climbed a sycamore tree. God knew that at that very moment in Zacchaeus' life, he would need a way to see over the crowd. That sycamore tree was no mere happenstance. That was a provision from God to solve a situation.
 9. When the priest in Leviticus were given instructions for the sin sacrifice to be made each year for payment of the sin debt of the people, this exact ritual would be performed in the Life of Jesus Christ to pay the sin debt of His people forever.

There are literally thousands of instance in the Holy Scriptures that show God providing an answer to a problem even before the problem arose. The important thing that we must consider is that no matter what we face in life, God has already made a provision for us. He will make a way where there seems to be no way. He will provide what we need even before we need it. He will speak of things as though they are.

The greatest provision God The Father has made for His children is Jesus Christ. In Christ every answer to every question can be found. In Christ every solution for every problem that we encounter can be found. In Christ God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. All material blessing begin with a spiritual blessing.

Knowing that all of our blessings are in Christ and knowing that we must be alive in Christ and He must be alive in us doesn't answer the question of how do we live our lives in Christ. The answer is in God's Holy Written Word.

John 14:14-16 (New International Version)

¹⁵*"If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—*

This statement is for our benefit. This gives us the direction that we need to fulfill our destiny and secure the future that God has planned for us. Jesus can see into our hearts and He knows the true intent of our deepest feelings. If you love me, you will obey my command.

Jesus is giving us a way to confirm our devotion to Him. When He was questioned as to which of the commandments was the most important, He states, "*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*" (Mathew 22:37, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27)

Matthew 22:36-40 (King James Version)

³⁶*Master, which is the great commandment in the law?*

³⁷*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

³⁸*This is the first and great commandment.*

³⁹*And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

⁴⁰*On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

Jesus was giving us the key to living our lives in Him. Love God with every fiber of your being. Make Him first in your life. Love each other.

If we keep His commandments, we will abide in Him and He will abide in us. If we show Him we love Him by loving God with our all and all and loving each other (that means everyone without exception, even our enemies), we will abide in Him. When we live in Christ, we look at this world and everyone in it through Jesus' eyes. We see everyone and everything with the same love and compassion that He demonstrated to us. We hear with the same understanding that He does and we speak with the same love and concern that He does.

1 John 2:27 (New International Version)

²⁷As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

Jesus the Christ makes available to us the same anointing Spirit that lived with Him. When He ascended into heaven He told us that it was expedient for Him to go so that the Father could send His Holy Spirit to us.

The Holy Spirit of the One and True Living God is our spiritual connection with the Godhead. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, when we realize that Christ suffered to redeem us (to pay our sin debt), we ask that the Holy Spirit live with us.

When we follow Jesus' commandments, when we strive to live our lives with Him first above everything else, we abide in Him. Without question we begin to relate to Him and to the world around us in a different manner. Knowledge and wisdom are revealed to us through our interaction with God's Holy Spirit. He becomes the most important person in our lives. We begin to delight in fellowship with Him. The more you love Him, the more you want to love Him.

We allow Him to fill us with His love and His light. He becomes more important to us than anything or anyone who exists. Our attitude toward God, toward ourselves and toward everyone else begins to take on a new meaning that cannot be fully appreciated without fully surrendering to Him.

John 15:7 (New International Version)

⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

If we constantly affirm our position within Him, everything that we ask will be given to us. When we realize the position that we have in this universe, that we are alive in Jesus the Christ, we begin a glorious journey. When we consume His Holy Word with passion, not allowing anything of this world to distract us, we can ask Father God in the name of Jesus Christ for anything that we want.

You may consider this to be an outrageous statement. Pie in the sky. To understand this statement fully, you must understand what the psalmist was telling us.

Psalms 37:4-5 (King James Version)

⁴Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Too often this psalm is misunderstood. We are so eager to seduce others using their greed that we interpret God's Holy Word with vanity instead of wisdom. This psalm does NOT mean that we will receive every little fleshy desire that we have in our sin stained hearts.

The true meaning of this is simple. The word delight means to take great pleasure or joy. When we take great pleasure and joy in our relationship with God, our hearts begin to change. We have less interest in the material things of this world and we begin to seek those things of God. When we become spiritually and physically alive in Christ, God will give us the desires that we should have in our hearts. These are the desire to be close to Him, the desire to have Him present in our lives at all times, the desire to fellowship in the cool of the evening with the creator of the universe.

1 John 2:23-25 (New International Version)

²³*No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.*

²⁴*See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.* ²⁵*And this is what he promised us—even eternal life.*

When you allow yourself to realize the true nature of your relationship with Jesus Christ, you will have a great desire to share Him with others. If a person has not reached the depths of true understanding in his relationship with his Holy God, he will not feel lead, compelled, to share the love of Christ that fills him. When we understand that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are the same, we can understand that without one there is no other. You cannot have the Father without the Son, you cannot have the Son without the Holy Spirit and you cannot have the Holy Spirit without the Son.

When we accept and acknowledge that Jesus is Lord, we then have a relationship with the Trinity (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit). When we constantly fill ourselves with His Holy Word, we not only fill ourselves with His presence but we are also present in Him.

How do I live my life in Christ? I obey His commandments. Almighty God is first in my life. I hold Him above everyone else, even my most beloved. He is the center of my life, my world. By totally surrendering to Him, I gain the entire world. By living with Him in my heart, I live a fuller, richer life. By being alive in Christ, I am truly alive.

Chapter 5 Provision

All human beings have needs. We have needs and concerns in our family life, our work life, our social life, in our private life, in our finances and in every other aspect of our lives. We all encounter situations in our lives. Sometimes those situations are so grave that we feel overwhelmed.

Often we resort to prayerful begging. We have been taught throughout our lives that whatever our need, all we have to do is get on our knees and pray that God will provide what you need. Some ministers go to the extreme and use our needs as a way to solicit donations. If you give something, God will pay you back.

This has always disturbed me. I know that there are hundreds of passages in the Bible that can be used to convince us that we must first give and then receive. I believe as well that this is true but the unfortunate part is that all of our attention is focused on giving to get. This is a childish concept.

Provision according to the Miriam Webster Dictionary is: **1 a:** the act or process of providing **b:** the fact or state of being prepared beforehand **c:** a measure taken beforehand to deal with a need or contingency.

Did your mother and father wait for you to ask for breakfast or lunch or dinner? In order for you to get these meals, did your parents require you to give them something? Do you think that they knew your need for food but would wait until you asked them to feed you? When you had a need for clothing or shoes or a warm place to live, did they wait until you brought them a gift?

I want to share a different idea with you. I want you to understand the concept of living in Christ.

Luke 11:11-13 (King James Version)

¹¹*If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?*

¹²*Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?*

¹³*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

Each of us, as living and thinking individuals, knows the needs of those who depend on us. We know, for the most part, all that they want as well. As loving parents our desire is to provide everything that our children need and more.

We must be conscious of the fact that God loves us with a deep fatherly love. He has already made provision for everything that we will ever need. He knew what we would need for every situation that we would ever encounter. If we would be still and listen, we would know where that provision is.

If your child is in Charlotte North Carolina and asks for your help with something financial, would you send the money to Him or would you send it to New York for Him to search out and find? Would you send it to a Western Union near Him and not tell him when and where?

