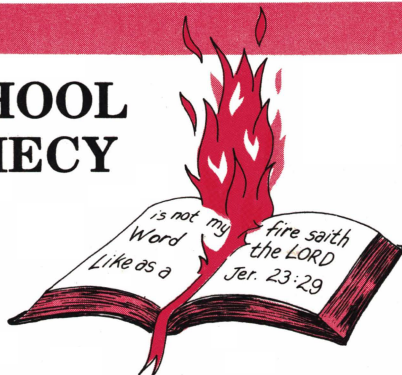


BIBLE STUDY COURSE
LESSON NO. 3
— FROM —

**BIBLE SCHOOL
OF PROPHECY**



"SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS"

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

*Cast thy bread upon the waters:
for thou shalt find it after many days.* Ecclesiastes 11:1



THE OVERCOMING MESSAGE

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BIBLE SCHOOL OF PROPHECY

Lesson No. 3

THE OVERCOMING MESSAGE

DECLARATION:

Through Christ's sacrifice at Calvary, every true believer has been bequeathed, through His will (the New Testament), a completely victorious life over the world, over the flesh, over sin, and over all the power of the devil. (cf. Luke 10:17-20).

INTRODUCTORY SCRIPTURES:

A true Christian's victory is fully expressed by the Holy Scriptures in one great illustrative word — **OVERCOME!** "And they (i.e., God's saints) overcame him (i.e., the devil) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the Word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." Rev. 12:11. They overcame! **They lived victoriously for Christ, over the world, over the flesh, over sin, and over the devil!** "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." I John 5:4. There is no choice for a Christian — he either fights and overcomes the world, the flesh, and sin, (which are Satan's devices to defeat and destroy him), or, they will overcome him! "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome (i.e., by the flesh and worldliness), the latter end is worse with them than the beginning." II Pet. 2:20. Also: "I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, **and ye have overcome the wicked one.**" I John 2:14.

Lesson Exposition:

Spiritual defeat to a Christian is (1) the loss of self-control, and (2) the loss of the power to overcome circumstances to a great degree about him. Victory for a Christian can be summed up conversely: (1) Overcoming circumstances, and (2) possessing the power of self-control. **A true Christian has been promised by the scriptures, trouble, fiery trials, temptations, and tribulation.** "Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward." Job 5:7. This is a universal cause and effect. Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. **In the world ye shall have tribulation:** but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33. Christ's apostle reveals: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning **the fiery trial** which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you." I Pet. 4:12. Of temptation the Holy Ghost warns: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able;

but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, **that ye may be able to bear it.**" I Cor. 10:13. The Christian warfare is continuous, so the scriptures exhort: "Fight the good fight of faith." I Tim. 6:12. To young Timothy the Apostle Paul exhorted: "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck." I Tim. 1:18-19. Our warfare is against the world, the flesh, sin, and the devil — and, we either overcome these or suffer defeat, and subsequently, death.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (the condition of victory is to be strong). For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities** (i. e., territory ruled by the devil), against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day (i. e., the time of severe trial or temptation), and having done all, to stand." Eph. 6:10-13. The Holy Ghost commands us also "to resist the devil." James 4:7.

A victorious Christian, one who overcomes the world, the flesh, sin, and the devil must be clad with the armor of the Holy Ghost thusly:

- (1) "Our loins (must be) girt about with the truth (i. e., the whole truth);
- (2) Having on the breastplate of righteousness;
- (3) Our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
- (4) Taking the shield of faith;
- (5) Wearing the helmet of Salvation.
- (6) Taking the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.
- (7) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit." Eph. 6:14-18.

Most of the Christians mingled in today's Sick Society amid pleasure, affluence, materialism, paganism, lewdness, and spiritual decadence are living defeated existences. The world and the flesh have overcome them — these are the devil's devices to which most Christians are avid. Jesus warned His disciples in the parable of the sower: "And that (i. e., seed of God's Word) which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked (i. e., careless Christians) with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection." Luke 8:14. **The devil chokes many professing Christians to death on pleasures and lusts of the flesh.** Read II Cor. 2:11; Mark 4:18-19.

A true saint of God can only be victorious over the world, the flesh, sin, and the devil by being strong, and overcoming these enemies that can defeat and destroy him. Jesus said that we must stay armed, and on guard over our souls, "Or a stronger than he shall come upon him (i.e., you or me), and overcome him, (and) he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils." Luke 11:21-22. Our strong man will not fight to overcome our enemies (evil spirits) if we have yielded to the flesh, the world, and to sin through the devil's devices of lust and deceit. Even false prophets and lying spirits can be overcome if we are obedient to the Lord: "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." I John 4:4. We must be obedient and yielded to the Holy Ghost in us to be the victor over the wiles of the devil. So "Put on the whole armor of God!"

There is a Royal Road to "Living Victoriously"; it lies in consecration, concentration, conquest and conscience.

(1) **Consecration** is the dedication of the individual life to the service of God for the sake of others, to the realizing of some noble and unselfish ideal. John 15:13; Phil. 2:3-5. Life is not something to be endured; it is something to be lived up to. Consecration places the object of life way above the mere acquisition of money as a finality. The Christian who unselfishly seeks to be helpful, loving, ready to lighten the burden of others, to give strength to the struggling ones, to often times forget himself in remembering others, is on the royal road to Victorious Living over the world, the flesh, and over sin. Consecration is ever active, bold, and aggressive, fearing naught but disloyalty to the call of God upon his life.

(2) **Concentration** makes the individual Christian's life simpler and deeper. It cuts away the shams and pretenses of modern living and limits life to the truest essentials. Worry, fear, and needless regret, the wasters of spiritual and physical energy are rejected and overcome. Phil. 4:13. Dedication to God's great purpose and calling in our lives, something that unifies the strands and threads of each day's thinking — a dedication that takes the sting from petty trials, sorrows, suffering, and blunders of life, is a great aid to concentration. **Concentration dignifies a humble life — it makes a great life sublime.** In Bible morality, concentration is a short cut to godly simplicity because it leads to doing right for right's sake, to please God, with no thought of policy or reward in this life. Concentration brings rest and serenity to a true Christian. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile (i.e., deceit) found in his mouth." I Pet. 2:21-22.

(3) **Conquest** is the overcoming of sin or an evil habit, the rising superior to the opposition and attack of the devil through the world and the flesh — the spiritual exultation that comes from resisting and overcoming the invasion of the fleshly, material side of life. Sometimes when you are worn, weary, and weak from the struggle against Satan's devices, when it seems that loyalty to God's Word counts for nothing, that the devil is the only good paymaster — when hope grows dim and faith only flickers; then is the time you must tower above these circumstances in restful confidence and trust that God's Word is true, that He will never forsake us — right then you must throttle those imps of doubt and despair; you must master yourself to master the world about you. **This is conquest!** "For he (Jesus) hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5. Also: "Behold, I give you power . . . over all the power of the enemy." Luke 10:19.

Even a log can float down stream, but it takes a real Christian to fight valiantly against the opposing current that would sweep his ship off its course. When the storms of life, trouble, temptation, heartache, sorrow, or distress assail you, rise above them. Be like a lighthouse that illumines and beautifies the raging, angry waves of the storm that seeks to undermine and destroy it — cling to the Rock of God's Word in faith. **This is conquest!** Matt. 7:24-25. When the chance to win fame, wealth, success, or the attainment of your heart's desire, by the sacrifice of honor or Bible principle comes to you, and it does not affect you long enough even to seem a temptation, you have been the victor. **This too is conquest!**

4) **Conscience** that is void of offence toward God ever leads to Victorious Living. Acts 24:16. "Holding faith, and a good conscience." I Tim. 1:19. Also: "Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience." I Tim. 3:9. Conscience that is pure and cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:14) as our mentor and censor, can be fully trusted, and ever leads to an overcoming life. This does not include those whose consciences have been deafened and deadened by specious logic, seared with a hot iron. I Tim. 4:2. The Christian who is honestly seeking to live his life in consecration, concentration, and conquest, living from day to day as best he can, by all the light on God's Word he possesses, may rely explicitly on his conscience. He can shut his ears to "what the world says" and find in the approval of his own conscience, the voice of his Infinite Creator and Lord communing with him.

To Overcome means to win; to defeat; to conquer; to have complete victory over the world, the flesh, sin — all the devil's devices that can spell defeat to a Christian. "To him that overcometh (i.e., the world, the flesh, and sin) will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne," (Rev. 3:21), Jesus promised.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

John 16:33	James 1:13-15	Isa. 40:28-31	Rev. 2:7
John 17:14-17	Rev. 21:7	Rev. 2:26-29	Rev. 3:5
Heb. 11:32-35	I Pet. 5:8-10	II Cor. 10:3-5	II Cor. 12:10
Luke 10:16-20	Mark 16:15-20	Acts 1:8	Dan. 11:32

Other Source of Study: Word of Prophecy magazine, May 1977, "Living Victoriously."

NOTES:

PART A. ORIGIN OF SIN.

I. HEAVEN!

"How art thou fallen from heaven O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! (Here is his Sin): For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north (i.e., sit as God to be worshipped): I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. (His penalty): Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." Isa. 14:12-15. This biographical sketch of Lucifer (God's mighty adversary) unveils the very fountainhead of sin that is now universal. Here we see Lucifer, God's mighty archangel became the first sinner in history!

II. GARDEN OF EDEN!

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die. . . (so) she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." Gen. 3:1-6. Thus Adam and Eve disobeyed God's law, their eyes were opened to the knowledge of good and evil, and sin entered into the world, ushering in death, disease, suffering, toil, and sorrow.

III. ADAM'S LEGACY!

"Thy first father hath sinned." Isa. 43:27. Also: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (I. Cor. 15:22). And so Adam, the federal fountainhead of the human race, tested by God's will for all his descendents, failed — he rebelled against God and became a sinner. His bequest to one and all since that tragic decision: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity (i.e., rebellion); and in sin did my mother conceive me (Psalm 51:5); for all (of us) have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23)."

DISCUSSION:

Lucifer, once the most beautiful, the most brilliant, the most powerful of God's archangels staged a mighty rebellion in heaven to exalt himself above God. This happened before the creation of this planet, Earth, that is, in its present form. Satan persuaded one-third of God's angels to join him in his rebellion against God. And by the way, Lucifer is still accorded access to Heaven, even to the throne of God! NOW notice this carefully: Lucifer in the scriptures is also called (1)

Satan, (2) the Devil, (3) the Dragon, (4) the Serpent, (5) Prince of this World, (6) "god of this World", (7) King of Tyrus, (8) Prince of the Power of the Air, (9) The Tempter.

"And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon . . . And his tail drew the third part of the stars (i.e., angels) of heaven, and did cast them to the earth . . . And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels . . . And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels (i.e., demons or evil spirits) were cast out with him . . . the accuser of our brethren is cast out, which accused them before our God day and night." Rev. 12:3-10. This prophecy is futuristic!

Satan was with God when He created the world! Of the King of Tyrus God said: (This is Satan) "Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the Garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering . . . the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created (this reveals Lucifer as the innovator of music). Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou has walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire (these are the atoms of which all matter is created). **Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, til iniquity (i.e., rebellion) was found in thee . . . thou hast sinned . . . Thine heart was lifted up (i.e., filled with pride) because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.**" Ezekiel 28:11-19.

DISCUSSION:

God set Lucifer over this world as prince many ages ago, long before the creation of man in the Garden of Eden — And, God has not removed him even though the righteous basis for his removal has been judicially established by Christ's victory over him. Christ defeated the devil in life — He defeated him in death. Read Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 2:14-15; Rev. 1:17-18. **Jesus called Satan or Lucifer "the prince of this world."** John 14:30. Also: "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out." John 12:31. Jesus defeated the devil in mortal combat, and, in due time (Rev. 11:15), "The kingdoms of this world (will) become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." In the Holy Scriptures Satan is also called "the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4), and "the tempter" (Matt.4:3). Jesus also called him "A murderer and a liar" (John 8:44). All temptation and sin have their source in Lucifer or the Devil: God says, "He that committeth sin is of the devil." I John 3:8.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

I John 3:8-12	II Pet. 2:4	I Pet. 5:8-10	Rev. 2:9-10
II Cor. 4:3-4	Jude 6	I Cor. 7:5	I Tim. 5:14-15
Zech. 3:1-2	Eph. 2:2	I Chron 21:1	II Cor. 11:1-4

NOTES:

PART B. GOD'S PUNISHMENT OF SIN

I. DEATH!

"Wherefore, as by one man (i.e., Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Rom. 5:12. Also: "For since by man (i.e., Adam) came death, by man (i.e., Christ) came also the resurrection from the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." I Cor. 15:21-22. Adam was created in the likeness of God — His descendants are all begotten in the fallen, sinful likeness of Adam himself. Gen. 5:1-4. God commanded Adam when he placed him in the Garden of Eden, a perfect man, in a perfect environment: "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: **for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**" Gen. 2:16-17. Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden tree and sin's penalty came upon them and all future generations of man — sin entered into the world, and death by sin! — Physical and spiritual death!

