

Eternal Life NOW

This is the promise which He Himself made to us:
Eternal Life ~1 John 2:25



GREG SIMNOR

ETERNAL LIFE NOW!

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†HEROCK®

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Eternal Life NOW

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“Freely we receive; freely we give”

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*I thank You Holy Spirit for the profound impact
you continuously have in my life and for the
enlightenment and divine inspiration You have
given me in the testimony of this book.*

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INTRODUCTION



And someone came to Him and said, “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?”

What a question. What is it to obtain an eternal life?

Eternal means forever. What is it to obtain a life that exists for ever? Has there ever been a more essential question one could ask?

You and I have been hand selected to be eternal beings living in an earthly body. We are to literally have the substance of heaven being formed and living in us, coming forth from us. This is called wisdom.

1 John 5:11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

The eternal life knows no limits or boundaries. The eternal life is abundant, resourceful and unprecedented. It is completely free and untainted by earth.

As God’s people we are to have this eternal life formed and built within us. We are to live from this eternal life and have it manifesting out of our physical earthly bodies.

2 Corinthians 4:11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

This is what we witness in Christ, Paul, Stephen, John, and what we witness in Christ and His disciples, we are to witness in our own lives, being a living letter, a living testimony of an eternal life, lived out now on earth.

I want to start this book by asking us the most important question one can ask, in relation to receiving and living from this eternal life.

What does doing good Christian activities, ceremonies, traditions and practises have to do with receiving an eternal life? The answer, absolutely nothing.

Jesus says, "Why are you even asking Me about what is good?" Doing good works is a completely irrelevant factor in whether we are receiving and living from an eternal life within us.

The key to eternal life is not in "good works", but in one's ability to keep something one cannot keep in their own strength and ability, the Great Commandments.

He says "If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." The commandments Jesus is referring to are the two Commandments, which all the Law and the prophets depend on.

Matthew 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

The life Jesus is referring to here is an eternal life, as this is the life the rich young ruler is asking Him about. Eternal life is often thought of as a future life that we receive when we die and go to heaven, having been justified by His blood and forgiven from our sins. While this justified life is an incredibly vital part of God's redemption plan, it is not the eternal life that Jesus is describing to the rich young ruler.

The eternal life that Jesus is testifying to is not primarily a future life, but a life of an eternal substance and quality. It is absolutely essential that we know and understand the difference between the true eternal life and a justified life.

The rich young ruler doesn't ask what one must do to be saved or be justified from their sin. He asks what must one do to inherit an eternal life. One doesn't need to be able to keep the commandments to enter into a justified life. All one has to do for this, is confess with their mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead.

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

The purpose of this book, is to proclaim and testify to what an eternal life is. Too many confuse our place in eternity with living an eternal life now. They are not the same thing, even though we will take our eternal lives into eternity with us.

One cannot know and live out an eternal life unless one is of the Eternal One.

1 John 5:11-13 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

This book will describe who the eternal life is, along with what the nature or characteristics of an eternal life are. We will look at how one enters into it and has this life formed within. We will also unpack the divine connection between the Great Commandment and an eternal life, looking at the kind of life one is able to live and demonstrate now, as this eternal life grows and is formed in one's inner most being, the womb, where all the life of God is conceived.

As we begin to look at this eternal life and the impact it has on us to be able to live out a Christ centred life, I encourage you to allow the prophetic word declared, to bring light, life, hope and greater meaning, while at the same time, confront, challenge, expose and reveal whether you are a recipient of this eternal life and having it growing in you. This is not for the purpose of shaming, condemning or pulling us down, but for the exact opposite. It is for the purpose of building us up and bringing us into an eternal life, a life the entire body of Christ are to have experiential knowledge of and be living from now.

2 Corinthians 13:10 For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I need not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down.

The Father and His Son always speak in terms of the promise first, so we are made aware of the life that is concealed in Him for us, and it is then that He comes into our present and makes us fully aware of where we are truly at within our relationship with Him today. He will never bring up our past, this is guaranteed, but our willingness to recognise, acknowledge, repent (turn away from) and then receive the new in our present, is the key to the promise becoming our living reality, rather than staying as a promise never experienced.

The question which the rich young ruler asks, "What good thing must I do to obtain eternal life?", unfortunately gets asked too often today by "rich young rulers", religious leaders and followers.