Your provision for every situation and need is in Christ. You might say that your need is for something other than material things. Those needs as well are there inside the Loving Jesus Christ. You may say that you love God, you pray, you read the Bible but you still have a problem in a relationship. You may still have a problem with anger or greed or addiction and you ask for deliverance but you still have the problem.

Has God made a provision for these needs in your life? Has He made a provision to deliver you from the anguish that consumes you, for the thoughts that plague you and for the unnatural impulses that drive you to do things that you do not want to do? You profess your love for Jesus as loudly as any other saint in Church. Why do you still suffer from these things? You pray and cry and beg the Lord to take this away but to no avail.

In your mind you begin to wonder if you are truly saved. You begin to doubt that God loves you because you are not enjoying the fruit of the spirit. Why can you not find the provision for the situations that you face?

We have to realize that we have situations that we encounter and there is a provision made. There are also curses that bind us to this world. There is also provision made for you to lift these curses off your life and off the lives of those you love.

Keep reading. You just may discover the provision that has been made for you.

Chapter 6 How do we live our lives in Christ?

When Jesus Christ walked this earth, He taught us kingdom principles in parables. According to Webster's dictionary a parable is: a usually short fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or a religious principle.

Parables were illustrations that Jesus used in order to teach principles upon which our beliefs are hinged. He wants us to understand who we are and how He works in our lives.

I love all of the parables that Jesus used but my favorite is the parable of the pearl of great value. This parable is grouped with two other parables but I want to concentrate on the pearl parable.

Mathew 13: 44-50

⁴⁴*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.*

⁴⁵*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:*

⁴⁶*Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*

⁴⁷*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:*

⁴⁸*Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.*

⁴⁹*So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,*

⁵⁰*And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

Mathew 13: 44 deals with the nation of Israel. The Hebrew people throughout their history flourished for a time, became disobedient to their Holy God, were conquered and then delivered again to freedom by the mercies of God. In biblical times, the Hebrew nation had been conquered by Rome and were buried under the oppression of the Roman Empire. They were the treasure buried in a field.

This deserves a great deal of consideration but I want to concentrate on the second parable, the pearl of great value.

So many times I have heard preachers and teachers and Christian believers say that the meaning of this parable is based on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. I also was under that impression, after having been taught that the meaning of this parable is that we

should forsake everything, should give it all up in order to cherish the sacrifice that we have found in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Finding Jesus in our lives is as a priceless pearl and should be cherished.

The parable begins “⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man...” In order for us to understand this, let's look at the word kingdom. This word comes from two words “king” and “dominion”. Kingdom means the dominion of the King, everything that He is. Jesus Christ is our King. He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The Kingdom of heaven is Jesus Christ in all of His glory. If we replace “kingdom of heaven” with Jesus Christ, we get “Jesus Christ is like a merchant man.”

Jesus Christ found a pearl of great price. That pearl of great price is the church, the body of Christ, you and me. He was so taken with us that He was willing to give up everything for us, to hold us and to keep us. He was willing to pay the price, make the ultimate sacrifice in order to purchase this great pearl, His church.

He was willing to go through the torture and the agony to claim His prize. He was willing to be beaten, to be scourged, to have the flesh ripped from His bones, to be ridiculed, spat upon, slapped and to have His beard ripped out for us. He was willing to be nailed to the cross and to die in order to purchase His pearl of great value. The price He paid for His church, His body of believers, was high indeed. He was willing to make that sacrifice to purchase us from this world.

When we understand that we are the pearl of great price we can understand the great value of each one of us. God so loved us that He was willing to become flesh, to walk on this earth and to make the ultimate sacrifice to redeem us. He redeemed us all. He paid the price to purchase each one of us from the bondage of this world. He was willing to suffer the ultimate ordeal to pay our debt and give us freedom.

The biggest problem is that so many do not understand this redemption and are unwilling to accept it. Men and women, believers and unbelievers, do not understand the value that God has placed on each one. We have been blinded by the world instead of guided by the word.

There is a magnificent and Holy Lord who was willing to pay the price to purchase us from our own iniquities. I know that we constantly hear that Jesus paid the price for our

sins and that we should accept that gift and love Him. However few understand the significance of this principle.

In the Garden of Eden, God placed His special creation. Adam was to be God's companion. Satan, hating God, beguiled Eve and tricked Adam into doing his will and rejecting the will of Almighty God. Because of man's inability to follow the instructions of Holy God, he lost for us all the power of our will. When man chose to disobey God he relinquished the dominion of this world to the Prince of the air, Satan. From that day until the moment that The Holy Son of God gave up the ghost on Calvary, we were a people without a will of our own.

The sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for us did not just redeem us, buy us back, but also made dominion over this world available to each and every believer. It takes more than simply saying that you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He gave His life for us. It takes living your life in Christ by loving Him and following His commandments. It takes a true and honest dedication of our lives to Him. It takes a concerted effort on our part to live our lives in Christ. We must realize that we are very precious to our Holy God; so precious, in fact, that He was willing to become flesh and blood to pay the price that we owe, our sin debt.

God does not care what we have been doing. It doesn't matter to Him that we have been steeped in sin. He doesn't care that we are alcoholics, drug addicts, that we have an anger problem, that we are abusers because we have been abused. None of that matters to Him. What matters is that we are willing to forsake our lives of iniquity and sin and embrace the wonderful gift that He is offering. What matters to Him is that we are willing to live our lives in Christ and to allow Christ to live His life in us.

These are not just frilly words. These are not just Christian jargon or church language. This is a basic concept of life that we must understand and hold dear to our lives. Too many consider the story of the passion of Christ to simply be a story. This was an event in history so amazing that it is imperative for each of us to embrace it's meaning in full. Each of us needs to understand the personal implications of the sacrifice that was made. It happened two thousand years ago but is as relevant today as it was then.

Throughout history Christians have obscured the truth in the Holy Word of God. This is a shocking statement but so very true. After the death of the Apostles of the early church, man began to ritualize the simple truths of the Word of God. The early church began to

construct the same religious structure that Jesus disdained. When the veil in the temple was ripped in half, man was reconciled to God. There was a clear and direct path that man could take to reach the Throne of Almighty God. The priests tried their best to reconstruct the veil, to separate man from God in order to give their existence relevance. The early churches, after the deaths of the early church fathers, began to reconstruct the elite priesthood. They re-instated the same priestly institution that Jesus Himself called a den of vipers. They set themselves between man and God. It was not advantageous for them to allow man to understand the simple fact that Jesus Christ wants a close and personal relationship with each one of us. We are the priesthood. Each and every believer who lives his life in Christ and allows Christ to live His life in him is part of the priesthood, the body of Christ. Man, in his need to be set apart and special, created a hierarchy of man made priests that does not hold New Testament precedence. After the early Church Fathers, who knew Jesus personally, died, man began to construct a veil in front of which they could stand as an honored position between man and God. They have used this man made priesthood to amass great wealth and to subordinate the majority of Christ's body, His church.

1 Peter 2:4-10 (King James Version)

⁴*To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,*

⁵*Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

⁶*Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.*

⁷*Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,*

⁸*and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.*

⁹*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

The Holy Bible clearly states that each of us has the privilege of being priests in this Holy Priesthood of which Jesus is the High Priest.