II. SORROW & HEARTACHE!

Here is God's pronouncement of the penalty for their sin: "Unto the woman (Eve) he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam (God) said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: *cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.* Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, til thou return unto the ground: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Gen. 3:16-19. Thus here is revealed the cause and the penalty of sin that all humanity is reeling and groaning under — the sorrow and the toil: "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." Rom. 8:22. Heartache followed closely upon sin's penalty of sorrow as Adam and Eve looked upon the lifeless form of their younger son Abel who was slain by Cain, his elder brother. So we see that through Sin and Disobedience to God, Adam bequeathed to all his seed, the Death, Sorrow, and the Heartache that abound all about us. Deut. 28:32, 41.

a. **Sowing & Reaping.** "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal. 6:7-8. God warned his church of old: "But if ye do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: **and be sure your sin will find you out.**" Num. 32:23. Also for

their rebellion God foretold His people: "To me belongeth vengeance, and recompense; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste." Deut. 32:35. Jesus exhorted a man whom he healed that was incurably ill: "Behold, thou art made whole: **sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.**" John 5:14. **God's moral laws are inexorable, and like the mighty tides of the sea, they visit upon rebellious men and nations the penalties of sin — heartache, sorrow, poverty, misery and death.**

b. **Sickness and Disease.** "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee and overtake thee: Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field . . . Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out . . . The Lord shall smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed. The Lord shall smite thee with madness (i.e., insanity), and blindness, and astonishment of heart (i.e., heart disease) . . . The Lord shall smite thee in the knees, and in the legs with a sore botch (i.e., arthritis, etc.) that cannot be healed, from the sole of thy foot unto the top of thy head . . . The Lord will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed (i.e., your children), even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance . . . Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the Lord bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed." Deut. 28:15-19, 27-28, 35, 59-61.

The cause of sickness today is exactly the same as it was 3400 years ago when God issued this grave warning — these diseases are still sin's penalty! When God saved Israel out of Egypt, He also healed them. Psa. 105:37. In the wilderness, God gave a covenant to the church that has never been abrogated: "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord (Jehovah-rapha) that healeth thee." Ex. 15:26. Jehovah-rapha is Christ's title in his redemptive work on Calvary as also Jehovah-raah (Psa. 23): "The Lord, my shepherd." Christ's redemptive work on Calvary is summarized in the scriptures: "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us." Gal. 3:13. Our redemption from sin's penalty of sickness and disease is through obedience to God's laws: Jesus said, "Go and sin no more, lest a worse thing (i.e., worse disease) come unto thee." John 5:14. By the stripes of Jesus we (obedient saints) **were** healed. I Pet. 2:24.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Ex. 20:4-6	Psa. 107:9-20	Jas. 5:14-15	Matt. 8:16-17
Isa. 53:4-6	Deut. 32:39	I John 3:21-22	Matt. 14:14
Psa. 103:1-5	II Kings 5:20-27	Acts 5:1-11	Acts 13:40-41

III. HELL! "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." II Pet. 2:4. Also: "And the angels (i.e., Lucifer and the rebellious angels) which kept not their first estate (i.e., stayed not on this earth where God assigned them to live and serve Him) but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, **are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire (or hell).**" Jude 6-7. Remember: God's judgment pronounced upon Lucifer was: "Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." Isa. 14:15. God's penalty of sin upon nations and individuals who will not obey the Word of God and Repent is the same: (1) "**The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.**" Psa. 9:17. (2) "Behold, all souls are mine (saith the Lord); as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:4.

Jesus warned nations and individuals of His fierce wrath at the Day of His Judgment: "And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. And he shall set the sheep (nations) on his right hand, but the goats (i.e., goat nations) on the left. . . . Then shall he say also unto them on his left hand, **Depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.**" Matt. 25:32-33, 41. God originally prepared hell for Lucifer and the angels who followed him in rebellion against the government of God! However, the rebellion of sinful men against a sovereign, just, and holy God demands equal punishment: "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Rev. 20:15.

Jesus warned further of a foolish, proud, rebellious rich man who in his lifetime refused to repent: "And in hell he lifted up his eyes being in torments." Luke 16:23. Rebellious men who reject Christ's warning of "Repent or Perish" are really in league with Lucifer and his angels, and will suffer the same fate at God's judgment — Hell fire! All the sons of Adam have two appointments they will surely keep — Death and the Judgment! Heb. 9:27.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Deut. 32:22 Prov. 23:13-14 Matt. 23:15, 33 Mark 9:43-48
Prov. 15:11 Psa. 94:12-13 Matt. 13:49-50 II Thess. 1:6-10
Prov. 15:24 Isa. 5:13-14 Matt. 5:29-30 Rev. 14:9-11

NOTES:

PART C. WHAT IS SIN?

I. BREAKING GOD'S LAW.

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law (i.e., God's Ten Commandments): for sin is the transgression of the law." I John 3:4. The simplest definition of sin therefore is: "Whoever violates God's written Law or Commandments is guilty of sinning against the Lord!" And if there is anything that God makes clear and states unequivocally in His written word, it is this: He Hates Sin! **Sin is not a trifle but a tragedy**, as the suffering, heartache, misery, disappointment, hunger, violence, distrust, ruin, and death about us attest. God has given us laws, moral, physical, and metaphysical, which, if obeyed, ever lead men and their offspring to happiness, fulfillment, peace, and abundant life. Why do men almost always in their decisions relative to future happiness reject God's laws and ways to live by their own? Answer: They are following the same path of Adam and Eve — beguiled by Satan's promise of "just live for today — you can have heaven on earth **NOW** without following God's more difficult path to a promised, unseen paradise out into the uncharted future." But there is a "Chartered Path of Life" in God's True Word that Satan blinds men's minds to that do not believe, leading them into death and destruction. **"Paradise Lost" resulted through Adam's sin — "Paradise Regained" can be accomplished through obedience to God's laws.** NOW, every son of Adam has the same choice: to obey and serve God, or, to rebel against God's laws and follow Satan, the god of this world! II Cor. 4:3-4.

II. THE CURSE!

God decreed unto Adam, "Cursed is the ground for thy sake." Gen. 3:17; 5:29. God has explained why the earth and the inhabitants are laboring under a curse: "The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws (i.e., God's laws), changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant (this includes our covenant of grace). **Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth.**" Isa. 24:5-6. The earth about us still bears weeds, thorns, thistles, and requires sweat and toil to extract its resources — mute evidence of the continuing curse of God upon the ground because of Sin! Likewise, the groaning, disease, hunger, storms, violence, earthquakes, sorrow, and death vividly remind us of God's curse upon sinful men, even as we struggle for deliverance from its bondage. "The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now" says the Spirit. Rom. 8:22. Individually, the curse is broken through complete (not partial) obedience to Christ and God's laws. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us." Gal. 3:14.

The curse of God upon all creation will be broken at the return of Jesus Christ: (1) **The devil will be cast into the lake of fire** — Rev. 20:1-3; (2) The wicked will be turned into hell — Mal. 4:1-3; Matt. 25:31-41; (3) **All wild beasts will be tame**: “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” Isa. 11:5-10; (4) **The earth will give its full strength to the tiller of its soil**: “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.” Amos 9:13; (5) **There will be one language for all nations**: “For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent,” Zeph. 3:9; (6) **There will be one religion** — i.e., all will serve God and obey His laws: “And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for the law (God’s law) shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem,” Micah 4:2; and, (7) **There will be no violence or war**: “And he (i.e., Christ) shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.” Micah 4:3-4. Also: **“And there shall be no more curse”** the Holy Scriptures foretell in the Kingdom of God! Rev. 22:3.

STUDY God’s Ten Commandments: Exodus 20:1-17.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Gen. 12:3	Mal. 4:6	Mal. 3:9	Jer. 17:5-6
Deut. 28:15	Matt. 25:41	II Pet. 2:14	Prov. 3:33

Other Source of Study: Word of Prophecy Magazine, May 1979, “Ten Commandments”.

III. ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS! “There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. **All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.**” I John 5:17. That sin unto death (eternal) or the sin that leads directly to death is the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost of which Jesus has given a sober warning (discussed in next section). God also warns: “For whatsoever is not of **faith** is sin” (Rom. 14:23); i.e., a sin in wilful violation of what you know the Bible teaches against. That “faith” is categorically pro-

nounced by the other scriptures to mean: "Whatever we practice or adhere to as Christians that is fully confirmed by the Holy Scriptures." An example: "My brethren, have not **the faith** (i.e., respect and obedience to the Word of God) of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons . . . **If ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.**" James 2:1, 9. And conclusively: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17.

"The thought of foolishness is sin." Prov. 24:9. Any unholy act or deed is sin. However, Jesus who came as our teacher sent from God to teach us His laws revealed: "It is written, thou shalt not kill . . . but I say unto you . . . Whosoever shall say (i.e., to his brother) Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." Matt. 6:22. Also: **"Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer:** and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." I John 3:15. Christ, in the true interpretation of God's law, removed the sin from just the overt act or violation, to the motive or intention. Of the unholy act and sin of immorality Jesus warns: "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her **hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.**" Matt. 5:27-28.

THE TWO MAJOR CATEGORIES OF ALL SIN ARE: (1) IDOLATRY AND (2) IMMORALITY!

A. IDOLATRY. Jesus confirmed this forceful declaration about God's law: "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Mark 12:30-31. Therefore, selfishness, covetousness, egotism, pride, beer guzzling, laziness, gluttony, smoking, greed, theft, murder, and all rebellion against God's Word are idolatry.

Study these scriptures also: I Sam. 15:22-24; Psa. 10:3-4; I Cor. 10:7, 14; Eph. 5:3-6; Col. 3:5-6; I Cor. 8:1-7.

Other Source of Study: Word of Prophecy magazine, Feb. 1979, "Curse of Wine & Strong Drink."

B. IMMORALITY. The scriptures warn of those "whose eyes are full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin (i.e., cannot quit sinning)." II Pet. 2:14. If a man who looks on a woman and lusts (as Jesus revealed) is an adulterer or immoral man, so conversely, a woman who dresses lustfully so as to tempt a man to lust, is equally guilty of immorality — they have committed adultery (both man and woman)

in their hearts. Matt. 5:27-28. Therefore it is sinful for a woman to dress immodestly in a bathing suit before the opposite sex, or to wear mini-clothes, or pants suits, because they reveal the curves, crevices, and silhouette that arouses lust in men! It is equally sinful for a man to dress nudely or sexily! God hates this life-style and dress-style.

HOMOSEXUALITY. This degenerate perversion of even the laws of nature is described in one word of God's pronouncement of divine judgment: "**God gave them up!**" Rom. 1:24, 26, 28. Homosexuality and lesbianism are unnatural sins that God hates, and the only remedy for such sin is destruction: "**Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature (body) more than the creator . . . For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman (i.e., the woman's body), burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly . . . And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge (i.e., the real Truth of God), God gave them over to a reprobate mind . . .**" Rom. 1:25-28. **Unisex, and all it portrays is evil!**

Homosexuals have turned God's word into a lie, teaching in today's sick Christian Culture and degenerate Sick Society that God's grace covers their filthy, ungodly, unnatural, perverted lust and sin — and, thousands of professing Christians accept this as true. Only repentance — a turning away from this filthy, degenerate practice to Christ can save a Sodomite! However, few, if any, have ever been known to be truly delivered! **God gave these up to be reprobates** (Rom. 1:28): "**Rejected by God; excluded from salvation; hopelessly lost in sin.**" Sodomites or homosexuals are targeted for God's fiery wrath.

STUDY THESE SCRIPTURES CAREFULLY ALSO:

Gen. 13:12-13 Deut. 23:17 I Kings 22:46 II Pet. 2:6
 Gen. 19:1-29 I Kings 15:12 II Kings 23:7 Jude 7

SUMMARY:

The black and the white have run together — i.e., sin and holiness, the clean and the unclean, til most professing Christians live in a spiritual twilight zone or gray area with little or no sensitivity to right and wrong. **God commands His ministers: "And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean."** Ezekiel 44:23. Only the Word of God can label sin POISON — and God's true preachers must show God's people what Sin Is! We must

warn God's people: "Fools make a mock at sin." Prov. 14:9. God's Word labels every sin with a definitive, and a positive accentuation that even a fool can comprehend. Isa. 35:8. God Himself also has given assurance; "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law (of God)." Deut. 29:29.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

II Chron. 21:18-19 Acts 12:21-22 Prov. 5:11-23 Rom. 6:23
 II Chron. 16:9-13 Psa. 38:5-7 Ezek. 18:30 Rom. 8:12-13

Other Source of Study: Word of Prophecy Magazine, Oct, 1978, "The Ruin of Sin".

IV. THE UNPARDONABLE SIN!

God is just — His warning and condemnation of sin and its penalty are frank and explicit. Jesus Christ issued a grave warning about a sin that men could commit, even in this age of grace, the which God would never forgive nor pardon. The warning: "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." Matt. 12:31-32. This warning of such impending doom should not be passed over lightly. Ponder it soberly.

a. **What Is The Unpardonable Sin?** Answer: Blasphemy of the Holy Ghost! This dispensation of God's grace in which we now live (Eph. 3:2), is fully a Holy Ghost administration — He is the Chief Executive Officer! "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." I Cor. 12:3. **The Holy Ghost is the Spirit that administers God's grace to man.** Heb. 10:29. No person can repent and find eternal life except the Holy Ghost convicts and draws him to Christ. John 6:37, 44. Jesus explained this: "And when he (i.e., the Comforter or Holy Ghost) is come, he will reprove (i.e., convict) the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8. The Holy Ghost is God's only agent of conviction that can interrupt the lifestyle of a sinner or backslider that's dead in sin, and lead him to true repentance and eternal life through the fear of God's judgments and hell fire! After all, the Word of God declares: "By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil." Prov. 16:6. Also: "A wise man feareth (i.e., God), and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident." Prov. 14:16. Thus God has warned: "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God,

whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Eph. 4:30. Also, consider God’s warning to the old, paganized world of Noah: “My Spirit shall not always strive with man.” Gen. 6:3. There is a limit to God’s patience and longsuffering — and God will give up on rebellious men who insult the Holy Ghost.