This question exposes the true belief in the heart of this young man and also our hearts when we ask it. The key words are what must "I DO". What must I DO to bring MYSELF into this eternal life. This is the spirit of legalism coming forth out of this young man, but he is completely unaware of his true state.

We too can be just as consumed as this young man in trying to bring ourselves into this eternal life. Certainly if I just do this or just do that or just try one more time, then I will crack it. We believe our ability, gifting and strength will bring us into this life.

Just like the rich young ruler we say, "Isn't it not committing murder or adultery?" "To not steal, lie or bear false witness? Is it not to honour our father and mother, or keeping the Sabbath?" The rich young ruler said he had kept all these and asked what was he still lacking?

Maybe he needed to study the Scriptures more? Maybe he needed to understand through the intellect what Jesus was saying, studying the original languages etc. Maybe he needed to start his own ministry? Maybe he needed to share Jesus with someone? Was it to start tithing? Was it to figure out his gift and start using it? Was it to feed the poor, the widows, and the orphans? Was it to go overseas and serve there?

Was it to make disciples or plant churches? Was it to play and make Christian music albums, writing leadership books and teachings and selling them, to see the church benefit? Was it really even

about him selling his possessions and giving all his wealth away to the poor as Jesus said? Certainly it had to be something functional. It has to be something he could do in his own strength and capabilities.

The answer and the life which he is searching for, lies in what he and we cannot do, not in what he and we can do.

Ultimately, it has nothing to do with any of the things he listed and the things which I list above. Jesus was addressing something far greater than all of this. Even greater than what Jesus actually said the issue was, the man's wealth. Jesus saw into the young man's heart, just like He sees into our hearts, and He knew what the core root issue was for this young man, just like He does for us as well. Jesus knew what the tap root issue was, which was keeping this young man from experiencing an eternal life now.

When we say an eternal life, once again we are not talking about eternity and our place there. We are referring to an eternal life which is of an eternal substance. A life that is not of earth, the natural, the temporal, but an inner life of the eternal, the heavenly, the tangible spiritual fruit of the Spirit dwelling and overflowing within a person's inner most being, their womb, the hidden place that only God sees, the place we live from.

The scriptures teach us that where we find a person's treasure we will find their heart.

Luke 12:34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

What this young man treasured the most was himself and his own life. The young man was in love with himself, the god of self, the tap root called "self", the spirit of pride. His wealth was the by-product of loving himself. His wealth was his idol because he was still the god of self. The only reason people have idols in their lives, no matter what the idol is, whether it be a wooden statue, a person, a possession or money, is because we are still the god of our own lives.

This is exactly the same issue for the woman at the well¹. Because the god of self is still alive and active in her life, she also has idols in her life called five previous husbands, currently a partner who is

1 John 4:7-38

probably the next victim of divorce, as she tries to satisfy the hunger and thirst of the god of self. She is attempting to solve an eternal problem with earthly means like so many do in and outside of the body of Christ.

It is not possible to keep the commandments, to love God with your whole heart and love others selflessly, when you are still the god of your own life. While man is still his own god at the core of who he is on the inside, it is impossible for man to keep His eternal command, hence man lacks the substance and quality of a forever growing and developing eternal life within himself.

It doesn't matter if you are justified by His blood, have an intellectual knowledge of the scriptures, perform signs and wonders, try to keep rules or do the works you think you should be doing. If the god of self, the spirit of pride, the strongman of self has not been crucified and killed by the power of God, you to, will find yourself coming short of an abundant, eternal life now, just like the rich young ruler did.

Unless we have lost our lives for His sake, we have not lost our lives at all, and we are still firmly in control of our own lives and how we determine we will live those lives out. We will be void of the life we are to know now and be living from, called an eternal life.

I have written this book to prophecy to the earth, to all those who have ears to hear the spiritual prophetic Word of God, who are hungry and thirsty for a complete, full and overflowing life in their Messiah, called an eternal life.



1

AN ETERNAL LIFE



1 John 2:25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

There are two lives we can know and live from. There is an earthly life and then there is an eternal life. God has promised us an eternal life. Jesus Christ had an earthly body like ours, but within this earthly body was an Eternal life. This Eternal life expressed itself time and time again through an earthly body for all of the world to experience and know and we are to be no different as sons of the most high God.

We have all been born with an earthly body but we are all to have this Eternal life growing and forming within us. How well do we know of this dimension?