Please do not think that I am bashing certain denominations. This is not my motivation. I do pray that they too in these last days will see the fallacies of the teaching to which they adhere. If God had wanted there to be a hierarchy of priests here on earth, He would not have deposed the one that was already in existence.

According to what I read in the Holy Bible, Jesus Christ died for each one of us. He wants to have a close and personal relationship with each one of us, face to face and one on one. He did not die on the cross and resurrect from the tomb to have us again separated from Him by an elitist priesthood.

James 5:16 states: ¹⁶ *confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

This means that each one of us who lives our lives in Christ and allows Christ too live in us wears that mantle of righteousness of Christ. Our prayers are what are necessary to heal. We do not need to pay a priest to pray for us. We do not need to pray to any other than God Himself. Those saints who have gone on to glory are at rest, asleep, in the bosom of Abraham and do not hear us. Jesus hears us and wants to hear from us. It is idolatry to pray to anyone other than the Holy Trinity. No one needs to screen our calls to our Holy God. In the book of Jeremiah, in the third verse of the thirty third chapter God says: ³ *'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'*

He did not say, "Call one of the early saints to make an appointment with me." He said call out to Him directly. Call Him my brothers and sisters in Christ. In the wee hours of the morning, at midnight or in the middle of the day, call on your Holy Lord and He will answer.

You are special. You are the precious pearl for which He paid the price. You are special. God did not create this universe with all of its wealth and beauty for anyone other than you.

Chapter 7

Bondage

It all started with a rebellion. The account of this rebellion is stated in Isaiah.

Isaiah 14:12-15 (New King James Version)

¹² “ *How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!*

¹³ *For you have said in your heart:*

*‘ I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;
¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.’*

¹⁵ *Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit.*

Lucifer, the light bearer, the most beautiful angel, suffered from the affliction of pride. He started a rebellion in Heaven. He thought himself to be on equal ground with the Lord Most High. He was so convincing that he cause a third of the angels in Heaven to revolt against the authority of the Most High and Almighty God with him.

Lucifer and those angels who revolted against the authority and majesty of God Almighty were then cast down from Heaven and cursed. Since that instant Lucifer, the devil, has done nothing but conspire against the Kingdom of Heaven.

We can read in Genesis the account of man’s fall from grace in the Garden of Eden. This was constructed by the devil to cheat God of His creation. When Adam and Eve fell from the Grace of Almighty God, they conferred the curse of their sin onto the entire human race. Adam relinquished dominion over this world to Satan, Lucifer. Lucifer was free to afflict all of God’s creation with evil. This evil is manifested in the curses that still afflict humankind today. The devil has free reign to bind unknowing humans to his evil. There is a solution to this. There is a way for each and every one of us to rid ourselves of the curses that keep us in bondage to this world.

Every single human being suffers from some form of spiritual bondage. Satan’s plan is to bind everyone to something earthly, something of the flesh. By afflicting us with earthly bonds, he can tether us to himself and distract us from a daily life worshipping a Holy God.

Satan's plan is not to get us to worship him but to keep us from dedicating our lives to the worship of our Holy God. Satan would prefer for us to deny his existence. How better for him to work in our lives if we do not acknowledge his existence. If you were to ask most people whether or not they believe in a literal Devil, most would say that he doesn't really exist as a being but is only a figurative explanation for bad things that affect us.

Satan is a fallen angel. He exists and his purpose is to separate us from God. He doesn't want us to worship God. He despises all things holy. He constantly tries to bind us to this world, to keep our spirits from the freedom of a life in Christ. Hosea tells us the in Chapter 4, verse 6: *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*

If each of us were to be totally honest with ourselves we would be able to identify the bonds that have been put on us by this world in which we live. Alcohol, drugs, sex, violence, anger, eating disorders, depression and fear are only a few of the bondage factors that plague every human being. When Satan conquered Adam, he immediately began his campaign of bondage. His desire is that every one of us suffers a curse upon our life and the lives of our children and our children's children.

We might say that it is simply a matter of will power. That might be true but we must consider that Adam lost the power behind his will when he disobeyed God's command. When he chose his will over the will of God, he lost the power behind his will, the Holy Spirit of God.

The great majority of the problems and bondages (curses) in our lives stem from curses that have been passed down to us. Like father, like son. He has his father's anger problem. He is a bad seed. We have so many catch phrases that go deeper than we realize.

When we knowingly transgress against the laws of God, we not only curse ourselves but we also curse generations to follow. The bible tells us:

Exodus 34: 6, 7:

⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

Not only do we suffer from the iniquities of our fathers but we also pass these curses on to our grandchildren. Multitudes suffer from these generational curses.

My people are destroyed because of their lack of knowledge. Mankind, God's people, is not simply destroyed by lack of belief but from the lack of knowledge that there is a mighty solution for all that afflicts us.

Those who do not have an understanding of the sacrifices that God made for them will never be able to live the life that Jesus intends for them. We always hear that the truth will set us free. The only way for the truth to set us free is for us to fully understand the implications of that truth.

If a person does not know that the anger he feels or the envy he feels, the confusion and doubt, the hatred that corrupts us, the jealousy and greed that binds us are nothing more than manifestations of the curses that Satan places on his life, he can never be set free. If he does not understand that the negative forces in his life (anger, fear, dread, confusion, anxiety, hatred, divorce, perversion, abuse, etc.) are nothing more than curses placed on his life by the devil, he will never live the life that God has provided.

We keep ourselves bound to this world by not taking the time to realize that Almighty God has already provided a provision for removing those curses. Jesus Christ, the Anointed One, the Lord of Lords and the Prince of Peace suffered and died to give us a method to release us from the bondage that the Prince of the Air has placed on us.

It is human nature for us to consider our problems first. As human beings we tend to focus on the negative influences in our lives. With the problem looming over our field of vision, we cannot see the solution above it. We cannot see the forest for the trees.

The devil prefers that we do not understand that all of the negative influences in our lives stem from his wish to confuse and confound us. He knows that it is man's nature to concentrate on the hurt and not the cure. If the pain distracts us, we cannot keep our minds on the cure.

My people are destroyed by their lack of knowledge. If we do not seek the problem solver, we are at the will of the problem causer. Satan will do his best to convince us that the problems in our lives, the curses that choke the life out of us, are our fault or God's way of punishing us for the bad things that we may have done. So often the manifestation of the curses in our lives differ drastically from the original iniquity. Often we suffer under curses that we did not commit.

Remember the story in the Gospel of John of Jesus' meeting with the blind man.

John 9

¹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus did not admonish them for thinking such a thing. He did not turn to them and say, "How dumb!" It is the nature of the eastern mind to consider a dimension that we logical western-minded saints have not considered. We tend to believe only what we see, only what we can logically explain. We know that a black dog is black and a tall tree is tall. We know that $2+2=4$ and $2+4=6$. We do not consider a fact that these contemporaries of Jesus considered. We do not take into account that there is a dimension where seas are

split open and pools of bitter water are made sweet. We do not consider a dimension where water issues from a rock and ravens feed a profit. We do not give consideration to a dimension, a Divine Dimension where a loving God provides supernaturally for His children, a demonic dimension where the enemy of God and God's children waits and watches to pour out misery.

In this situation with the man who was blind from birth, there was little possibility that his blindness was because of his sin. He was blind from birth. However, the possibility that he was suffering because of the sin of his parents was not one to be dismissed lightly. They knew and Jesus knew that “ *the iniquities of the fathers are visited upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.* ” They knew that the possibility that the child could suffer because of the curses of the parents was a logical explanation.