Blasphemy means “evil speaking; irreverence toward God; cursing or reviling of God; irreverence toward something considered sacred or held in high regard.” Blasphemy of the Holy Ghost must precede from the heart of an individual — not just his mouth. Jesus said, “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts . . . blasphemy.” Mark 7:20-22. Also: “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.” Psalm 14:1.

The unpardonable sin is apostasy, or departing from the faith! The greatest work of the Holy Ghost is the bringing forth of the written Word of God! The Word of God came about because “Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” II Pet. 1:21. “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall **depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.” I Tim. 4:1-2. **“Depart from the faith” means to go into apostasy** — i.e., renounce faith in God’s Word, which develops a seared conscience, no longer sensitive to the Holy Ghost’s warning of sin and judgment — thus such a person commits the Unpardonable Sin — blasphemy against the Holy Ghost!

Reprobate means to be depraved; unprincipled; in Theology: rejected by God; excluded from Salvation; hopelessly lost in Sin! “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit . . . haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.” Rom. 1:28-31. God gave up on the civilization of Noah’s day, as this vivid description characterizes them, because of their degeneracy. Also: “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually . . . And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth.” Gen. 6:5-7.

Those of Noah’s Day crossed God’s deadline of grace through their degeneracy, until there was no divine pardon nor mercy to be found! Note this universal warning: “He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that

without remedy (or mercy, i.e.).” Prov. 29:1. A reprobate mind can never be changed — thus God’s only remedial response to such a perverting of human nature is destruction!

Men become reprobate or degenerate (animal like) — rejected by God, excluded from salvation, and are lost without hope under the following conditions:

(1) “When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations (i.e., about God, not accepting His Word about Himself), and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools . . . **Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness (i.e., God gave up on them) through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves,**” (Rom. 1:21-24), and, “They are without excuse.” Rom. 1:20. May we add here; The second greatest miracle of grace effected by the Holy Ghost is the preparation of the Christian’s body (Rom. 12:1-2) — a new heart, a new spirit and mind, possessed in sanctification and honor to be His temple! I Thess. 4:1-4. Desecration of the human body is blasphemy of the Holy Ghost after that temple has been consecrated to Him in holiness! I Cor. 3:16-17; II Pet. 2:20-22.

(2) “(They) changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature (i.e., God’s creation) more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause gave them up to vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature (these are Lesbians): And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense (i.e., God’s judgment) of their error which was meet (i.e., what they are worthy of).” These are **HOMOSEXUALS!** Rom. 1:24-27. These perverts are designed for the same judgment as Sodom: “Even as Sodom and Gomorrha . . . are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” Jude 7. Also more specifically, their divine judgment is declared: “Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of (eternal) death, **not only do the same, but have pleasure in them (i.e., agree with those) that do them.**” Rom. 1:32. God gave them up!

(3) “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a reprobate mind.**” Rom. 1:28. This means, God rejected them, excluded them from salvation, and the Holy Ghost would not make any further attempt to turn them out of their sins and perversions. “Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye

shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein . . . **Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the Lord hath rejected them.**" Jer. 6:16, 30. Men who become unprincipled through their rejection of the nobility attained through adhering to Bible principles, become depraved or reprobate. God solemnly declares to these scorers: "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: **I also will laugh at your calamity;** I will mock when your fear cometh . . . **Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer,** they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me." Prov. 1:24-28. When, and under what conditions does God withdraw His hand of mercy and His Spirit of Grace? Answer: "For that they hated knowledge (i.e., of God's Word), and did not choose the fear of the Lord." Prov. 1:29. God gave them up! "Whoso despiseth the word (of God) shall be destroyed." Prov. 13:13.

b. **Can a Christian Commit the Unpardonable Sin?** Stated in another form: Can a Christian blaspheme the Holy Ghost? We must "let God's Word be true and every man a liar; as it is written, That (we) mightest be justified in (our) sayings, and mightest overcome when (we) are judged." Rom. 3:4. God's Word unequivocally warns Christians of this fatal sin of blasphemy of the Holy Ghost (and the scriptures mean what they say, not what some unbelieving or scripture-twisting, liberal theologian says these scriptures mean): "For if we sin wilfully **after** that we (i.e., Christians) have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law **died without mercy** under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and counted the blood of the covenant, **wherewith he was sanctified**, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace (i.e., the Holy Ghost)?" Heb. 10:26-29. There is no sacrifice or forgiveness for wilful sin — that is, for a Christian who with wanton disregard for the Blood of Jesus, and the warning of the Holy Ghost, goes headlong into flagrant, wilful sin presumptuously (that is, presuming that God will forgive him).

Study these: Psa. 19:13; II Pet. 2:10; Num. 15:30-31; Deut. 17:12-13.

THE UNPARDONABLE SIN'S MAGNIFICATION:

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **If they shall fall away**, to renew them again **unto repentance** (this warning is to those who once repented of their sins

to God): Seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.” Heb. 6:4-6. **The Book of Hebrews is an open letter to Christians containing the most specific and personal warnings of blasphemy, apostasy, and of becoming reprobate, thus inviting God’s judgments upon them.** Remember in Christ “There is no difference between the Jew (Hebrew) and the Greek (Gentile)”, Rom. 10:12. The clause in this passage of scripture, **“If they shall fall away,” means “if they depart from the faith or go into apostasy!”** However, the warning is to those who have possessed a spiritual experience surpassing mediocrity: (1) They were enlightened spiritually; (2) They had tasted the heavenly gift; (3) They were a partaker of the Holy Ghost; (4) They had once tasted the good word of God, and (5) The powers of the Kingdom of God. If a Christian “falls away” from these spiritual experiences of God’s grace, he cannot find repentance nor be forgiven for his blasphemy. These are works of the Holy Ghost (the Spirit of grace) which will never be restored!

c. **Examples of Blasphemy.** “If any man see his brother (i.e., in Christ) sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life (i.e., eternal) for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death (i.e., eternal death): I do not say that he shall pray for it.” I John 5:16. Have you ever wondered why so many unregenerate people live like animals without a conscience? Why so many professing Christians look like and act like zombies or robots? Answer: They are spiritually dead — many are apostate!

An Apostate (from Apostasy) is “one who renounces faith in God’s word, gives up his moral allegiances for material and anti-Christian or Bible-rejecting doctrines; one who gives up his principles to which he once adhered.” The Prophet Samuel prayed all night for King Saul but God still rejected him: “Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee. . . **But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.**” I Sam. 15:23; 16:14.

Jesus also warned that evil spirits would return into the house (the body) of a Christian who does not stay filled with God’s Spirit and overcome the work of evil spirits. Matt. 12:43-45. **Ananias and Sapphira**, members of Christ’s early church, were stricken fatally by the Lord because they blasphemed the Holy Ghost. Acts 5:1-11.

A New Testament Warning in graphic detail:

“Lest there be any fornicator or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with

tears.” Heb. 12:16-17. **This warning was prefaced by: “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God.”** Verse 15. God gave up on Esau who profanely rejected the God-given provisions and responsibilities that accompanied his birthright — these were: to live holy and to perpetuate God’s covenant, that through a holy seed, Abraham’s blessing would come upon the firstborn. Gen 25:34; 27:30-35. “That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” Gal. 3:9, 14. All who will conform to the image of Christ are God’s firstborn and share in Christ’s birthright among many brethren. Rom. 8:29. Many today however, as Esau, have reached the point of no return — rejected by the Holy Ghost!

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

II Chron. 36:15-16	II Pet. 2:20-22	Jer. 15:1	Ezek. 8:18
Zech. 7:11-13	Dan. 5:18-31	Jer. 16:1-6	II Tim. 3:7-8

Other Source of Study: Word of Prophecy Magazine, October 1976, “Unpardonable Sin.”

NOTES:

PART D. GOD'S REDEMPTION FOR SIN!

I. Sacrifice For Sin Instituted By God. God's plan to redeem man back to himself, away from Satan's beguiling and deception, back to obedience to His laws and restoration to sonship, was set in motion immediately by God in response to Adam and Eve's disobedience. "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them." Gen 3:21. The penalty of sin is death — thus an animal's blood was shed as a substitute for man's, to provide a covering of the shame of earth's first sinners. This unwritten judgment of the atonement for sin was revealed by the Spirit of God to Adam's descendants until the law came through Moses. "In the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering (i.e., for sin) unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering (of blood). But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect." Gen. 4:4-5. Abel was accepted by God as righteous — Cain was rejected as wicked. Heb. 11:4; I John 3:12. "And without the shedding of blood is no remission (of sins)." Heb. 9:22.

II. God's Sacrifice For Sin Under the Law.

God's law is the Ten Commandments! Moses law (the ceremonial law) included the sacrifice for sin, sabbaths and holy days, circumcision, Jewish dietary and sanitary laws. All these things were only a shadow or symbol of the Coming of Christ as the Lamb of God to fulfill the law (i.e., of Moses). Read Heb. 9:1-15. **"For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect."** Heb. 10:1. In fact, even the sacrifices under the law offered for sin, God did not accept unless the attitude of the offerer was right: "Thou delightest not in burnt offering. **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.**" Psa. 51:16-17. These are the sacrifices also of grace that God requires of you and me for acceptance! The sacrifices of sin under the law — the blood of a lamb, a bullock, or a goat without blemish, foreshadowed Christ and His Atoning Blood; and, God required that it be offered in faith and humility for acceptance as a substitute for the death of the sacrificing believer. Lev. 1:3; I Pet. 1:18-19.

God warned Israel of disrespect for the blood of the clean sacrificial animals: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make **an atonement** for your souls: **for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.**" Lev. 17:11. The key word in God's propitiation for sin is **Atonement!** It means much more than just pardon, forgiveness, or cleansing — It means to make amends for; to bring together; literally it means at - one - ment with

God again! A sin offering or an offering of ATONEMENT, God required each year under the law. "In those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sin every year." Heb. 10:3.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Gen. 8:20-21	Ex. 10:24-26	Lev. 1:1-17	Lev. 9:1-7
Gen. 15:7-10	Ex. 12:1-14	Lev. 4:1-35	Lev. 23:26-32
Gen. 22:1-14	Ex. 24:1-11	Lev. 5:11-19	Lev. 16:5-22

III. God's Sacrifice for Sin Under Grace.

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; **and without shedding of blood is no remission (i.e., of sins).**" Heb. 9:22.

Two Scriptures of Holy Ghost Revelation:

a. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, **being now justified by his blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **by whom we have now received the ATONEMENT.**" Rom. 5:8-11.

b. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; **But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot**; Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you . . . **Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth . . .**" 1 Pet. 1:18-22.

Every animal that died as a sacrifice for sin before Christ came, offered in faith and in obedience to God's law, pointed to a promised advent of the future, to the coming of Christ as the Lamb of God who would die for the sins of the world (generally) but, to purchase the Church, the Body of Christ (specifically).

(1) "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**" John 1:29. (2) "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed **the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.**" Acts 20:28.

CHRIST'S ATONEMENT:

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." Eph. 2:13. The depth of Christ's Atonement in Christian symbolism is fully portrayed in the Christian's participation of Communion or the Lord's Supper. Jesus explained it this way: "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matt. 26:27-28. Also: "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" I Cor. 10:16.

c. There Is Power In the Blood of the Lamb!

(1) **For Remission of Sins!** "From Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and **washed us from our sins in his own blood.**" Rev. 1:5. Also: "In whom (i.e., Jesus) we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Col. 1:14.

(2) **To Save Us From God's Wrath!** "Being now justified by his blood, **we shall be saved from wrath through Him.**" Rom 5:9. Also: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; **but the wrath of God abideth on him.**" John 3:36. What is God's wrath? Answer: Hell fire and eternal death! "The wages of sin is death." Rom. 6:23. Also read Matt. 13:49-50.

d. Whose Sins Does the Blood of Christ Cover?

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing (i.e., when the Holy Ghost convicts a sinner) shall come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19. **Christ's blood is efficacious only to a sinner (or a sinning Christian) who repents to God, and lives a repented life.** "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (i.e., to show us God's favor) **through faith in his blood,** to declare his righteousness **for the remission of sins that are past,** through the forbearance of God." Rom. 3:24-25. At his conversion to Christ, a sinner is only forgiven the sins committed in his past life — not future sins! Repentance brings about conversion that is accomplished by the Holy Ghost through these means: "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, (1) **through sanctification** of the Spirit, (2) **unto obedience** and (3) **sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.**" I Pet. 1:2. The blood of Jesus atones for the sins only of those who obey the Word of God! "If we (i.e., Christians) walk in the light (i.e., in obedience to God's Word), as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with

another, and (then) the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7. Every saint of God must "have their robes washed in the blood of the Lamb." (Rev. 7:14) or be rejected by the Lord!