We know our earthly lives really, really, well. We are extremely familiar with the lives we are born into via flesh and blood. We know when we are born and to whom we are born. We celebrate our birth every year and remember the day we entered this world.

We know where we grew up and what our upbringing was like. We know where we went to school and what we got up to as kids. We are extremely aware of every aspect of our earthly life, from childhood, through to our teens and then on to adulthood, and we live within the boundaries of our earthly life's limitations.

We are all born into a natural, earthly life. But as the Church, we are called to live from a life that is beyond this earth – an eternal life now. When our earthly life is our first placed priority, we are likely to be building our own empires and living for ourselves, as opposed to seeking first the kingdom and His righteousness. When we live from this earthly position, we may even ask God to bless our lives and ask Him to make sure everything goes well with it. We may, at times, even give and commit ourselves to God and do what He asks, when there is gain to be had. But ultimately, this way of living falls short of His eternal selfless life that glorifies the Father.

Our natural (physical) life is not wrong i.e. going to school, being employed, playing sport, getting married, etc, etc but we have been called and chosen for a life far greater than this. Our calling is heavenly and it is to be lived out now on earth.

We know our earthly lives really well, but the question remains. What in fact is an eternal life, because this is the life the rich young ruler asked Jesus about and was hoping to obtain through what he could do when coming to Christ. In looking at the what question, I want to start by looking through a different lens. I want to start by asking another question, and that is “Who is eternal life?”

In all things of God, in all things of the Spirit, we must always start with the Who and the Why, before we look at the What, When and How. When we look for and pursue life outside of the One who is life and not just any life, but the resurrected life, we will always, come short of this eternal life.

John 1:4 says “In Him was life”. Eternal life is discovered in the Person, who is eternal life. It’s not Jesus and life or Jesus and power or Jesus and wisdom or Jesus and hope. It’s not Jesus and rest, or Jesus and peace. It’s not Jesus and love. Jesus IS Life, Power, Wisdom, Peace, Hope, Rest, Love and so on. When we don’t know this position of oneness in and with Him, we live in what I call the position of two or the dual position.

The position of two is where we look outside of Jesus – who is Eternal Life, for all the life that is in Jesus. It’s where the “and” and the “but” live. This is where many in the body today get themselves

into all sorts of trouble and end up creating and teaching another gospel, because we attempt to access life outside of Jesus Himself, who is to be our life.

This was Eve's problem in the garden. She was tempted by Satan to access a greater life outside of God Himself, and we all know the outcome of this.

Look at these words in Colossians in relation to living from oneness, an eternal life, where God is our life.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

We also see this outworking itself in Acts 17:25 & 28.

Acts 17:25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things;

Acts 17:28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, "For we also are His children."

Let me give you an example of this oneness of life in Him, this eternal life.

How many times have you said you just need more patience, never realising it's not patience you need more of but love, because love is patient, and God is love. People say I have the revelation of a particular truth and I am just waiting for it to materialise in my life. The revelation of truth causes the manifestation in us of truth, which causes the demonstration of His truth in and through our lives.

They are all of the same kind or the same source, so they produce after their own kind. It is like the principle in Genesis of "seed time and harvest". It is not revelation and then manifestation and then demonstration. It is not $1+1+1=3$. It is revelation, manifestation and demonstration as an expression of the ever-increasing reality of Christ (the person) in us. It is $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$.

Until we have entered into Christ, who is eternal life, we live from the position of $1+1+1=3$, which is the position of *two* I describe, instead of the position of $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$, which is the position of *one*.

Let's now turn to the Scriptures that speak to the fact that Jesus Christ is eternal life.

Who is eternal life?

Jesus Christ is eternal life.

The living Word of God is very clear on who eternal life is.

1 John 1:1-2 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life – and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

The apostle John is very clear from these two passages who the eternal life is. John says what we have heard, what we have seen, we testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us.

The word manifested means to make actual, visible, realised and thoroughly understood. We know Jesus the Word was with God in the beginning and He has come to bring us eternal life, Himself, which gives us understanding and leads and guides us into Truth.

It is imperative as our first placed pattern of being, we know that we know that we know, through divine revelation within us, that Jesus is eternal life. Jesus is the embodiment of eternal life.