When we live our lives recklessly, we do not consider that what we do can be placed on our children and their children. We do not consider that the curses that are in effect in our lives could have been caused by the iniquities of our fathers and grandfathers. Studies have shown that children raised in an abusive household tend to become abusers. Children raised in a house with alcoholism and drugs tend to gravitate toward alcoholism and drug abuse.

This does not mean that every alcoholic or drug addict came from a home where alcohol and drugs were abused. This does mean that something in the heritage of that person who abuses alcohol and drugs has manifested itself in abuse. That person could have come from a loving and kind family who had a skeleton in the closet, some iniquity that had been hidden from site yet erupts in assorted manifestations.

There is no rule that an alcoholic begets alcoholics. This does mean that the iniquities of the parents can be manifested in the lives of their children. Manifested in direct and indirect ways. A sexually abused child could very easily become a drug addict or an abuser or simply a nervous wreck. Often children are raised in Christian homes but may have been sexually abused by a neighbor or family member or friend of the family. The child grows up not revealing this because of guilt or fear. That seed of fear, that spirit imparted to him by the abuser, could manifest itself in numerous ways. The child's behavior will change but, because of the lack of knowledge of the parents, the child's change in behavior is misdiagnosed.

Many people, Christians included, live in bondage. They may be bound to poverty, sexual perversion, anger, fear, hatred, divorce, alcoholism, drug abuse and much more. Many Christians feel that because they have accepted Christ they should not have any of the faults of the *old man*. They will not admit the curses that still remain in their lives. They feel ashamed and try to hide the bad things in their lives because they have been told that Christians should not be like that.

How many times do you hear of a Christian couple getting divorced? How often are Christian children, wives and husbands suffering abuse behind closed doors? How often

do good Christians leave church and get home screaming at their loved ones? How many Christians are being tormented by desires that they know are against the will of Almighty God? Just imagine, Christians having fleshy desires.

My children are being destroyed by their lack of knowledge. What is this knowledge that God's children lack. (This does not refer only to those who have accepted Christ but to all of God's children. He made us all.) We are supposed to be set free by the truth. The simple fact is that we cannot be set free by a truth that we do not fully understand. If we do not understand the implications of that truth, it cannot set us free. It can only let us know that we can be free.

We have the gift, the truth by which we can break all generational curses. We have a power at our disposal that can break the bonds of any curse. We can be set totally free from that bondage that Satan and his workers of iniquities have placed on us.

Ephesians 6:12 (King James Version)

¹²For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Colossians 1:9-17 (New International Version)

*"...since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the **knowledge** of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the **knowledge** of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. ¹³**For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,** ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

*¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and **in him** all things hold together.*

Why should we seek to live our lives in Christ? In Him there is the solution to every problem. In Him is the power to break all bonds to this world. In Him is the refuge of the tormented soul. When we love Christ, follow His commandments, we abide in Him and He abides in us. We can simply confess our iniquities, confess our sins, our curses and afflictions and His Grace will set us free. Who the Son has set free is free indeed.

Romans 8:2 (King James Version): *²For the law of the Spirit of life **in Christ Jesus** hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

When we realize who we are and where we are, we can rid ourselves of all the influences with which this world binds us. We can rid ourselves of the curses of this generation, previous generations and generations to come (should the Lord tarry.)

James 5:16 (King James Version)

¹⁶Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

We as Christians should not feel ashamed to confess our problems to each other when we are seeking to be healed from them. The desire to keep them secret is a trick of the devil. He knows that if we keep these curses in our lives secret, if we do not confess them, we will be destined to suffer. Sometimes both Christians and non-Christians feel that they cannot speak of the bad things in their lives. They cannot mention them for fear of exposure. The devil has convinced them that it is easier to suffer the curse than the shame that revealing them would bring.

This is a trick, although an effective trick, that the devil wants you to fall for. Satan is counting on the pride of the person to keep him from the cure for the curse. Satan knows that in Jesus Christ all of his power is diminished. Satan knows that the knowledge of redemption, salvation and sanctification in Jesus Christ will destroy his bondage on you and me. Satan and his band of fallen angels are depending on the pride of the individual to hinder that person from breaking the curses in his life.

What is the solution to this problem? We must realize that accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior is the first step to living the life that the Lord has planned for us. However, it is only the first step. We must also realize that by accepting Christ as your Savior, you wear the mantle of His Righteousness. We become righteous by applying the shed blood of the Savior to our lives. We become heirs and joint heirs with Jesus Christ when we profess with our mouths the love we have for the Son of the Almighty Creator of this universe and the fact that we know He is the Holy Word of God. Each born-again believer is righteous in the site of God. When we live our lives in Christ, God the Father sees Christ. We alone have no righteousness.

Romans 3:10 (King James Version)

¹⁰As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

But thanks be to God for His wonderful Son who died for us.

Romans 5:19 (King James Version)

¹⁹For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Thanks be to our wonderful Savior who was obedient and through whom those who believe in Him have attained righteousness.

We must know that the effectual fervent prayers of a righteous man avail much. We must overcome the thoughts of shame that the devil tries to instill in us. There are many righteous saints who are ready and willing to hear your confession and to pray effectually and fervently with you. You can break those bonds. You can be set free from the curses that plague your life and the lives of those you love.

Find someone you trust to be a true child of God, one who lives his life in Christ. Tell that person that you need their help to break the hold of curses in your life. Ask them to pray the following prayer with you.

Prayer of breaking free of the bondage of curses:

“Dear Holy Father God, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for me. By the power of the blood that He shed for me at Calvary, I break all curses on my life and on the lives of my family. I confess the manifestations of those curses and by the power of the authority given me by Jesus Christ, I command you Satan to loose your hold on my loved ones and me. Lord, you told us that whatever we were to loose on earth in Your Holy Name, you would loose in Heaven. Lord, by the authority of your shed blood, I loose myself of the bondage that this curse has on me and I ask that you confirm this in Heaven. For it is in the name of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that I pray. Amen”

Don't live another day in bondage to the curses imposed on your life by the enemy of God. Know that you can be set free and that you can live your life in Christ.

Chapter 8 The Blood

Throughout the Holy Bible the blood flows freely. It is said that if you cut the bible anywhere, it will bleed. Judeo-Christian heritage is one of blood. From the moment that Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden until today, blood runs through the veins of the Holy Word of God.

The first accounting of blood being shed for sin was the animals that the Lord used to make clothes to cover the shame of Adam and Eve. In order to get the skins, the animals had to be slain. Their blood was shed to make a covering for the sin but not to atone for that sin. The sin and its curses remained and were passed down from generation to generation. The Adamic nature (sinful nature) is passed at conception from father to son.

This is the reason that Jesus Christ was not fathered by a man, a descendant of Adam. His paternal bloodline was pure and without sin. The blood that coursed through the veins of Jesus Christ, our Holy Savior, was pure and without blemish.

Throughout the entire Old Testament, man sacrificed animals to cover his sins. This had to be done repeatedly. The blood of sacrificial animals was only a temporary fix for the atonement of sin. It only paid for the past sin, not the present or future sin. The blood of animals was not pure enough.