"In due time Christ died for the ungodly." Rom. 5:6. Christ died as our substitute! He died in your place, in mine! Christ's sacrifice on the cross (Read Col. 1:19-23) fully satisfied God's righteous demands for sin's penalty — His vicarious death for you and me! In the words of the prophetic scriptures: "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 . . . Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief; when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin . . . He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities." Isa. 53:5-11.

THE CONCLUSION:

"For he (i.e., God) hath made him to be sin for us, **who knew no sin;** that we might be made the righteousness of God **in him.**" II Cor. 5:21. The sacrifice for our sins had to be perfect, without blemish and without spot for God's acceptance — Christ fully fulfilled His Father's requirements — **His blood cleanses from all sin!**

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

I Cor. 11:23-30	Ex. 12:12-13	Rev. 12:10-11	Heb. 9:11-26
John 19:34	Heb. 1:1-3	Heb. 10:29	Heb. 10:1-4
Eph. 1:7	I Pet. 2:21-24	Heb. 5:8-9	Heb. 2:9-11

V. Romans vs. James: A Diagnosis.

a. **The Book of Romans Was Written by the Apostle Paul with the Central or Primary Theme: The Justification of the Sinner!** (Chaps. 1-11).

Chapter 1: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: **for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;** to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Rom. 1:16.

Chapter 2: "Despiseth thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; **not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.**" Rom. 2:4.

Chapter 3: "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets: Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and

upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; **Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**" Rom. 3:21-24.

Chapter 4: "To him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth (i.e., credits to his account) righteousness without works (i.e., of the law)." Rom. 4:5-6.

A sinner is justified by faith (i.e., his belief and trust in Christ through repentance) without works; but immediately, after that miracle of grace, the new birth has transpired, that new-born babe in Christ must obey God's law to remain justified — for the spirit of God immediately wrote God's laws in his mind and heart so he can live above sin. Heb. 8:6-13.

Chapter 5: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ . . . Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Rom. 5:1, 9.

Chapter 6: "We are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Knowing this, that our old man (i.e., old nature) is crucified with him, that the body of sin (i.e., the flesh) might be destroyed (i.e., made inoperative or powerless), that henceforth we should not serve sin." Rom. 6:4-6. The genealogy of events in the progress of a "new man in Christ," leading into holiness and maturity, is increasingly evident as the narrative of the Holy Scriptures continue.

Chapter 7: "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me . . . O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death (i.e., the old man or old nature)? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 7:21,24. Paul, at this point, explains his victory over the old nature through Jesus Christ who was manifested to make the power of sin and the devil inoperative — giving him victory over sin!

Chapter 8: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit . . . That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit . . . And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin (and may I add, a dead person doesn't sin); but the Spirit is life because of righteous-

ness (and if you please, the new spirit in a born-again Christian doesn't sin either)." Rom. 8:1, 4, 10.

Chapter 9: "What shall we say them? **That the Gentiles . . . have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.** But Israel . . . hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, **but as it were by the works of the law.**" Rom. 9:30-32. A sinner can find Jesus Christ and eternal life only through the law of faith. Rom. 3:27-28. This is obedience also.

Chapter 10: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom. 10:9-10. This scripture is the key verse in the definition of "believing on Christ" that is taken so lightly in today's Christian culture. "**Believing with the heart**" says it all — **repenting, trusting, and receiving!**

Chapter 11: "For it thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these (i.e., Israel), which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?" Rom. 11:24. This scripture pertains to the adoption of a sinner into the body of Christ through God's miracle of grace. Gal. 4:4-5.

b. **The Book of James was written by Our Lord's Brother with the Primary Theme: The Justification of the Believer!** The messages of the Apostle Paul and of the Apostle James are not contradictory nor do they conflict. Paul writes of the sinner's free gift of eternal life through faith by grace without the works of the law — James writes of the believer's responsibility to God immediately upon conversion — **OBEDIENCE!**

Chapter 1. "Wherefore lay apart (i.e., after being saved) all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. **But be ye doers of the word (i.e., obey God's commandments) and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**" James 1:21-22.

Chapter 2. "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" James 2:20.

Chapter 3. "For in many things we offend all. **If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.**" James 3:2.

Chapter 4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses (i.e., professing Christians who live worldly), know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? **whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**” James 4:4. A world-conforming Christian is an enemy of God.

Chapter 5. “Brethren, if any of you (i.e., a Christian) do err from the truth, and one convert him; **Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner (i.e., the sinning Christian) from the error of his way shall save a soul from death (i.e., eternal death, for that’s the only death a soul can suffer), and shall hide a multitude of sins.**” James 5:19-20.

SUMMARY:

A sinner is born-again through obeying the gospel — not just “believing,” with mental assent, but acting upon God’s promises in His Word “to forgive and receive him as a son through repentance and complete trust (obedience).” **“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth.”** I Pet. 1:22. Also: **“But as many as received him (Christ), to them gave (God) power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”** John 1:12. “Receiving” and “believing” on Christ is not a simple decision — it’s an earthshaking decision, and it’s a dynamic change in our lifestyle to His! **“(Christ) became the author of eternal salvation unto all that obey him.”** Heb. 5:9. Simply stated, the doctrine of Romans and James is summarized in this one word: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. (But after conversion to Christ, one minute later, we must begin obeying all of God’s Word as we learn it) For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus unto good works (i.e., obedience), which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**” Eph. 2:8-10.

NOTES:

PART E. VICTORY OVER SIN!

DISCUSSION.

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh.**” I Tim. 3:16. Also: “**And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.**” John 1:14. **Manifest means: “Apparent to the 5 senses, or the mind; to make clear or evident.”** Jesus Christ came into this world to offer every son of Adam freedom from sin and its consequences. Jesus declared of himself: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he (God) hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, **to preach deliverance to the captives,** and recovering of sight to the blind, **to set at liberty them that are bruised,** to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” Luke 4:18-19. Jesus came to open the prison of the devil and to loose his prisoners — (i.e., those who will walk out of Satan’s prison house to live for Christ) — and, Christ in return will give each “liberated captive” victory over the world, the flesh, sin, and the devil.

The purpose of Christ’s Manifestation was:

(1) “Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, **but was manifest in these last times for you.**” I Pet. 1:19-20.

(2) “**And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins;** and in him is no sin.” I John 3:5.

(3) “He that committeth sin is of the devil; **for this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy (i.e., make inoperative in a true Christian’s life) the works of the devil.**” I John 3:8. This is the great revelation of Jesus’ manifestation — that is, God openly showing the purpose of his coming, so the five senses of men could comprehend it!

(4) In his death, Christ “spoiled principalities and powers (i.e., Satan’s dominion over a true believer), **triumphing over them in it.**” Col. 2:15. **Jesus defeated the devil in life:** “He did no sin, neither was guile (deceit) found in his mouth.” I Pet. 2:22. **He also defeated Satan in His death:** “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for ever more, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.” Rev. 1:18. God made a promise in the Garden of Eden to all future generations that another Adam would come, (I Cor. 15:22, 45) who would not fail God as did the first Adam: “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed (i.e., Satan’s) and her seed (i.e., Christ who was born of the virgin Mary); it shall bruise thy head (i.e., serpent’s or Satan’s), and thou shalt bruise his (Christ’s) heel.” Gen. 3:15.

All that Christ was manifested to accomplish, was done for you and me: "By his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Heb. 9:12.

(5) Jesus said: **"I have kept my Father's Commandments, and abide in his love."** John 15:10. **Jesus came to manifestly establish the Law of God.** He openly demonstrated that the "new nature" of salvation given to true believers in Christ through God's grace, was fully capable of keeping God's law, whereas, those who lived under the law could not. **Christ openly manifested a divine nature which could keep God's law, which would not commit sin!** Foretelling of Christ's coming, the prophet cried: "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my Spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. . . He shall not fail nor be discouraged, til he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law." Isa. 42:1-4.

Also of Christ's covenant of Grace, the Prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 31:31-34) prophetically cried out, and the Apostle Paul recalled to our attention: "Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant (i.e., of grace) that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more;" (Heb. 10:15-17); And we have access unto this covenant through the blood of Jesus. Verse 19. So, through the atoning Blood of Christ and His death, sin and the works of the devil are made inoperative in the life of a truly, born-again believer in Christ: "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. . . **But being made free from sin** (i.e., from sin and sin's consequences), **and become servants to God,** Ye have your fruit unto holiness (i.e., living without sin), and the end everlasting life." Rom. 6:14-15, 22. If we commit sin, we're a servant (or a slave) to sin — and, the devil is our master! John 8:34,44.

Can a Christian live above sin, and if so, does the Bible reveal how? Yes! The Bible answers both these questions affirmatively and unequivocally as we rightly divide the word of Truth (II Tim. 2:15), i.e., put scripture upon scripture in studying this vital doctrine of "Sin and Its Consequences." Shall we proceed?

I. THE NEW BIRTH!

DISCUSSION:

This is where our victory over the world, the flesh, sin and the devil begins! The New Birth is the greatest miracle of God's grace offered to

Adam's sinful race — not a change in his environment, nor a higher culture, nor a higher form of education — but a change from human nature to a divine nature! And this miracle of grace is divine regeneration — not a changed nature, but a new nature. God's promised work of regeneration in our dispensation of grace has been revealed in the Old Testament thusly: "A new heart also will I give you, and a new Spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." Ezek. 36:26. This is God's answer through Christ to sin and the devil's enslavement of the human race necessitated because of man's totally corrupt nature.

God demands: "Put off concerning the former conversation (i.e., behaviour) **the old man** (i.e., old nature), **which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;** And be renewed in the spirit of your mind." Eph. 4:22-23. But why? "Because the carnal mind (i.e., a mind not repented) is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God (i.e., God's Commandments), neither indeed can be (i.e., an unregenerated person cannot keep God's laws). So then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Rom. 8:7-9.

There is nothing about our old sinful nature that God will accept — and, all our works are wrought in unrighteousness until we are born again. Isa. 64:6. God cannot and will not fellowship sin or a sinner, for God does not mildly dislike sin — He abhors sin; thus this sin problem demanded a solution for sin so that God could accept man, whom He loved, back into fellowship with Himself. Isa. 1:18-19. Everywhere God looked, the whole unregenerated human family bristled with hostility to God's laws in the following wretchedness Biblically described:

- (1) "There is none righteous, no, not one:
- (2) There is none that understandeth,
- (3) There is none that seeketh after God. . .
- (4) Their throat is an open sepulchre;
- (5) With their tongues they have used deceit;
- (6) The poison of asps is under their lips;
- (7) Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:
- (8) Their feet are swift to shed blood:
- (9) Destruction and misery are in their ways:
- (10) And the way of peace have they not known:
- (11) There is no fear of God before their eyes." Rom. 3:10-18.

These vivid portrayals epitomizes the corrupt nature of an unregenerated person who has not repented nor been converted. We cannot blame God for rejecting an individual as His son or daughter with these sinful propensities or inclinations to do evil, who

follow Satan into rebellion against God and His laws. Jesus proclaimed to Nicodemus' inquiry about entering into eternal life: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see (or enter) into the kingdom of God." John 3:3,5. Also: "Nothing in Christ Jesus availeth anything except a new creature (i.e., a new creation)." Gal. 6:15.

THE WONDER OF IT ALL:

If an individual is truly born again, "Old things are passed away, behold, all things become new (in Christ)." II Cor. 5:17. A total change in lifestyle will become manifestly evident after conversion as our loves, appetites, and thoughts are changed.

BORN AGAIN THROUGH GOD'S WORD:

As Christ was born by the Holy Ghost of a Holy Seed, so are all who become new creatures in Christ: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever." I Pet. 1:22. Also: "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." I Cor. 1:21. **A sinner is "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1); he is quickened (comes alive) and receives faith through the preaching of God's Word.** When this occurs, if he acts (i.e., repents) upon hearing God's promises of salvation, he will be saved. II Cor. 6:2. "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? **and how shall they hear without a preacher?** And how shall they preach, except they be sent? . . . **So then faith (i.e., to be saved by) cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" Rom. 10:14-17.