John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

The passage above in John 1:1-4 is intertwined with 1 John 1:1-2. Read 1 John 1:1-2 again and join the dots. Look and see who was at the beginning of both passages, the eternal life. If we don't know who eternal life is, we will start looking for this eternal life outside of the Person Himself, like previously mentioned in this chapter and just like it says in John 1:5, we will be like the darkness that doesn't comprehend the Light.

John 1:5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Yes, we as His very own children can be unaware of the eternal life we are to enter into and live from. We can be very much like the Corinthian church who Paul said he could not speak to as to spiritual men, because they were men of the flesh, infants in Christ, who still needed milk and were not ready for solid food.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

Coming into the eternal life in Christ through keeping the commandments is for the mature. Those who have had the god of self, their own will crucified and killed. Followers who have had the spirit of pride removed from the depths of within and had it replaced by the spirit of humility. Followers who are surrendered and abandoned to allowing Jesus to build His kingdom life within them, through their lives of worship.

Romans 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

This is all about coming to know the one who is eternal life, Jesus Christ.

To know eternal life is to know love, because God is love. Eternal life doesn't hold our sin against us. Eternal life doesn't hold our disobedience against us. Eternal life doesn't hold our hypocrisy against us. He doesn't hold our unbelief against us. He is for us and not against us. He doesn't take into account a wrong suffered. Eternal life is a jealous God and He is jealous for us to know Him-Love, which is the first fruit of an eternal life.

To know the Eternal Life is to know the Person who is Eternal Life.
John 17:3 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Paul said his life was but rubbish compared to knowing Jesus Christ, the Eternal Life.²

² Philippians 3:8



2

**WHERE DOES ONE
GET THIS ETERNAL
LIFE FROM?**



We receive eternal life directly from Jesus Christ.

Many look for this eternal life in the Scriptures and this is a mistake. It was Jesus Himself who said the Scriptures testify about an eternal life. In other words, the Scriptures point you towards the eternal life, but they are not eternal life. He then followed this up by saying you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have an eternal life.

John 5:39-40 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

People with the leaven of a religious spirit always look for life in the words of the book first as opposed to the Word Himself. This is called operating from the flesh and this way always profits us nothing.

1 John 5:11-12 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

God is the One who gives us Eternal Life, hence God is the one who gave His one and only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have an eternal life. This is John 3:16, but there is a catch to John 3:16 that most people miss. Many have interpreted this scripture as being about going to eternity with God and not spending our eternity in hell, because the Son was sent as the sacrificial Lamb to take away the sins of the world, but eternal life is way more than that.

Jesus came to bring us an eternal life, not just create a way for us to enter into eternity. To enter into eternity Romans 10:9 says we are to confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, and we will be saved. Verse 10 goes on to say that with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

We receive this eternal life, not just our position in eternity, from the One who is Eternal Life. As we come to know Eternal Life, through the revelation of the Spirit, we start to live from a brand new dimension of Christ's life while here on earth.

John 17:3 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

There is only one thing the church is to have and make as her priority: to know Him for who He truly is. This one thing can appear way too simple, but it is the doorway that everything in Christ flows out of. This is why Jesus asked the disciples who the people said He was before asking, "But who do you say I am?" Jesus knows that everything pertaining to eternal life and godliness is determined by the knowing and coming into a greater knowledge of who He is through revelation and not human learning.

Is it any wonder that Paul said he counted all things as loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ?³ Paul received consistent ongoing revelations of the Christ and everything contained and concealed in the Christ, hence his ability to demonstrate an eternal life while he lived on earth.

3 Philippians 3:8

Because Jesus Christ is the Eternal Life, then the life He has come to give us is an eternal one. This is why this Eternal Life is found in Him and Him alone.

It's not an earthly life with a few modifications here and there. It's not a life that requires a bit of tweaking and fine tuning. It's not the life we are born into, in fact it's the life we are born out of. It is a brand new life that is formed within us called an eternal life, through the eating and drinking of Christ Himself, the eternal One. It's the life that only Jesus can give.

John 6:27 Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

John 10:27-28 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

John 6:54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

1 John 5:12 is a fascinating passage as it says "he who has the Son has this life". In other words, he who has the Son has this eternal life I am describing. We must as His followers wrestle with the Spirit for the fullness and overflowing measure of the reality of what the Scriptures declare. To say I have Christ so I have this eternal life, when my life doesn't express the eternal nature and characteristics of Christ in a real and tangible way, is to come short of the fullness of life that we are predestined to know and live from.