The life force of all creatures is in the blood of that creature. No living mammal can exist without blood flowing through its veins. Medical science today can discern what ails the body with a blood sample.

Leviticus 17:14 (King James Version)

¹⁴For it is the life of all flesh

The Old Testament is Christ concealed. From the beginning to the end, Jesus Christ can be seen. The New Testament is Christ revealed.

From Genesis throughout the Old Testament, sin demanded a blood sacrifice. In Leviticus we learn about the offerings that were made at the altars in the Temple. The sin offering, even though it was only a temporary fix, was to be performed in a specific manner.

Leviticus 16:10-15 (King James Version)

¹⁰But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

¹¹And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself:

¹²And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil:

¹³And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not:

¹⁴And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.

¹⁵Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the veil, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:

To atone for the sins of the people the blood was sprinkled 8 times; once upon the mercy seat (the Altar of God in the Holy of Holies) and seven times before the mercy seat. Jesus shed his blood for us eight times to redeem us, to pay for our sin debt. The difference is that His Atoning Blood was a permanent payment for our past sins, our present sins and our future sins. His sacrifice is the only sacrifice that will ever be needed.

Jesus Christ knew that He would have to suffer for us. He knew each and every torment that would be put upon Him for us. Each time He shed His blood for us was atonement for our transgressions; to pay for our iniquities. Each instance was significant and ordered to cover us completely.

Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple to be dedicated. This was the custom. He was circumcised to acknowledge His bloodline. He shed His blood in this instance to encompass all of God's creation and to validate His authenticity.

In the eyes of God He needed no validation. However for the mind of those created by God it was necessary to complete the pattern that had been instituted from the creation of this universe.

This was the first shedding of blood that was made to prepare for the gift that was planned. This was necessary to complete and to fulfill the laws of Moses. Jesus told us that He had come not to destroy the law but to fulfill it. This He did for us.

In the Gospels according to Mathew and Mark (*Matthew 26:36 & Mark 14:32*), Jesus Christ went to the Garden at Gethsemane. It was in a garden that mans bondage to sin began. It was in a garden that our Holy Savior shed His Powerful Blood for the remission of our sins.

Jesus knew the horror that He was about to face. He knew the pain and the agony that He was facing. He knew that He would feel all of this. He had already agreed that this was necessary. However, He was born into a flesh body and He knew that He would experience the pain of the flesh. He realized that the pain and agony of the tortures that faced Him would be as severe as any pain could ever be. He knew how long and how agonizing that pain would be.

He went to the Garden of Gethsemane to commune with His Holy Father in Heaven. While He was praying, the stress of the situation was so extreme that He sweat blood. Doctors have recognized that humans, when under severe stress or fear, react to that stress in an extreme manner. The tiny capillaries under the skin will burst and blood will issue from the pores.

As Jesus prayed He sweat blood.

Luke 22:40-44 (King James Version)

⁴⁰*And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.*

⁴¹*And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,*

⁴²*Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

⁴³*And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.*

⁴⁴*And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

Jesus shed His blood through His sweat to redeem us from stress, fear and mental anguish. In the Garden at Gethsemane He paid for the stress and the fear and the anguish that sin will cause in our lives today. He covered these manifestations of our iniquities with His cleansing blood.

Isaiah 53 (New King James Version) tells us:

³*He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

⁴*Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. He was making a blood offering that we might find deliverance from our grief and sorrow. He made the sacrifice that gives us deliverance from the stress, sorrow, anguish and vain imaginings that consume us. He gave us the solution for the problems that vex our minds by shedding His Holy Blood as atonement for the iniquities that laid them on us. He let us know that, no matter what our feelings are, no matter what it is that we want, the Will of Holy Father God is greater than anything that we should want. He let us know that in order to be delivered from those situations in our lives, we must consider the will of Our Father in Heaven first. "Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilot, the Roman Governor of Judea. In order to appease the crowd that was screaming for the crucifixion of Jesus, Pilot had Jesus beaten with reeds and then scourged. Scourging was a cruel and inhumane punishment. A Roman Guard would take a whip with 9 strands of leather to use for the scourging. On each of the strands of leather were embedded small sharp pieces of metal (hooks). Each time the guard would strike Jesus with the whip, the metal hooks would be embedded in His flesh. At that point the guard would yank the whip back, ripping the flesh from the bones. The pain would radiate through the entire body each time that the whip was laid on the flesh and each time that the whip was yanked back. He had been slapped and beaten with reeds. This was for nothing more than to cause pain. Each time the reed would connect with the flesh, great whelps would rise, blood would well under the skin and nerve endings screamed their protest to the brain.

In the book of Isaiah, in chapter 53 we read," ⁵*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*"

This is very significant. Medical science has determined that there are 39 major categories of illness that can afflict the human body. Jesus was whipped 39 times. I do not feel that this is a coincidence. I do not believe in coincidence. I believe that Our Holy and Almighty God has a perfect plan. Every single illness that can afflict us has already been paid for and covered by the precious blood of the sacrificial Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

This was not enough punishment. The bloodthirsty *religious* folk, because of their willingness to follow the direction of the devil, wanted Jesus to be crucified. The devil thought that He could kill the Son of God. Satan did not realize that He was causing the people to execute the plan that God had made and not to simply execute the Son of God who had already defeated Satan's temptations.

Each phrase of Isaiah was acted out. Each prophecy was fulfilled. "*But he was wounded for our transgressions.*" He suffered the slaps and indignations to pay for our transgressions. "*he was bruised for our iniquities*" He was beaten with reeds to pay for our lawlessness (iniquities).

The reeds did not break the skin. They cause blood to issue forth under the skin. He bled internally to pay for our lawlessness (iniquities).

It is thrilling to realize (acquire the knowledge) that the Holy Word of God gives us. To add even more insult to the injuries, the Roman guards fashioned a crown of thorns and placed it on His head. This was to ridicule Him. Little did they know that they were helping a prophecy to be fulfilled. The crown of thorns represents every thing that would ever vex our thoughts, our minds or our imaginations. Everything that could possibly cause us mental anguish and illness was fashioned to represent a crown. This crown was placed upon His head. “ *the chastisement of our peace was upon him*”. He suffered the punishment; His Blood was shed for us to be delivered from defeat. “¹²*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*” (Ephesians 6:12 (King James Version))

When that crown of thorns was placed on His head, it was not gently placed there. It was pressed down to allow the thorns to pierce the skin of our Holy Lords brow. Each drop of divine blood has the power to wash away every negative thought, every vain imagination, every mental illness that we have. Each drop of blood will cover anything that vexes our minds. Each drop of blood from the brow of our Holy Lord will give us victory over principalities, over powers, over rulers of the darkness of this world and over spiritual wickedness in high places that are trying to manifest themselves in our lives through the curses that accompany the iniquities in our lives.

Jesus bore the weight of the cross through the streets of Jerusalem and up the hill to the altar of His sacrifice. Earlier he said to His disciples, as is recorded in the Gospel according to Mathew:

Matthew 16:20-25 (King James Version)

²⁰*Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.*

²¹*From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.*

²²*Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.*

²³*But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*

²⁴*Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

²⁵*For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

This, to me, proves that Jesus knew in advance that He would have to pick up His Cross, the wooden altar upon which He was to be made a sacrifice for our redemption. Before the last supper, before He had even been sentenced, Jesus knew the reality of the cross upon which He would finish the work that He and His Father in Heaven had planned.