A BORN AGAIN PERSON HAS A DIVINE NATURE:

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: **that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature,** having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." II Pet. 1:4. This miracle of divine grace is the beginning of the kingdom of God on earth in which all things will be made new. Rev. 21:5. Notice, Jesus revealed: "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation (i.e., outwardly) . . . **for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you (i.e., a real Christian).**" Luke 17:20-21. The sinless quality of the Kingdom of God is manifested through a truly sanctified Christian: "The new man . . . after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Eph. 4:24; Also Matt. 6:33; Rom. 14:17. The new birth is God's first miracle of grace in the restoration of what Satan has despoiled through the curse of sin — to be consummated at the return of Christ, and the later establishment of the Kingdom of God wherein there will be no death, no sorrow, no pain, no sickness, no devil — for the curse will be destroyed through an overflowing divine decree of righteousness. Rev. 21:1-7.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Eph. 1:12-14	Matt. 9:16-17	Gal. 4:4-6	John 3:1-16
Titus 3:1-4	Col. 3:1-10	Col. 2:10-13	I John 2:29
Matt. 1:21	Jas. 1:18	I Cor. 15:1-4	Acts 8:35-38

MEMORIZATION:

Eph. 5:1-6	Gal. 2:20	I Tim. 2:8-10	Gal. 5:16
I Cor. 3:16-17	Gal. 6:14	I Thess. 4:1-6	Rom. 5:1
I Cor. 6:19-20	Col. 3:1-4	James 1:18	Rom. 6:1-2
I John 2:1-4	Eph. 4:20-24	James 4:17	Rom. 6:6
I John 2:15-17	Eph. 1:7	Heb. 12:14	Rom. 6:11
I John 3:1-10	John 3:3	Heb. 9:14	Rom. 8:1-4
I Thess. 5:22-24	Acts 20:28	Isa. 53:5-6	Rom. 14:17
II Cor. 5:17	Heb. 10:26-27	Matt. 12:31-32	Rom. 5:8-9
I Pet. 1:2	Heb. 6:4-6	Deut. 29:29	Rev. 12:10-11
I Pet. 1:18-19	I John 1:7	I Pet. 1:22	I Pet. 2:21-24

II. SANCTIFICATION.

DISCUSSION:

After conversion (or the new birth), the new born-again believer in Christ begins a warfare with no quarter, torn between two mighty spiritual magnetisms — the “new man” and Christ versus the “old man” and Satan, through the world, the flesh, and the devil! **So the next step forward in spiritual achievement and progress must be of necessity the wonderful experience of Sanctification! Genuine and Definite!** To the justified believer who is only saved, but has progressed no further in grace and in knowledge of the Lord, there is a mortal danger always present — there is a traitor within him — the old man! This is why the Holy Ghost cried out to the newly justified believer in Christ: “But ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him (God), as the truth is in Jesus; **That ye put off** concerning the former conversation **the old man**, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; **And that ye put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” Eph. 4:20-24. God demands that the old nature or old man be made inoperative in every true believer’s life!

SANCTIFICATION IS THE WORK OF GRACE that puts the coup de grace to the old man or old nature! It is accomplished through the Holy Ghost’s operation **by our will** — it is already God’s will! **Sanctification is the crucifixion of the old man on Christ’s**

Cross! Exultantly the Apostle Paul shouted: "I have defeated the old man, the traitor within me that defeats my best intentions and leads me into sin" (Rom. 7:18-25); "**I am crucified with Christ**; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ (i.e., the new man) liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by the faith of the Son of God**, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Gal. 2:20. Paul had won the victory over sin — and, this experience can be ours also!

SANCTIFICATION does not destroy the humanity in a born-again Christian — it ennobles it — only the "proud flesh" is cut away. Col. 2:11. God does not rule out nor protect a sanctified saint from the probability of temptation, nor from the possibility of sinning —but, the propensity to sin, or the inclination to sin, or to yield to the fleshly temptations are decidedly missing. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." I John 2:2. **Temptation to do evil is not a sin — yielding to temptation is sin!** Lust is not sin — yielding to the lusts (i.e., wrong desires of our 5 senses) of the flesh is sin! "Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death (i.e., eternal death or hell fire)." James 1:14-15; also I Cor. 10:13. **No wonder God descries worldliness and the flesh, offering victory over the flesh and the old man through sanctification — the spiritual alternative to defeat!**

SANCTIFICATION MEANS "To be made free from sin; to be purified; to be set apart as holy or consecrated." The Holy Scriptures declare the price has been paid for our total redemption from sin and all its consequences — making sin inoperative in every true believer in Christ, through crucifixion of the flesh (the old man): "By the which will (of God) we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all . . . For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." Heb. 10:10-14.

THE BODY OF CHRIST, CRUCIFIED, is the perfect epitomization of our identity with Christ in His death, which transfigures our victory over the old man, i.e., our sanctification! "And you, that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your minds by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, **to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled.**" Col. 1:21-23. This is sanctification, definite and progressive — but, in sanctification as in every great work of the atonement of Christ, there is an initial experience that's definite, but continues to perfection! "But know that the Lord will set apart (i.e., sanctify or consecrate) him that is godly for himself." Psa. 4:3.

a. Definite Sanctification. Before Adam's fall, man was in perfect identity with God's laws and ways — and, God has arranged for man's return to His ways and to be in obedience to His laws, because a carnal nature, remember, cannot be subject to the laws of God. Rom. 8:7. Human nature must be made inoperative or crucified for the "new man" to be fully manifested as a son of God. **Remember, the dead body of the crucified Christ fully typifies the sanctified believer:** "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him that the body of sin might be destroyed (i.e., its power over us made inoperative), that henceforth we should not serve sin." Rom. 6:6. By what process is this accomplished, we should now ask? By grace, through faith as all great things from God are received: **"Likewise reckon (i.e., by your faith) ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."** Rom. 6:11. **Reckon means** "To charge to; to count it or charge it up as being already done." It takes great faith in God's promises to reckon or account that we are dead with Christ — because, a dead man doesn't sin! Next, we reckon or count the work of the Holy Ghost accomplished — that we are now dead to sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ — that it's not I that now live, but that "new man" lives through me — a miracle of that divine nature! We are sanctified by the Holy Ghost! Rom. 15:16; II Thess. 2:13.

WHEN CAN CHRISTIANS BE SANCTIFIED? Answer: When they desire to be and believe God to perform the mighty work in their lives: **"This is the will of God, even your sanctification."** I Thess. 4:3. Jesus prayed to His Father: "Sanctify them (i.e., His disciples) through the truth, thy word is truth," (John 17:17) and, **"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free** (from sin and its consequences)," (John 8:32) **And this means the whole truth!** A new born babe in Christ must of necessity be taught the vital experience of sanctification as God's Word Commands: "Leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ (i.e., the gospel of repentance and forgiveness of sin), let us go on unto perfection." Heb. 6:1. This command is not optional!

GOD WILL SANCTIFY EVERY BELIEVER WHO WANTS TO LIVE HOLY!

"Abstain from all appearance of evil. **And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly** (i.e., entirely, from the crown of your head to the soles of your feet); **and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless** (i.e., without sinning) unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.**" I Thess. 5:22-24. This speaks of definite sanctification — an experience of grace subsequent to the initial born-again experience.

A born-again Christian possesses two natures: the old man (old nature) and the new man (new nature). "These are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would" (Gal. 5:17); so the Word of God exhorts the believer; "Walk in the Spirit (the new nature), and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16). A Christian must quit all his sinning (get rid of his sins), or his sins will get rid of him. **Through the experience of sanctification a Christian can quit sinning and live holy, daily.**

We can be preserved blameless or sinless in Christ: "In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight." Col. 1:22. Also: "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, the brother of James, **to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called.**" Jude 1.

CHRIST SANCTIFIED HIS DISCIPLES! "He led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God." Luke 24:50-53. Jesus had prayed for their sanctification in his prayer recorded in John 17. After his death, this promise and prayer was literally fulfilled — their sorrow was turned to great joy. John 16:22-24; Also Acts 13:52.

Sanctification, as a definite work of grace, is "by the (Holy) Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ." I Pet. 1:2. Notice the conditional word: Obedience! The key to the receiving of and to the continuous possessing of the sanctified experience, Is Obedience to God's Word — Walking in the Light! I John 1:7.

SUMMARY:

The "new man" has a renewed mind, a new heart, and a new spirit. He will not commit sin! The "old man" still has the carnal mind, the old heart, and the old rebellious spirit — these war and struggle for supremacy inside a Christian until one or the other is defeated. Victory for the "new man" is assured only through total crucifixion of the fleshly body (the old man or old nature) — **this is definite Sanctification.** "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world (i.e., the power of the flesh) is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Gal. 6:14. This compelling message of sanctification (crucifixion of the flesh), so vital to a new born Christian, drove the Apostle Paul to exclaim: "**For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified.**" I Cor. 2:2. To remain in Christ, a new born believer *must* crucify the flesh. Gal. 5:24.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Eph. 5:25-27	Acts 20:32	II Tim. 2:20-21	Psa. 24:3-5
I Cor. 2:2	Gal. 5:19-21	Heb. 9:13-14	John 15:1-3
I Cor. 6:9-11	Heb. 2:11	Eph. 5:1-6	Acts 26:18

b. Progressive Sanctification. Sanctification, as an experience of grace, has a definite beginning when God does His part in the purging, cleansing, and setting apart of the temple in which He desires to in-dwell. The Holy Ghost nails the “old man” on the cross of Christ through our faith in His crucifixion to which we identify in dying with Him. Our dead body (dead to sin) then becomes the temple of the Holy Ghost. However, sanctification must continue to progress until the new man and the temple of God (our body) are perfected to His glory! Eph. 4:11-15. At this point, man’s part in his own sanctification is revealed quite vividly in the scriptures: “Flee fornication. **Every sin that a man doeth is without the body**; but he that committeth fornication (i.e., immorality) sinneth against his own body. What? **know ye not that your body (i.e., the believer’s body) is the temple of the Holy Ghost**, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? **For ye are bought with a price**: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. I Cor. 6:18-20.

NOTE these three amazing revelations: (1) The body does not commit sin; (2) A Christian’s body has been purchased by God to be His temple; and (3) God has every right to use our body and spirit fully to His glory. And, the only body and spirit that can fully glorify the Father, is a wholly sanctified body and spirit. By the way, sin comes from the heart of man, so said Jesus. Mark 7:20-23. Our new heart cannot commit sin nor think sinfully. “God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Upon the following conditions): Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord almighty. (Then the Lord sets forth those conditions of acceptance in detail): Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit** (i.e., sanctify or purge ourselves), **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**” II Cor. 6:16-18; II Cor. 7:1.

Most professors of salvation, even those testifying to being born-again, live in the flesh, with little respect to God’s Word, and even less evidence of true godliness in their lifestyle. But why? for the Holy Ghost will not reside in an unclean temple (our body) as God has

warned: "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word (i.e., all of God's Word), which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word (i.e., obey it), and not hearers only, (or you are) deceiving your own selves." James 1:21-22. **This is a vital part of the believer's victory, a personal purging of fleshly lusts in sanctification!**

This is growing in grace! The new man is growing — the old man is dying! "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." II Pet. 3:18. This is also sanctification — because the experience of sanctification far surpasses mere conversion: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. (Then the conditions of this promise) **And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself** (this is progressive sanctification), **even as he is pure.**" I John 3:2-3.

The Holy Ghost has given every true believer in Christ, seven assured steps to complete God's initial work of sanctification — but, each disciple of our Lord must himself take the initiative. "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world thru lust. (Then the conditions are given for the believer's victory over the lust and corruption that fills our evil society); Giving all diligence, add to your faith (i.e., the faith that brought you to Christ)

- (1) **Virtue** (i.e., purity in morals, and the putting away of evil and sinful habits);
- (2) And to virtue **knowledge** (i.e., learn about God and His Ways through His Word);
- (3) And to knowledge **temperance** (i.e., self-control; this directly relates to your spirit, temper, tongue, thoughts, etc.);
- (4) And to temperance **patience** (Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing — James 1:4);
- (5) And to patience **godliness** (i.e., God-like-ness);
- (6) And to godliness **brotherly kindness** (We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. I John 3:14);
- (7) And to brotherly kindness **charity** (above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness — Col. 3:14)." II Pet. 1:4-7.

Stop right here, Open your Bible, and Read the next 3 verses of this scripture: II Pet. 1:8-10.

In this section of this Bible Lesson, the “Overcoming Message”, we have attempted to set forth one of the most distinctive but neglected truths of the New Testament and of the whole Word of God to our generation: “Man’s Responsibility to God!” God’s responsibility to man was fully revealed and implemented in Christ’s redemptive work on Calvary! Consequently, a redeemed sinner owes God everything after his conversion — his body, soul, and spirit, but, these instruments (body, etc.) must be presented to God in righteousness and true holiness. Eph. 4:24; Also Rom. 6:13.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Col. 3:1-10	Rom. 13:14	I Thess. 4:1-6	I Cor. 3:16-17
Rom. 1:24-25	Gal. 5:13	I Tim. 2:9-10	I Pet. 2:11.

Other Source for Study: Word of Prophecy magazine, October 1979. “True Repentance.”

c. **Result of Sanctification: Holiness. Holiness of heart, holiness of spirit, of mind, of soul, and of body is God’s standard of acceptance as a finality.** “For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth (i.e., despiseth holiness), despiseth not man (i.e., the man of God that teaches it), but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.” I Thess. 4:7-8. There are no short cuts to victory over the flesh and the devil in getting to God’s standard of conduct and lifestyle; holiness is the by-product of a truly sanctified, crucified life, preserved in Jesus Christ. Too many Christians are content to accept substitutes for complete victory over the world, the flesh, sin, and the devil. **Content is an overrated virtue — a mental and spiritual chloroform that deadens and deafens the individual to spiritual activity that would result in higher planes of growth in the grace and knowledge of God.** Preachers have lowered God’s standard of a Christian’s attainment in Christ to sanctification — but, the Holy Ghost still warns: “Follow peace with all men, **and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.**” Heb. 12:14.

THE DIVINE ORDER:

“As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all matter of conversation (i.e., total behavior); Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” I Pet. 1:14-16. **The “new man” is created in righteousness and true holiness.** Eph 4:24. The Holy Ghost has warned of God’s chastening upon fleshly Christians, “That we might be partakers of (God’s) holiness.” “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Phil 2:5; Heb. 12:10.