Mentally agreeing with what is written and receiving the revelation of what is written on the page through a living conviction of the Spirit, are two very entirely different realities.

Saying I have eternal life in Christ and living out an eternal life in Christ can be two very different dimensions. Paul said his life of Spirit and power, was no longer through persuasive words of wisdom through human learning, but through what he could demonstrate and live out.⁴ His new life was His message and his preaching. He

4 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

says, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God, but I came knowing nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

The true measure of revelation we have is demonstrated by our ability to live a Christ-like life. If our lives do not demonstrate what we say we have, then we need to question whether we have received the overflowing eternal life that Jesus came to bring. We don't yet know what we have not become, hence we can be void of this eternal life in a real and tangible way.

I love the fact that the Scriptures can't be any clearer of where this eternal life comes from. We don't have to come up with answers ourselves through the study of original languages, cultures or traditions. We don't have to spend hours and hours with our heads in books, utilising our natural intelligence to figure out what it all means. We just have to receive what He wants to give us via His Spirit.

This is what John 6:27 is saying. Jesus is saying why do you spend hours and hours working for food which perishes, when you can have a food which endures to an eternal life. Why do you bust your gut and exert all your human strength and energy trying to enter into an eternal life instead of just receiving what I have already done and accomplished?

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

This would have to be one of the most well-read passages of Scripture and probably one of the most preached passages of Scripture there is, but I am not so sure how many people actually have received and are living in the reality and the absolute truth of this passage.

- Who gives us this rest?
- Who do we learn from?
- What is the absolute outcome Jesus promises those who come to Him?

Once again our lives are the demonstration of whether these are just nice words we can say or whether these words are our actual

reality. Truth is self-evident. Truth doesn't lie. Truth makes us free, so how much of this Truth are we actually in, because we are receiving and laying hold of all that Jesus is giving us.

Revelation 1:1-2 is another example to which the Scriptures testify of this given dimension.

Revelation 1:1-2 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

God gave to His son to show to His bondservants. Don't you just love the pattern here. God gives to His Son, His Son gives to the angel and the angel shows the bond servant who is in the spirit. What does He give and what does He show? All the things which must soon take place.

Jesus is the One who gives this eternal life, because this eternal life is discovered in Himself. There is absolutely no eternal life found outside of the Eternal One. The "in" position or posture is the key to all of this. We don't earn it or work towards it, but it is given to us.

All of the hidden treasures, the hidden gold which Jesus instructs us to buy from Him, is concealed within Himself. Jesus Himself is the mystery to which this eternal life is discovered.

Colossians 2:2-3 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Proverbs 25:2 says, "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings to search out a matter." It's not just about transitioning from being lost to being found. We must be a people who go from being found, to becoming a people who find everything there is to be discovered in our Messiah. We must become like the man who found the one small pearl in the field, who went away and sold all he had and came back and bought that entire field.

Unfortunately, today there are way too many followers of Jesus

who are satisfied with their current knowledge of God. Scriptures like 1 Corinthians 8:2 are supposed to motivate us to go after all that is within the Christ.

1 Corinthians 8:2 *If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know.*

The question must be asked. Will we cultivate and carve out the quality time that is required to receive from Him? The issue is never will God reveal Himself in us and to us, because this is His very desire to do this. The issue is whether we value who He is and what He has to give, over our own lives. The issue is whether we will be found where we need to be found to receive all He has for us, waiting in awe and reverence and not leaving until we receive all He has to give.

Do we have an appetite for this kind of waiting? Do we have a value for Him which trumps our own lives? Will we put a stake in the ground and say to God I will be in this place, at this time, every day, until you meet me here with what You have to give me? Will this become our new way of being and living, where we live continuously in the abiding dimension of Christ, and so through the knowing we are constantly growing.

In a world where most people's responses to "How are you?" is "I'm so busy.." it will take an extreme event or shift, to arrest and apprehend us, snapping us out of this earthly life we love. As I am writing this we are a year and a half into the COVID-19 outbreak, and as significant as this has been for the entire world, it has not shaken many people out of their normal reality and made them aware of their absolute need for something greater than their current lives.

As many clamber to get back to life as normal, I am afraid we may have missed the opportunity we have been given by God, to come into a life-changing reality on the inside of us, through what he desires to give. I am convinced that this is essential to prepare us for what the prophetic scriptures declare is to come in the future. How will the church ever be the church Jesus desires her to be, if we are not receiving and partaking of the eternal food He has for us through the eternal way of revelation.