Jesus knew that the covenant that God made with Abraham was in the process of fruition. He knew that, because Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac, upon a wooden altar, so would the Son of the Living God be sacrifice to pay for a debt that was not His to pay. As He carried that cross, *“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”* (Isaiah 53:4)

We can see our human struggle in the struggle that Jesus encountered while carrying Our Cross up that hill. How many times, while struggling under the weight of the sorrows and grief in our lives have we stumbled and fallen? How many times has the weight of the curses that we suffer under caused us to trip and fall? There is no shame in this. There is no reason to feel that we are less than we should be. These thoughts are nothing more than an attack of our enemy. Jesus was showing us that the weight of the cross that each of us bears can cause us to stumble and fall. That is no reason to give up. There is still a work that needs to be done. Don't loose heart when the pressure and the gravity of the situations in your life bear down with enough force to knock you to your knees.

Reaching the top of the hill did not finish the work that had to be done. The Cross was laid down and Jesus had to lie on top of it. Here was another time that the blood of a Holy Savior was to cover us. As He lay there suffering for us, His hands were nailed to the wood. As the blood issued forth from those wounds, everything that we would ever touch became an instrument that we can use for the glorious work of God. That blood which was spilled covered everything that would be placed in our hands. The Holy Blood of the hands of our Holy Lord covered us and gave us back the dominion that was usurped from us by the devil in the Garden of Eden. We were reinstated with the power and dominion over this world. With out this knowledge we do not know that power and dominion has been restored to God's people. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

The sacrificial blood that the Savior shed when the nails were pressed through the flesh of His hands confirmed, covered and guaranteed the blessings that God has wanted for man since the Garden of Eden. You might ask, “Why have we not been told this?” or “I didn't realize this.” There is a simple explanation for this lack of knowledge. Satan does not want you to know that dominion over this world has been given back to those who believe. The financial blessing that you need, the health blessing that you need, everything that you need is there in your hands because of the blood that was shed by the hands of the Son of Almighty God on Calvary. I have a sweatshirt that was given to me by a loving couple of Christians that has a picture of Jesus' hand nailed to the cross on the front. I love the caption under the picture. “His hands were red to tell our future.”

Satan does not want you to know that you, because of Jesus' bloody hands, have this world in your hands. He does not want you to realize that you can grasp the blessings that are there for you. He does not want you to have a reason to believe that when the hands of a righteous man are laid on you, miracles happen. He wants you to be ignorant of these facts. They are powerful. Your hands with your prayers have the power to break curses and to impart blessings, as long as you are living your life in Christ.

After the Roman guards had nailed the hands of our loving Lord Jesus Christ to the cross, they positioned His feet into place and hammered the nail there, pinning Him to the cross. This was for no other reason than to cover our steps (no matter where we might go to do the Lords work.)

The shed blood of our Lord and Savior paid the price to give us again the dominion of this world. In order for us, as born again believers to accomplish the Great Commission that our Savior commanded for us, we must have dominion over the ground that Satan has possessed for so many years.

The blood that Jesus shed for us from His Holy feet gave us dominion over the entire land and when we step there we have the power and majesty of the King to carry the message of our Lord.

Deuteronomy 11:23-25 (King James Version)

²³Then will the LORD drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves.

²⁴Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be.

²⁵There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.

Don't ever consider yourself too insignificant to have an impact on the world. Don't ever think that you are powerless against the forces of evil, the devil. We fight not against the flesh but against principalities and powers and rulers of the darkness of this world. Don't let the devil or other Christians under the guidance of the devil let you feel for one second that you are meaningless and unable to do the things that your Lord has given you to do. It's a lie and a trick of the devil. You are free to express your dominion over this world and all that there is in it. Jesus Christ shed His blood to give you dominion over everything that you touch and every inch of the ground upon which you walk. Because of the blood that He shed from His feet, not even the gates of hell will prevail against you. You are a special creation, you are redeemed by a Holy God and you can do His work. You are filled with the same power that was used to create this universe. You are a child of the One and True Living God. Act like it.

Take control of the situations in your life. Stop being the victim. Stop believing the lies of the Prince of this world, the evil enemy who wants to suppress you and make you think that you have no control over your life and the lives of those you love. Realize and digest the knowledge that Holy Jesus Christ not only died to redeem you from this world but to put you into a position of power in His Holy Name. When you accept the gifts that He has given you and you live your life in Christ, you are powerful and have dominion over this world and over everything that it will try to throw at you.

We need to realize the position that the shed blood places us. We need to go into this world and let the people know that the Kingdom of God is near and that they should repent of their sins and accept the gifts that are offered to them, the gifts of deliverance and eternal life.

The blood that Jesus shed from the wounds in His feet gives you the ability to walk into your child's room, break curses and bring blessings. You can walk the halls of the school that your children attend and take dominion over the evil that lurks there ready to snare your children. You can walk down the streets of your neighborhood and claim them for the Lord of Salvation. You can walk into any situation and claim it for the Lord because He has already made the sacrifice that paid for that.

There is a wonderful organization (one of many) that takes the word of God and the offer of Salvation to prisons. Kairos is an international prison ministry. Each person who belongs to an organized prison ministry should walk into that prison and claim it for the Lord. If you have a relative who is in prison, go to visit that person and walk into that place with the authority that was given you by the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Go there with the knowledge of your God given rights.

Read in the Gospel according to Mark. Read verses 15 through 18 of chapter 16. Read it over and over and over until you begin to understand that this is not an idle promise but a prophecy. Not just a prophecy but also a command from our God Most High. Don't take it as figurative speech.

Mark 16:15-18 (King James Version)

¹⁵*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

¹⁶*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

¹⁷*And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*

¹⁸*They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

Jesus told us to go into the world and let them know the Good News. Let them know that He has already paid the price for their freedom. The devil has been defeated. My people are destroyed by their lack of knowledge. It is the commission of each and every believing Christian to get informed and inform others. Stop sitting around wishing that there was something that could be done. Stop asking God to send someone to help with those situations. He has already commanded someone to go and that someone is you. He doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called.

The eighth time that Jesus shed His Holy Blood for us was the final time. Jesus was crucified on a Friday morning. The Jewish Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday. According to the law, no one could be hanging on a cross on the Sabbath. This would surely curse the land.

The Roman guard would break the legs of the convicted to hasten their death. The cruel part of crucifixion is the manner in which death occurs. The pain and agony of hanging there didn't kill. When the person on the cross became tired, he could no longer push himself up to breathe. The weight of the body pressed in on the lungs and made it next to impossible to breathe. When the person was totally exhausted, he could no longer relieve the pressure on his lungs by pushing up and he would slowly, agonizingly suffocate.

Jesus had by this time given up the ghost. He had allowed His Body to die. In order to verify that He was no longer living, one of the Roman guards pierced His side and heart with a spear. Blood and water issued forth from the post mortem wound. They were satisfied that Jesus was dead.

The blood and the water that was shed through this wound was payment for all things that give joy to our hearts. Jesus paid the price through His broken heart for us. He came to heal the broken hearted and with His broken heart He gave us the ability to overcome any situation that would cause pain to our hearts.