Holiness is not a church, but the holy life-style of a sanctified saint of God! The Holy Ghost exhorts: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God**, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." Rom. 12:1-2. This is true holiness! A holy body! God's Temple!

"The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly (now) in this present world . . . (Jesus) gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity (i.e., rebellion against God's law), and purify (i.e., sanctify) unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works (i.e., obedience)." Titus 2:11-14.

GOD LOVES HOLINESS.

"Judah hath profaned the holiness of God which he loved." Mal. 2:11; Zech. 14:19-20. "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Psa. 96:8.

SUMMARY:

Sin and the fleshly lusts give pleasure for a season even to carnal Christians. **True joy and peace result from a sanctified and crucified life in Christ.** Moses "chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Heb. 11:25. **However, only a life lived in true holiness can abide in Christ:** "Whosoever abideth in him (Christ) sinneth not." I John 3:6. A sinning or world-conforming Christian will be "spewed" out of Christ. Rev. 3:16. Also: "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and **in him** is no sin." I John 3:5. And: "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." I John 2:15. Why do so many professing Christians kid themselves into believing they are "in Christ" when they are lukewarm, fleshly, and worldly? Blindness, ignorance, and rebellion to God's Word perverts God's holiness!

d.] Projecting the Image of Christ.

DISCUSSION:

Each truly born-again Christian assumes a sobering responsibility at conversion that cannot be rejected or ignored successfully (and God is no respecter of persons). Rom. 2:11. **Each Christian is a projector, and every man's conscience the sensitive screen reflecting the image which each Christian's life projects.** "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed into the same image from glory to glory**, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." II Cor. 3:18. The Apostle Paul exclaimed: "We are made man-

ifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences." II Cor. 5:11. **The great responsibility that a Christian cannot evade in this life is the one that he thinks of least, his personal influence.** A Christian's conscious influence, when he is on dress parade, when he is posing to impress those around him, is woefully small. But his unconscious influence, the silent, subtle radiation of his personality, his life style, the effect of his words or acts, the trifles he seldom considers, is tremendous.

Into the hands of every Christian is given a marvelous power for good or for bad, the silent, unconscious influence of his life, the constant radiations of what he really is — not what he pretends to be! A disciple of Christ should always project the image of Christ.

(1) AN EXAMPLE!

Worldly Christians lead most of the other professing Christians back to living in the flesh — and, these world-conformists are not the godly examples that other Christians should emulate, nor follow the life-styles which they project. Only a sanctified Christian can possibly be an example to other believers, or a model for unbelievers to see Jesus projected through. **The Holy Ghost's order: "Be thou an example of the believers,** (1) in word, (2) in conversation, (3) in charity, (4) in spirit, (5) in faith, (6) in purity." I Tim. 4:12.

Godly examples among Christians are a matter of life and death — heaven or hell! Too many foolish Christians are stumblingblocks to other weaker Christians! The warning from the Holy Ghost; "Make straight paths for your feet (i.e., live honestly and godly), lest that which is lame (i.e., a weak or erring Christian) be turned out of the way; (i.e., out of the way of holiness); but let it rather be healed (i.e., strengthened to overcome the flesh and the devil)." Heb. 12:13. **A "libertine" Christian — i.e., one not sanctified, can destroy another Christian:** "Take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them (Christians) that are weak. . . **And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish,** for whom Christ died. But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ." I Cor. 8:9-12. May we add Christ's sober warning to a "libertine" Christian: "It is impossible but that offences (i.e., causes for Christians to go back into sin) come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend (i.e., cause to stumble into sin) one of those little ones (weak or baby Christians)." Luke 17:1-2.

FOOLISHNESS!

It is pure foolishness for an individual to profess salvation and be a

slave to the fleshly habits and life-styles exhibited among professing disciples of Christ! **"Disciple" means to be a disciplined follower of Christ, and that by the moral laws and spiritual guidelines set forth in the Word of God.** It is foolish for a Christian to light up a cigarette, take a drink, dress like the Jezebels and Romeos of Hollywood, talk foolishly, and live like the heathen about them in sinful pleasures, when by faith in the finished work of redemption on Calvary by Jesus Christ, there are divine resources at their disposal for complete victory over these sins and appetites of the flesh that will in time destroy them. Jesus won this victory for us — and, he left us the key that unlocks the prison that we may walk out a free man — no longer a slave to sin, the flesh, to world-conformity, or the devil. Remember: **A godly life-style is a greater witness for Christ and His grace, than a big mouth!**

(2) A PATTERN!

A pattern is "a person or thing worthy of imitation; a model; a design; definite characteristics." The Holy Ghost order: "Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things (i.e., in all their life-style) **shewing thyself a pattern of good works** (i.e., obedient to God's Word)." Titus 2:6-7. A sanctified or crucified man in Jesus Christ is the godly pattern — i.e., the model, design, the person worthy of imitating, having the definite characteristics of Christ, for other Christians to pattern their lives by. Psalms 37:37. What a sobering responsibility — to reflect and project the true holiness of Christ upon the sensitive consciences of other truly born-again Christians. The Apostle revealed this inescapable obligation to Christ and to the brethren: "That in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, **for a pattern** to them (i.e., you and me) which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting." I Tim. 1:16. The Holy Ghost order: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin!**" I Pet. 2:21-22.

Other Sources of Study: Word of Prophecy Magazine, March 1978 "New Wine in Old Bottles".

e. What Holiness Is Not. Holiness is not cursing, lying, gambling, adultery, homosexuality, drinking and drunkenness, cheating, stealing, dope addiction, smoking, pride, hatred, selfishness, etc. Holiness is not the lewdness exhibited in nudity — wearing of bikinis, shorts, mini-clothes, sunbathing, etc. **Holiness is not the world-conformity exhibited** in women's short hair, men's long hair, women's pants suits and slacks, women's painted faces and bejeweled bodies; women's rebellion in the home, and man's acquiescence; plus televisionitis; all these practices in a worldly life-style are ungodly, which the Lord does not accept. The following scriptures for further study prove it.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

I John 2:15-17	Rom. 8:10	Isa. 35:8	II Cor. 7:1
I Thess 3:13	Rom. 8:12-13	Deut. 22:5	Hab. 2:15-16
I Tim. 2:9-10	Ezek. 44:20-23	I Cor. 11:3-16	Rom. 6:19-23
I Tim. 2:15	I Pet. 3:1-7	Prov. 23:29-35	Ez. 23:40-49

Other Source of Study: Word of Prophecy Magazine, Feb. 1979
“Curse of Wine & Strong Drink”.

III. HOLY GHOST BAPTISM.

The Holy Ghost Baptism is a definite work of grace in a born-again believer’s life, but is definitely subsequent to the new birth and sanctification!

DISCUSSION:

The disciples and apostles of Christ were born-again Christians even before Calvary, because Christ had power before His death “to give eternal life to those whom the Father gave him.” John 17:2. Jesus assured His disciples before His crucifixion: The world cannot receive the Comforter (i.e., the Holy Ghost) whom the Father will send to you, because they see him not nor know him: “But ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, **and shall be in you.**” John 14:16-17.

a. **Christ’s Order:** “Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” Luke 24:49. Why should they tarry for something they had already received from the Lord? Answer: **A saved or born-again Christian has the Spirit of Christ in them — but they are neither filled nor baptized with the Holy Ghost.** The Holy Ghost was with these early “called out ones” of our Lord — but the Comforter, or Holy Ghost was not in them. Prophetically, in His teaching to His disciples, Jesus made this revelation: “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly **shall** flow rivers of living water (i.e., the river of living water was a future work of grace to true believers). But this spake he of the Spirit; which they that believe on him should receive: **for the Holy Ghost was not yet given;** because that Jesus was not yet glorified.” John 7:38-39.

b. **A born-again Christian is eligible to be filled or baptized with the Holy Ghost,** — but, that saved or born-again Christian is not filled with the Holy Ghost in his initial experience of grace.

(1) A new convert to Christ truly has the earnest of the Spirit — not the fullness! “(God) hath sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit **in our hearts.**” II Cor. 1:22.

(2) Christ dwells in a Christian’s heart who has only a born-again

experience (and even sanctified) through their faith: “That Christ may dwell **in your hearts** by faith.” Eph 3:17. Also: “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” Rom. 8:9. This “Spirit of Christ” is the Holy Spirit, but not the manifestation of the Holy Ghost as the Comforter — which is the fulness of the stature of Christ in a truly sanctified saint. Even the prophets of the Old Testament had the Spirit of Christ in them — but until Pentecost, the Holy Ghost baptism was not yet given to believers in the Lord. “Of which salvation **the prophets** have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time **the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify**, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.” 1 Pet. 1:10-11.

c. **Holy Ghost Power.** In strict obedience to Christ’s Commandment, the 120 obedient, early disciples gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem. Now John had foretold of these days with this prophetic word: “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. . . he (Jesus) shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.” Matt. 3:11. At His Ascension, as Jesus prepared to return to heaven, he encouraged His disciples thusly: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8.

Power? Yes, power to witness with our mouths, and power to bear witness to the grace of God by living a holy, godly life-style. “When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.” Isa. 59:19. Holy Ghost power in the sanctified, Spirit-baptized believer, makes that Christian irresistible — against the works of the devil. The Comforter, or Holy Ghost, is a manifestation of the Spirit of God, unique in the New Testament, abiding in a sanctified Christian who will set apart his body to be His temple — representing Christ in a measure of His fulness, present in and working through that yielded Christian, overcoming sin. 1 Cor. 6:19-20.

DISCUSSION:

If the Holy Ghost filled or baptized Christian has a river of living water flowing out of his inner being (and a river is irresistible), then most who profess to be baptized or filled with the Holy Ghost in today’s Charismatic culture are phonies, or they are just mimickers of the Holy Ghost. The Bible evidence is just not there. On the day of Pentecost, “They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:4. Speaking in other tongues by the Holy Ghost is valid evidence — not the jabbering and chattering of one’s own tongue’s utterance!

Other Evidence:

"He (i.e., the Comforter) will teach you all things (John (14:26), but he will guide you (i.e., all Christians) into **all** truth. . . he will show you things to come." John 14:26; 16:13. The nine fruit of the Spirit are evidence of being filled with the Holy Ghost. Gal. 5:22-23. Also, in the Apostle Paul's words: "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." Acts 5:32. **Remember this: Bible evidence is conclusive that no person can be filled or baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire who does not speak with other tongues (or languages) as the Spirit gives the utterance through the tongue of the sanctified believer.**

IN CONCLUSION may we say emphatically:

The true Holy Ghost baptized believer has the power to hold His status quo (present victory) in sanctification over the flesh, world-conformity, sin, and the devil; to fulfill the vital exhortation, "Neither give place to the devil." Eph 4:27. Holy Ghost power is the irresistible strength in a sanctified Christian to fulfill this: "**Now unto him that is able** to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." Jude 24. Victory over sin, the flesh, and the devil is all accomplished through the Holy Ghost: "**Now unto him that is able** to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power (i.e., Holy Ghost power) that worketh in us (i.e., Holy Ghost baptized saints)." Eph. 3:20. This power is the result of possession — not of profession as so many soothsaying teachers proclaim.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Mark 16:17	Acts 2:1-18	Acts 8:13-24	Acts 13:52
Isa 28:11-12	Acts 4:31	Acts 10:44-48	Acts 19:1-7
I Cor. 14:1-33	Acts 6:3-8	Acts 11:13-18	Rom. 14:17
Mark 5:41	Mark 7:34	Mark 15:34	John 15:26

Other Source of Study: Word of Prophecy Book, Baptism of the Holy Ghost; **Word of Prophecy Magazine**, March 1978 "New Wine In Old Bottles."

IV. FEAR OF GOD.

The fear of God performs a great part in the believer's victory over the flesh, world-conformity, sin, and the devil.

a. The fear of the Lord has the following characteristics:

- (1) "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil." Prov. 8:13.
- (2) "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Prov. 1:7.
- (3) "But unto man (God) said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding. Job 28:28.
- (4) "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge." Prov. 14:26.
- (5) "The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." Prov. 14:27.
- (6) "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Prov. 9:10.
- (7) "The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever." Psa. 19:9.
- (8) "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Phil. 2:12.
- (9) "By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil." Prov. 16:6.
- (10) "The fear of the Lord is his treasure." Isa 33:6.

b. The Fear of the Lord has Exceeding Great Rewards.

- (1) "The fear of the Lord prolongeth days." Prov. 10:27.
 - (2) "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." Psa. 34:7.
 - (3) "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in very nation (especially America) **he that feareth (God) and worketh righteousness** (i.e., obeys God's Word) is accepted with him." Acts 10:34-35.
 - (4) "A book of remembrance was written before him (God) for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. **And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels.**" Mal. 3:16-17. These are the Bride of Christ!
 - (5) "Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him . . . **To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.**" Psa. 33:18-19.
 - (6) "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant." Psa. 25:14.
 - (7) "Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou has laid up for them that fear thee. . . ." Psa. 31:19-20.
 - (8) "He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them." Psa. 145:19.
 - (9) "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; **and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.**" Acts. 9:31.
- The Early Church Feared God!**

- (10) “Who in the days of his flesh (i.e., Christ), when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him (i.e., God the Father) that was able to save him from death, **and was heard in that he feared (God).**” Heb. 5:7.