You must understand that Jesus made a provision for our JOY. He paid the ultimate price to bring us out of the darkness of a heavy heart. He knew that in order for us to be effective in the Great Commission that we need to exude a feeling of joy. When you are sad and down hearted, you cannot witness effectively, you cannot take charge of situations, and you cannot break the bonds that hold you to this world. Without the joy that is placed in your hearts by the sacrifice of a loving Savior you cannot unbind the grip that Satan has on your life and the lives of your loved ones. Attaining deliverance from the bonds of the curses that plague you and your family brings joy, pure God given joy into existence in your heart.

Jesus shed His blood at His circumcision to express His authority.

Jesus shed His blood at Gethsemane to pay the price for stress and agony in our lives.

Jesus shed His blood under His skin to pay for our iniquities.

Jesus shed His blood at the whipping post to pay for our healing.

Jesus shed His blood under the crown of thorns for the chastisement of our peace.

Jesus shed His blood from His hands to give us back dominion over all we grasp.

Jesus shed His blood from His feet to give us dominion over everywhere that we tread.
Jesus shed His blood from His heart to return joy to our hearts.

He shed His blood toward the eastern end of the mercy seat. He shed His blood seven times before the mercy seat. He shed His blood as a complete work to reaffirm our position as born again Christians in this world and in Heaven. We can claim this sacrificial sin offering by living our lives in Christ.

Chapter 9 Putting it all together

God has a magnificent plan for each of us. The devil, Satan, is God's enemy and our enemy. God has revealed His plan to us. He caused His Holy Word to become flesh to show us this plan and to implement it.

We see that Jesus Christ, the provision that God has provided for each of us to reach our goal, is evident throughout the entire Old Testament. The Old Testament is Christ concealed. We see that in the New Testament Jesus Christ is revealed.

In Created in His Image I traced some of the evidence that shows Jesus Christ is present throughout the Holy Bible. If you take the time to study God's Holy Word, you will see God's plan in action. The sacrifice for the yearly sin offering for the people is a diagram of the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for each one of us. This sacrifice is not only for our redemption and Salvation. In its entirety Christ's sacrifice is the provision made for us to be delivered, bought, sanctified and equipped to live the life that God means for us here on earth and to prepare us for the life that He has planned for us with Him for eternity.

When we are washed in that life-giving blood we are delivered and set free from the bondage into which Satan and his workers have placed us. Satan wants each one of us to be ignorant of the fact of Salvation. Satan wants us to be ignorant of the fact that the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for us is liberating and all-powerful.

The devil does not want you to feel that you are worthy of God's love and attention. If you step back and look at this world and the history of it, you cannot but see that this world was created for us. It is time that we learned the truth and applied it to our lives.

It is time that the knowledge presented to us in the Holy Word of God is studied and understood by each and every one of us. Look around you and you'll see that human beings, even born again Christians, are in the devil's bondage. My people are destroyed for their lack of knowledge.

The devil does not want you to understand that the power and authority of the Kingdom of Heaven has been given to you to deliver you, to redeem you, to save you and to sanctify you. He does not want you to realize that you can live your life in Christ and Christ in you. He does not want you to realize that he has no power over you except that which you allow him to have.

Romans 8:2 is so very important for you to understand and for you to present to others by living it.

Romans 8:2 (King James Version)

*²For the law of the Spirit of life **in Christ Jesus** hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

When you abide by the Spirit of Life (the Holy Spirit of the One and True Living God), which is in Jesus Christ, you can and will overcome the laws of this world, the laws of sin and death. You can overcome and lift the curses that bind you to this world. Christ has already made the permanent sacrifice, the ultimate sacrifice, for your sin debt. He has set you free and has given you the ability and the way to live a life of freedom. He who the Lord has set free is free indeed.

God, through the sacrifice of His Beloved Son, has given you the power to live the life that He has planned for you. He has given you the power to overcome addiction, poverty, anger, abuse, addiction and all of the bondage that sin will bring to your life for 1000 generations. All you need is the knowledge and understanding of that knowledge to do even greater things than He did while He walked this earth as Jesus Christ.

You see, when you live your life in Christ, you have all of the benefits of the Kingdom of Heaven. You have all that He wants for you because God has blessed you with all spiritual gifts in heavenly places in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)

Ephesians 1:3 (King James Version)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

You are a special creation. God is no respecter of persons. It does not matter to Him if you are a filthy sinner. It does not matter to Him what your past is. It matters to Him what your future can be. He doesn't care that you were a drug addict, an abuser, abused, poor, angry full of hatred, drunk, perverted or any other horrible thing. He wants you to know that you are special to Him and you can live the life of a true child of God. All you need to do is accept His Son as Lord of your life, to live your life abiding by the laws that Jesus gave us, and to allow Jesus to live His life in you.

When you are able to show Jesus that you love Him by following His commandments, He will live in you. He wants to live His life in you. He wants to perform miracles through you.

So many say, "Well, I accepted Christ. I tried to live the life I was supposed to live. I read my Bible and I prayed. I am still sinning. I cannot seem to get those things out of me. I feel angry. I feel all of the things I used to and I can't get rid of them!"

Too many born again Christians think that suddenly, after accepting Christ, they are transformed into the super-Christian that others think that they should be. Too many people quote 2 Corinthians 5:17

2 Corinthians 5:17 (King James Version)

¹⁷Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

They think that this scripture says, “ As soon as I accept Christ I am made a new creature and everything I used to be is gone.” Stop right there! There have been so many new Christians beaten up by well meaning yet unknowing Christians. This is not what this scripture say. Look at the words. “*Therefore if any man **be** in Christ.*” Being in Christ takes a conscious effort. When we are born again, when we accept Christ, our spirits are renewed. Our spirits become alive. The flesh is still there. That connection to this world and the bondage that follows it are still there. Those curses that have vexed us are still there. This is why so many good Christians praise God and worship like crazy in church and go home from church and beat their wives. This is why so many wonderful Christians still have an anger problem, still have a desire for drugs and alcohol. I do not want you to think that it is not possible to be saved, sanctified, delivered and filled with the Holy Spirit at the same time. This is possible but rare.

Too many Christians are walking around today not understanding why they still have the desires that they had before still in their lives. They don't understand why they still are angry, depressed, financially disadvantaged, etc. They are ashamed because they have been led to believe that all of this should be gone. But it isn't. Instant saints are rare, very rare.

Does this mean that there is no hope? Far from it! This means that we need to know what the Bible tells us about the solution to these problems. We need to realize that Jesus has already made provision for us through His shed blood to take care of these problems, to deliver us from these curses. This means that we need to do what the Apostle James told us to do in the 5th chapter.

James 5:16 (King James Version)

¹⁶Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

We must confess the faults that we are aware of in our lives. We must acknowledge the curses that are operating in our lives. We need to understand that none of us is a perfect Christian but if we will confess these things and pray for each other, we can be healed. We can apply the shed blood of a Holy Savior to these curses in our lives and be delivered. If you do not have a Pastor who is willing to listen to your confession, you need to find another church. If you do not have people in you life who are willing to listen to you, to lay their hands on you and to pray for you, keep looking. They are there.

The devil does not want us to know that we have the power to pray for each other. There is no shame in having a problem. There is a great deal of shame in keeping a problem because your pride is in the way.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (King James Version)

*¹⁴If my people, which are called by my name, shall **humble** themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

Don't let your pride keep you from your blessings. Pride ushered sin into the world. A humble spirit will bless you. The devil suffered from pride. Don't follow his example. He has taken from you. He has stolen from you. He has tried his best to destroy you. Don't let him do that. Greater is He that lives in you than he that lives in the world.

You have the power. You have the resources of Heaven at your disposal. You have the ability to rid yourself and your family of all of the curses with which Satan has bound you.

Live your life in Christ and live the abundance that God has provided for you!

Chapter 10
Break the bonds that bind you.

Now you have truth that will set you free. What do you want to do with it? You can put this book down and continue living as you were or you can take what is here and use it to break the bonds that have tied you to this world.

Mathew 13 (King James Version)

¹¹He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Christ has given you the knowledge of the mysteries of Heaven. Take that knowledge as your own and use it.

Mathew 16 (King James Version)

¹⁹And 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.

Break the bondage on your life. Lift the curses. Jesus has given you the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. Bind Satan and his workers and loose the peace of Almighty God into your life! Confess and pray!

In order for you to have the power to break those curses that have you bound, you must first accept the gifts of Redemption and Salvation that Jesus provided for you. You must accept His Sacrifice. Pray this prayer.

Sinner's Prayer

Dear Holy Father in Heaven, I ask that you forgive me of my sins. I repent of my sinful ways. Lord Jesus I ask that you become the Lord of my life. Holy Spirit of the One and True Living God I ask that you live in me, guide me into a life lived in Christ. Lord I ask that You live in me and that I may live in You. For it is in the Name of My Most Holy Savior Jesus Christ that I pray.

Now break the curses in your life. Break the bondage that holds you to this world. You must believe that Satan is working hard to bind you to his world. He knows that you are made of flesh and bone and that your flesh is susceptible to the temptations of this world. He wants you to reject the offer of redemption, deliverance, sanctification and salvation that Your Holy Lord is offering. Look at your life and consider this. You have done all that you know to do but you still suffer from the agony of curses in your life. If you are at the end of your rope, if you have come to an impasse in your life, call on Jesus. Try it His way for a while. If it doesn't work, well, you know the rest.

Prayer of Release

Dear Holy Father in Heaven, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior. Lord, I take that authority that Jesus gave me in His Holy shed blood. Lord, I plead the blood that was shed to set me free. Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit I bind the forces of Satan in my life and the lives of those I love. I bind the hands of the devil who has tried to bind me. I loose the peace and joy that can only come from you into my life and the lives of those I love. In the Holy and Magnificent name of my Holy Lord and Savior Jesus Christ I pray.

Believe it. It works!

Chapter 11

Alive in Christ's Project Oasis

All we need to do is listen to the TV or Radio, read the Newspaper or simply take a look at our own families to see the impact that drugs and alcohol are having on our lives. Addiction is one of the strongest bondages that man can suffer.

Alive in Christ's Project Oasis is a drug and alcohol rehab camp. Unlike secular drug and alcohol rehab centers and camps, Alive in Christ's Project Oasis concentrates on the promises and prophecies of the Holy Word of God. Each candidate (participant) is lead into an intense encounter with the Holy Spirit.

There is an alarming statistic concerning secular programs. Over 80% of people who go through these secular (non-Christ based programs) revert to their original addictions. This is so discouraging.

The major reason for this is that they are given nothing to fall back on. They are not given a firm foundation upon which they can stand. They are left on their own to fight an enemy who can trick them back into believing that they are not truly healed.

Alive in Christ Ministries has been charged by God with the mission to offer deliverance from addictions through the Life-giving Blood of Jesus Christ. Our program is being developed to reach down and pluck the victims of Satan's bondage from the muck and mire of addiction and to lift them up to the Throne of a Holy God. From day one of each candidate's journey, the love of Jesus Christ and His Saving Grace are emphasized.

Each day is filled with physical (clinical) therapy and with *in Christ* intervention. Each day is structured to address issues of the physical addiction and issues of the psychological addiction as well. Each candidate will advance day by day to an understanding of their self worth and the fact that there is a loving God who wants to have a personal relationship with them.

The candidate will complete an intense 90-day program designed to lift him up, show him the power that is offered to him and to build a firm foundation of faith in Jesus Christ that can carry him through the rough times ahead.

There will also be after-care for each individual. There are government programs that will apply after the candidate has finished the program. Because of the Christian nature of the program, we get NO funding from the government. We were told that if we leave out the "Religious" part of the program, we could get funding. That will never happen.

If we leave God out of the formula, we have nothing better than the failure programs that are in existence now. Only Jesus Christ has the power and the will to deliver people from

the curse of addiction. Only through the mighty name of Jesus Christ can we be saved from ourselves and from the world that binds us to itself.

The Holy Spirit has inspired a method that will bring the lost and hurting into the saving Grace of Jesus Christ. We at Alive in Christ's Project Oasis will follow the direction of the Holy Spirit to guide those who are afflicted into deliverance through confession and prayer.

Alive in Christ Ministries believes the promise that the Lord gave us through the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 29:11 (King James Version)

¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Jeremiah 29:11 (New International Version)

¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11 (New King James Version)

¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 (New Living Translation)

¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremías 29:11 (Reina-Valera 1995)

¹¹ Porque yo sé los pensamientos que tengo acerca de vosotros, dice Jehová, pensamientos de paz y no de mal, para daros el fin que esperáis.

Jeremías 29:11 (Reina-Valera Antigua)

¹¹ Porque yo sé los pensamientos que tengo acerca de vosotros, dice Jehová, pensamientos de paz, y no de mal, para daros el fin que esperáis.

Jérémie 29:11 (Louis Segond)

¹¹ Car je connais les projets que j'ai formés sur vous, dit l'Éternel, projets de paix et non de malheur, afin de vous donner un avenir et de l'espérance.

The language or the translation does not matter. The message matters. You must know that Our Holy God loves us and has a plan for our lives, here on earth as well as throughout eternity. He wants you to be free to enjoy the wonderful things that are here on earth now before we go to be with Him. He wants you to live your life "in Christ."

Our Holy Jesus wants us to share this Good News with everyone. He wants us to go into the prisons, into the hospitals, into the asylums and into the streets to let everyone know

that the devil is a liar and we can break the bondage that He has placed on our lives. We can be free. Jesus Christ shed His blood so that we would have the opportunity and the way for us to be able to be delivered from the bondages of this world. He has given us the power to lift the curses off our lives and the lives of those we love.

Alive in Christ's Project Oasis is the instrument that we will use to bring the hurting, the cursed, into the delivering knowledge that Jesus Christ has already paid the price to purchase us from the debt that has ensnared us.

Please keep Alive in Christ's Project Oasis in your prayers. God has given us a vision. We want to open 2000 camps across the USA. We feel that there should be a camp in every county of every state.

Consider partnering with us to bring this vision to reality. Your monthly gift will help bring a hurting soul to the Kingdom of God. All of the proceeds from Created in His Image and Alive in Christ go to Alive in Christ Ministries to support Project Oasis Rehab Camps.

If you know of a church or group who would like to bring Alive in Christ's Project Oasis to your county, please let us know.

Alive in Christ Ministries
22 Patton Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843-479-5072

If you would like to make a gift, please make all checks payable to:

Alive in Christ Ministries

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