C. **The Fear of God Defined:** “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably **with reverence and godly fear:** For our God is a consuming fire.” Heb. 12:28-29. Note this carefully: There is a difference that the Holy Ghost makes between “reverence” of God, and the “fear” of God. Also in the Old Testament the difference is shown between irrational fears and the fear of God: “And Moses said unto the people, **Fear not:** for God is come to prove you, **and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.**” Ex. 20:20. The fear of God far surpasses reverence or respect. We can respect or reverence the President, the flag of our nation, the Bible, a church, a minister, a funeral, etc. — But we must fear God.

Irrational fear or a spirit of fear produces torment (I John 4:18), and perfect love will cast out those fears — the fear of God is wisdom (Job 28:28), and it does co-exist compatibly with the comfort of the Holy Ghost in a true Christian’s heart. (Acts 9:31).

Jesus Was Our Example: In the prophecy of Isaiah, the Holy Ghost foretold of Christ’s disciplined life-style: “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse (i.e., David), and a Branch shall grow out of his roots (i.e., Christ): And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him (i.e., the Holy Ghost), the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, **the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord.**” Isa. 11:1-3. The Holy Ghost is that “Spirit of the fear of God.”

SUMMARY:

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” Eccl. 12:13-14. This is one of the most conclusive warnings from the Lord in His Word, because it is “by the fear of the Lord (i.e., of God’s judgments) men depart from evil.” Prov. 16:6. Jesus warned: “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: **but rather fear him (God) which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**” Matt. 10:28.

The strongest motivation for obedience to God’s Word is the fear of God. “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen

as yet, moved with fear (i.e., fear of God's judgments), prepared an ark to the saving of his house. . . and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Heb. 11:7. It is impossible for an individual who professes salvation, to live victoriously over the flesh, world-conformity, sin, and the devil, who does not fear God greatly.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Isa. 8:13	Prov. 23:17-18	Acts 13:16, 26	II Tim. 1:7
Jer. 5:21-24	Isa. 66:2, 5	Rom. 11:20-23	Eph. 5:21
Prov. 1:24-30	Psa. 2:11	I Pet. 2:17	Rev. 14:7

Other Source of Study: Word of Prophecy magazine, April 1978, "The Fear of God."

V. GOD'S CHASTENING.

a. **A vital experience to every true Christian!** "Ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: **For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.**" Heb. 12:5-6. God doesn't slap a true Christian's wrist for disobedience — He scourgeth! God doesn't stir up a Christian's spirit as a substitute for scourging — the stirring up of our spirits is Holy Ghost conviction, and this conviction (i.e., reproof) proceeds God's scourging (chastening) — that is, if you're a real son of God: "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement (i.e., an occasional scourging), whereof all are partakers (i.e., all real Christians), then are ye bastards (i.e., an illegitimate son), and not sons (i.e., not real sons of God.)" Heb. 12:7-8. What does all this mean to a Christian?

(1) **To chasten or chastise means "to punish in order to correct; to restrain from excess; punishment to correct that is usually by beating."**

(2) **To scourge means "to inflict severe punishment by suffering; a punishment or affliction."**

(3) **No Christian will ever become a true saint of God without God's chastening rod upon his body.** "For they (i.e., our natural parents) verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he (i.e., God) for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness." Heb. 12:10. A Christian will wander completely away from God's commandments and His holiness of life style were it not that God invokes his prerogative as our heavenly Father, omniscient and loving, to inflict scourging for rebellion, sin, and yielding to the lusts of the flesh.

(4) **God's Chastening: In What Form?**

Don't question God's scourging if you're a real Christian! At some time in his experience, each Christian asks the question, "Why am I afflicted, but other (professing) Christians seem to escape God's rod for their disobedience and rebellion against His Word?" **Remember this: Every disobedient but true son of God is challenged and chastened by the Lord — those whom he loves!** Heb. 12:6.

David, the man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), thru example and precept has given every true son of God this amazing revelation: He confesses, "**Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept they word.**" Psa. 119:67. And further: "It is good for me that I have been afflicted (i.e., chastened by the Lord); that I might learn thy statutes (i.e., God's commandments)." Psa. 119:71. Also: "I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, **and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.**" Psa. 119:75. David's great testimony to God's love shown in His scourging was: "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. **The Lord hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.**" Psa. 118:17-18. God, through severe physical affliction, was correcting David's errant ways so that he would be a partaker of God's holiness!

God's Judgments are His Rod of Chastening!

"(Lord) when they judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness." Isa. 26:9. The New Testament warning of God's chastening declares: "But when we are judged, **we are chastened of the Lord**, that we should not be condemned with the world (i.e., for our sins and rebellion against God's Word)." I Cor. 11:32.

SUMMARY:

There are only 3 scriptural reasons for affliction physically, mentally, spiritually to be visited upon a Christian: (1) A trial of faith, or (2) chastening for disobedience, or (3) judgment for open rebellion and stubbornness! The Holy Ghost exhorts professing Christians: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." II Cor. 13:5.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Jer. 31:18-19	Prov. 3:11-12	Prov. 13:24	II Cor. 6:9
II Sam. 7:14	Psa. 73:14	Psa. 94:12-13	Job 34:31-32

Other Source of Study: Word of Prophecy Magazine, Oct. 1978, "The Church in Troubled Waters."

VI. THE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST.

DISCUSSION.

Here is another vital dimension of the believer's victory over world-conformity, the flesh, sin, and the devil! In one word of the Holy Scriptures, Christ's priesthood and His vital, continuous mediation between God and men that relates directly to the believer's victory is clearly revealed: **"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."** I Tim. 2:5. Christ, as our High Priest, has this exalted position before God's throne: "It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, **who is even at the right hand of God**, who also maketh intercession for us." Rom. 8:34. On the day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter declared that God had raised Christ from the dead, and **He is now "by the right hand of God exalted."** Acts 2:33. According to the scriptures, God the Father declared unto Christ: "Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec." Heb. 5:6. This is a vital part of God's plan of total redemption through Calvary from sin, world-conformity, the flesh, and the devil — the believer's victory is hereby perfectly complemented.

a. **Mediator For a Sinner.** "But this man (i.e., Jesus), because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7:24-25. Ever since Adam's sin in Eden, man's sinful nature has separated him from God, and God demanded a daysman or mediator who was worthy to approach God in sinful man's behalf. Under the law, God accepted the high priest with the blood of a clean beast of sacrifice as a mediator between men and God for the atonement of sins. But "Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true (i.e., the holy of holies in the temple of God); but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often (i.e., dying on the cross), as the high priest entereth into the holy place (i.e., the holy of holies) every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself". Heb. 9:24-26. O glorious victory! Rom. 7:24-25. **A Mediator is an intermediary; an intercessor; one who settles differences between persons or nations.** Remember: "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus.**" I Tim. 2:5. Jesus of himself explained his worthy and lofty position as our mediator — i.e., as the only person who can go directly to the throne of God and settle the differences between the Father and a penitent sinner: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father, but by me." John 14:6. Is Christ worthy? Even the angels and all that dwell in heaven

proclaim: "Thou art worthy, O Lord. . . for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." Rev. 5:9.

Christ is at the right hand of God exalted as the mediator for every sinner or erring Christian who repents: "He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. . ." Phil. 2:8-11. Every knee must bow to Christ in full repentance to receive the efficacy of his priesthood; i.e., for acceptance by the Father to receive forgiveness of sins, and eternal life. The bowing of the knee symbolizes full surrender to Christ: "(Also) Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Phil. 2:11.

Christ must become "our Lord" for our acceptance as God's Son. Thus eternal life is impossible to obtain except through Jesus Christ as our mediator at God's right hand. If there was another way through which a sinner could find God and eternal life, Jesus Christ would never "have suffered (and died) for sins, the just for the unjust, **that he might bring us to God.**" I Pet. 3:18. Also: "He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7:25.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Heb. 1:1-9

Heb. 12:24

Gal. 4:4-7

Acts 4:12

Heb. 8:6-7

Heb. 7:26

Gal. 3:19-25

Acts 5:29-32

b. **He is Mediator for a Christian. Christ, the high priest for every true Christian, is a man.** I Tim. 2:5. Also: "Wherefore in all things it behooved him (i.e., it was absolutely necessary) to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he (i.e., Christ) is able to succour (i.e., give help in time of need to) them that are tempted." Heb. 2:17-18.

This is a vital part of the believer's victory over the world, the flesh, sin, and the devil — only a part, mind you, but a very necessary and vital part! Christ's priestly ministry as an intercessor to the Father does not exclude the intercessory prayer ministry of a true saint of God — the truth of the scriptures reveal that Christ's intercession for us at God's right hand is totally contingent upon the supplication and intercession of His saints! "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession (i.e., our avowal of true faith in the

Lord). For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities: **but was in all points tempted like as we are, Yet without sin** (This is why Christ our mediator had to be a man). Let us therefore come boldly (i.e., in prayer and supplication) unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:14-16; Rom. 8:26-27.

Truly Jesus our Lord reminded all of His disciples: "For without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5. The Overcoming Experience, even of death was fully realized by the first martyr of faith in Jesus Christ, Stephen, as he was stoned to death: "**But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw ths glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. . .** And they stoned Stephen, **calling upon God**, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Acts 7:55-60. The intercession of Christ did not save him from death, but he received grace from the throne of grace to die by. A Victory! Here's the Key: Read Rev. 12:10-11.

(1) Jesus, Our High Priest, makes intercession for each Christian when tempted if he seeks God for grace by which to live victoriously — And, grace is given that Christian to overcome the temptation to sin: "He is able to succour (i.e., give the grace needed to overcome sin to) them that are tempted." Heb. 2:18.

(2) Jesus, Our High Priest, makes intercession to God for the pain, sickness, need, trouble, or spiritual ills we suffer from: "He can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. . . Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, **that we may obtain mercy**, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:15-16.

(3) Jesus, Our High Priest, makes intercession to God for an erring or sinning Christian who repents: "My little children, these things I write unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate (or High Priest) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation (i.e., one who helps to regain the good will of) for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." I John 2:1-2. **An advocate is one who pleads another's cause** — that is Christ, our High Priest.

(4) Jesus, Our High Priest, makes intercession to God for every hungry hearted soul who seeks to receive the spiritual experiences of grace — sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost: (To His disciples Jesus gave assurance) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." John 16:23-24. Also: "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter (i.e., the Holy Ghost), that he may abide with you for ever." John 14:16. Through Christ, "God is a rewarder of them that **diligently seek him.**" Heb. 11:6.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Rom. 8:34	Heb. 8:1-2	Eph. 1:20	I John 5:14-15
Col. 3:1-4	Col. 3:17	Phil. 4:19	I Pet. 3:22
Heb. 12:1-2	Mark 16:17-20	John 15:16	Rev. 3:21

VII. PRAYER & FASTING. DISCUSSION.

A true Christian must exercise his faith in God for grace to grow by and to be strong. **The most powerful spiritual exercise in the Christian experience is practical (i.e., practiced) prayer with fasting.** Speaking of the receiving of strong faith, Jesus explained to His disciples: "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain (i.e., to the devil's greatest bondage), Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. **Howbeit this kind goeth not out (i.e., irresistible faith) but by prayer and fasting.**" Matt. 17:20-21.

The royal road to complete victory over the flesh, world-conformity, sin, and the devil includes the spiritual strength, the calmness, and dignity of self-control accumulated in the life of a truly sanctified saint of God through the regular exercise in fasting with much prayer. Conversely: A life of spiritual apathy and indolence, ever void of practical fasting and prayer, is the royal road to frustration, compromise with the flesh, and bitter defeat.

Real fasting and prayer will break the power of the flesh (i.e., the old man), giving the mastery over sin and the devil to our "new man". Christians must never forget this revelation from the Holy Scriptures: We have two distinct natures living in our body. This is the temple that the Holy Ghost seeks to fill with His irresistible and comforting presence. However, God will not fill nor baptize a believer in Christ with the Holy Ghost until the old nature (old man) is crucified through sanctification. That old man (corrupt nature) and the new born-again man (new nature) cannot coexist peacefully in the same temple — one or the other must be destroyed (i.e., his works made inoperative) — the flesh must be crucified! These are incompatible and one of these natures will defeat the other. Which will win? You and I make that determination. God has issued this ultimatum: either crucify the old man or he will destroy the new man (new nature), and, the new man will die. Study Gal. 5:17; Rom. 8:12-13; 6:6; I John 3:5-10.

And so, the warfare continues. Even after crucifixion of the flesh through definite sanctification, the saint of God must be vigilant, for the old man is alive but "dead" to committing sin, being made in-

operative by a strong faith, active and bold, that is renewed through fasting with anointed praying. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, **seeking whom he may devour. Whom resist stedfast in the faith.**" I Pet. 5:8-9. A Christian is always subject to temptation through his mind even though he may be pure and holy — therefore every Christian must have the mind of Christ to be victorious. Phil 2:5. Also, the devil, as a hungry lion preys upon those disciples of Christ who are careless and weak to destroy them. "Resist him in the faith (I Pet. 2:9)" exhorts the Holy Ghost. **Irresistable faith comes only to the humble and obedient saint through fasting and prayer.** Now, let's examine these scriptural facts about fasting and prayer.

a. **True Motives for Fasting & Prayer.** To produce an anointed prayer life!

(1) David revealed, **"I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom."** Psa. 35:13.

(2) Seeking God for Revival!

"Therefore also now, saith the Lord, **turn you even to me with all your heart, and with weeping, and with fasting, and with mourning.** . . . Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord (i.e., the preachers), weep between the porch and the altar." Joel 2:12-19. Read also: Isa. 58:6-12.

(3) To produce Holy Ghost anointing to minister! **After 40 days of fasting**, Jesus returned from the wilderness in the power of the Spirit and said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal. . . to preach deliverance. . ." Luke 4:18. Read also Acts. 13:1-4. Jesus and the early church ministers were characterized by irresistible faith through fasting and prayer. Look at this scriptural revelation: Acts 5:14-16; 10:38!

b. **How to Pray with Fasting for Complete Victory.**

(1) **With abstinence of food or water.** Fasting is not dieting: Esther proclaimed, **"Fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day:** I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish." Esther 4:16. Also: Acts 9:9. Real fasting to God is "neither eating nor drinking," and neither "night nor day." A few sips of water daily on longer fasts than 3 days is acceptable.

(2) **With self-denial of pleasure, labor, and egotism.** Many professing Christians, especially preachers, brag about fasting. Jesus said: "But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face: That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which seeth in secret." Matt. 6:16-18.

The scriptures warn of the futility and emptiness that results from cheating on a fast, boasting, or just playing around: "Wherefore have we fasted say they (i.e., God's people), and thou seest not? Wherefore have we afflicted our souls, and thou takest no knowledge? (God's answer): **Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours. . . wilt thou call this a fast (i.e., a scriptural fast), and an acceptable day to the Lord?"** Isa. 58:3-5. Prayer with real fasting is not a religious stunt — it is a spiritual exercise that crucifies the flesh so that the "new man" reigns victoriously within the true believer. This is also conquest, a true pilgrim's progress on the royal road to perfection in Christ.

c. **Proclaim a Fast! With Much Prayer!** When Jonah the prophet preached God's last message to Nineveh, Repent or Perish, here was that nation's response: "**So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast. . . And God repented of the evil that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.**" Jonah 3:1-10. Verse 7: "**Let them not feed (eat) nor drink water,**" was the king's order!

The church of old under Ezra's leadership in desperation sought God's help: "**Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God. . . So we fasted and besought God (i.e., prayed much) for this:** and he was intreated of us." Ezra. 8:15.

The early church of Jesus Christ, seeking divine guidance, proclaimed a fast. Acts 13:1-3.

In troubles, in distresses, in persecutions, in imprisonments, in shipwreck, in perils, in weariness and painfulness, in hunger and thirst, and in cold and nakedness, the Apostle Paul exultantly exclaimed: "None of these things move me." Acts 20:22-24. What was the secret source of his power of total believer's victory? Answer: Fasting with much prayer in the Spirit! The biographical sketches that record this source of victory through fasting and prayer should be studied eagerly: II Cor. 6:4-5; 11:27-30. The key scriptures are: "**In fastings often;**" also: "**Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.**" Eph 6:18.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Matt. 6:19-21

Jonah 3:1-10

Psa. 69:10

Mark 9:28-29

Matt. 9:14-15

Ezra 10:6

Psa. 109:22-25

II Chron. 20:3

Acts 10:30

Acts 6:4
Acts 4:23-31
Dan. 6:10

Psa. 35:13-16
I Cor. 7:1-5
Gen. 32:24-30

Dan. 10:2-3
Luke 18:1-8
I Sam. 1:7-18

Other Source of Study (Don't Omit This): Word of Prophecy magazine, May, 1978, "Practical Fasting And Prayer."

VII. PERFECTION IN CHRIST DISCUSSION.

Every true Christian has been issued this Holy Ghost order: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection." Heb. 6:1. A saved person is not perfect in Christ until he goes on unto perfection by striving to be like Jesus, **"Who left us an example that we should follow his steps; who did no sin."** I Pet. 2:21-22. A Christian who does not strive to reach this last attainment in the total victory to the believer will suffer defeat and disaster. A new born-again Christian must soon leave the elementary teachings of God's Word, and seek the meat of the Word — that is, the Holy Ghost teachings of the Holy Scriptures (i.e., the doctrines) that lead to perfection. "As newborn babes (in Christ), desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may **grow** thereby." I Pet. 2:2. Most Christians desire to remain babies in spiritual development and maturity, and most preachers contribute to this sad state of spiritual malnutrition by withholding the meat offering of God's Word — the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Study Matt. 24:45-47; I Cor. 3:1-3. These strive to circumvent their responsibility to obey God's word!

Logic and rationalization of God's True Word about the doctrine of Perfection by liberal and unbelieving preachers have perverted God's Overcoming Message to His true Elect! "Nobody's perfect" is the howl and protest of soothsaying preachers and their blind disciples! Jesus commanded his disciples: "Be ye therefore perfect," Matt. 5:48. Does this word from the Lord mean what it says? Jesus dogmatically taught his disciples further: "The disciple is not above his master: **but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.**" Luke 6:40. Did Christ mean this? Of course He did!

True perfection in Christ does not contain conceit — nor does a perfect saint of God possess a holier-than-thou attitude. Perfection and spiritual maturation in Christ complement one another with a delicate balance between the two developments into grace. Sinless perfection develops self-reliance, and self-reliance helps develop perfection — exalting the majesty of individuality. God deals with the individual Christian, not a middleman. Remember self-reliance is not self-conceit, but daring to stand for God and holiness alone when

necessary. Thus perfection, the overcoming of the flesh, world-conformity, sin, and the devil — when realized fully in a saint of God, is the crown of glory that dignifies that humble prayer intercessor, and that “tower of strength” to struggling souls about that saint. **An intercessor in prayer must live above sin!**

Logic and rationalization of God’s Word just won’t stand before the light of the whole Truth when it is rightly divided. Jesus also issued this warning and command: “**Strive** to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.” Luke 13:24. This striving (i.e., an excessive effort) demanded of Christ’s disciples, speaks of striving for perfection. Every true disciple, to remain justified in Christ, must be diligently working toward perfection. This will ever keep the Christian’s eyes “Looking unto Jesus. . . laying aside every weight, **and the sin which doth so easily beset us.**” Heb. 12:1-2. Striving for Perfection in Christ always leads the true disciple of Christ into sanctification and crucifixion of the flesh, into seeking the Holy Ghost baptism, into prayer with fasting, and in patiently enduring chastening as God’s true son. The Apostle Peter exclaimed: “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **After that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect,** stablish (i.e., stabilize), strengthen, settle you.” I Pet. 5:10. Jesus was also perfected through sufferings. Study Heb. 2:9-10; 5:8-9.

Perfection and maturity are not synonymous!

Jesus was mature through age, knowledge, and spiritual experience — perfection came through suffering! The father of us all who are faithful, Abraham, was a very mature prophet and servant of God at 99 years, but at that age God spoke and commanded him: “I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.” Gen. 17:1.

a. The Devil was Perfect at One Time! Of Satan or Lucifer, God declared through the prophetic scriptures: “**Thou wast perfect** in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, til iniquity (i.e., rebellion against God’s laws) was found in thee.” Ezekiel 28:15. Satan, our mighty adversary, is the despoiler of God’s perfect work of regeneration (i.e., the new man). Satan leads even Christians into disobedience and rebellion against God’s Word through the flesh and pride.

Therefore: sin must be overcome from its source — the flesh; so Christians “must resist the devil” (James 4:7) or sinning will be the result. **If Christians submit themselves to God’s Will, perfection will be the result.** “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations (i.e., by the devil through the flesh); Knowing

this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. **But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire** (i.e., complete in Christ) wanting nothing." James 1:2-4. Satan fell after he was made perfect — so beware Christian!

b. God's Work — All to Perfection! The visible universe about us reveals God's perfect law, perfect plan, perfect order, perfect method. "As for God, his way is Perfect." Psa. 18:30. "The law of the Lord is perfect." Psa. 19:7. "Your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:48. "He is the Rock, his work is perfect." Deut. 32:4.

(1) **God's Plan of Redemption is Perfect**, and is perfectly executed by the Holy Ghost, glorifying our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ. "If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood. . . what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec (i.e., Christ), and not after the order of Aaron. . . **For the law (i.e., of Moses) made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did;** by the which we draw nigh unto God." Heb. 7:11, 19.

No patriarch or servant of God living under Moses' law has been recorded in Biblical history as being perfect before God (excluding Jesus), but, before the law, through faith, men were made perfect who fully obeyed God:

"Noah was a just man and **perfect** in his generations, and Noah walked with God." Gen. 6:9; Heb. 11:7.

"There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was **perfect** and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." Job. 1:1.

Add to these: Abraham (Gen. 17:1); Joseph (Psa. 105:17-20). Jesus lived perfect under the law so He could redeem those under the law being God's perfect "new man" (our example). He was a Perfect Sacrifice for our sins, and is now our Perfect Advocate or High Priest. Gal. 4:4-7; I Pet. 1:18-19.

(2) **Perfection In Christ — The Finished Product of Redemption.** "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, **Make you perfect** in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ." Heb. 13:20-21. Perfection of the Saints! The mighty Apostle Paul exclaimed of his strivings to the Christians at Colosse: "We preach (Christ), warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; **that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:** (i.e., sinless perfection, because in Christ is no sin — I John 3:5): Whereunto I also labour, **striving** according to his mighty working which worketh in me mightily." Col. 1:28-29.

For The Perfecting Of The Saints:

God gives perfect peace — Isa. 26:3.

God gives perfect faith — James 2:22.

God gives perfect love — I John 4:12, 18

God demands perfect holiness — II Cor. 7:1.

God demands perfect fruit (of holiness) — Luke 8:14.

God has a perfect will for each Christian — Rom. 12:2.

God has perfect examples — Psa. 37:37; Phil. 3:15-17; James 3:2; I Tim. 4:12.

God gives perfection of heart — II Chron. 16:9.

c. For the Perfecting of the Saints, Further.

(1) The Word of God: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.**" II Tim. 3:16-17.

(2) **Ministers of Jesus Christ who are truly men of God will lead God's saints to Perfection: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints . . . Til we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."** Eph. 4:11-16. **Perfection in Christ is sinless perfection — this is what counts — this is what Calvary and God's Great Plan of Redemption is all about.**

SUMMARY.

The zenith of God's grace shed abroad for the perfection of a true saint is; "Sanctified by God the Father, **and preserved** (i.e., kept from spoiling by sin) in Jesus Christ, and called." Jude 1. Also: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly (i.e., entirely); and I pray God **your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless** (i.e., kept from spoiling by sin in the vessel, your body) unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." I Thess. 5:23. May I add this exhortation and warning for apathetic, world-conforming, and/or unbelieving Christians: "Awake to righteousness, **and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.**" I Cor. 15:34. This also speaks of sinless Perfection as do all the Holy Scriptures! "He that is perfect shall be as his master (i.e., Jesus)." Luke 6:40.

SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Matt. 21:16

Job 28:3

II Cor. 13:9

I Thess. 3:10

Col. 3:14

Gal. 3:3

I Cor. 2:6

Heb. 12:23

Especially study this: II Cor. 10:3-5.

Other Source of Study: Book, The Bride of Christ, by Bro. Ray Pringle.

IX. MEMORIZATION

Eccles. 12:13-14	Luke 6:40	II Tim. 3:16-17	I Pet. 5:10
Esther 4:16	Eph. 3:20	Matt. 17:19-21	James 1:1-4
Psa. 37:37	Col. 3:17	I Tim. 2:5	I John 4:18
Rom. 12:1-2	Heb. 4:12	II Cor. 7:1	II Pet. 1:18-19

NOTES:

Lesson No. 3

The Bible School of Prophecy

The High Calling. . .

If God has called you to be really like Jesus in all your spirit, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put on you such demands of obedience, that He will not allow you to follow other Christians, and in many ways He will seem to let other good people do things which He will not let you do.

Other Christians and ministers who seem very religious and useful may push themselves, pull wires, and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it; and if you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others can brag on themselves, on their work, on their success, on their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others will be allowed to succeed in making great sums of money, or having a legacy left to them or in having luxuries, but God may supply you daily, because He wants you to have something far better than gold, and that is a helpless dependence on Him, that He may have the privilege of providing your needs day by day out of the unseen treasury.

The Lord may let others be honored, and put forward, and keep you hid away in obscurity, because He wants to produce some choice, fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade.

God will let others be great, but keep you small. He will let others do a work for Him, and get the credit for it, but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing; and then to make your work still more precious, He will let others get the credit for the work which you have done, and this will make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes. The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch on you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem distressed over. So make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign, and has a right to do as He pleases with His own, and He will not explain to you a thousand things which may puzzle your reason in His dealings with you. God will take you at your word; and if you absolutely sell yourself to be His slave, He will wrap you up in a jealous love, and let other people say and do many things that you cannot do or say. Settle it forever, that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that others are not dealt with. Now when you are so possessed with the living God that you are, in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the vestibule of heaven.

We have nothing to call our own but a will to choose. The power to do so comes from God. "Yielding to God" is the condition of His approval.

This Lesson Prepared For

BIBLE SCHOOL OF PROPHECY

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Dec. 1979

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Mailed from Jacksonville, Fla.

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