We follow a God who not only has finished everything before the

foundations of the earth,⁵ but He also tells us everything in advance. As the Church, there is not to be any excuse for not knowing the eternal life now and the reality of everything that is to come, as He declares it to us in advance. He is committed to preparing us so that we can be ready for all the challenges, trials and tribulations that this life brings, as well as preparing us for His return and the reward He brings with Him.

Revelation 22:12 “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

Matthew 24:25 Behold, I have told you in advance.

You may say how on earth can we know in advance what is to come? The answer to this question is simple and two-fold. Firstly, it is because the Holy Spirit has been given to us by God to lead us into all the truth, giving us this eternal food which produces an eternal life.

John 16:12-13 “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

Look at the very last line in verse 13. It says “and He will disclose to you what is to come”. One of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to be our Teacher who discloses to us what is to come. What is already finished in Christ from the foundations of the world. How well do we know of what is to come, what is already finished, because the Holy Spirit is revealing these things in us and to us?

Secondly, it is because we have the Holy Scriptures which are prophetic and speak of the prophetic reality which is to come. Prophecy is the foretelling of everything that exists in God, and so the Scriptures speak of a future reality in God that already exists which we can know and live from. Prophecy is God declaring what He has established spiritually, before we see it manifest itself in the natural. This is why we must be a people of faith as faith sees into this unseen seen dimension.

To not understand the Scriptures through the Spirit, is to not

5 Hebrews 4:3

know what is concealed in the unseen realm, and to not know what is concealed in the unseen realm, is to not be living in accordance to the future prophetic dimension in Christ. If one is not living from and for this, then one is not living in accordance to the will and purposes of God and one will not be made ready and prepared for everything which is to come.

Mark 12:24 Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures or the power of God?

We are taught by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20 not to quench the Holy Spirit and not to despise prophetic utterances. If the Holy Spirit has been given the role of bringing to light what is to come and we quench Him through our flesh, then we will end up despising the prophetic utterances He brings. In doing this we put our spiritual life at risk, and are in danger of missing out on our inheritance in the future.

Peter teaches us to pay close attention to the utterances made from heaven and that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.⁶

This is why it is so futile to try and come to know God and His purposes through the human intellect. Human intelligence has no capability of knowing this eternal life that only Jesus can give us. This is why we are given the Holy Spirit so we can know, understand and come into this indestructible life in Him.

Men moved by the Holy Spirit are men who honour the Holy Spirit. They don't grieve the Holy Spirit. When we attempt to learn through the agency of man we grieve the Spirit. When we honour the Holy Spirit, He reveals what is to come. In turn these people speak the divine prophetic utterances that already exist in God into the earth. They speak of them so the church can know everything that is to come, so a church can be made ready and prepared.

Only the Holy Spirit can bring to light and form within us, this “life in Christ” and give us this Eternal Life.

6 2 Peter 1:20-21



3

**THE NATURE OR
CHARACTERISTICS OF
AN ETERNAL LIFE**



Now that we have established who eternal life is, it is important we unpack the nature and the characteristics of eternal life, the Person. It is essential we know this Eternal Life, this Life in the Person, as His nature is the greatest of all.

When we receive eternal life (the person) in us, we receive the divine nature and characteristics of Christ implanted into our innermost being by the power of God. In other words, we partake of the fruit of His Spirit in us. We have the fruit of the Spirit formed and growing within us, and as scripture declares, against which there is no law.

Love

The nature of God is love.

1 John 4:8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

The first fruit of the nature of the Eternal Life is love, for the Father

is the embodiment of love. Not human love but heavenly love. This love is implanted into us through His divine power.

Ephesians 3:14-19 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

This love is not human or of earth or of the temporal. This love is eternal. This love is immeasurable, all consuming, intoxicating, unreasonable, all powerful, limitless, a consuming fire, indestructible, immovable, and empowering. This love heals every broken heart and releases us from our humanity, bringing us into oneness with the Eternal Life.

This is the love that 1 Corinthians 13 describes.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Do we have any reference or reality for this kind of love? Have we experienced this kind of love implanted deep within our inner most being? To not is to not know love and one will be outside of the reality of being able to love Jesus Christ with this incorruptible love which Ephesians 6:24 testifies to.

Ephesians 6:24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.

Love is the innate divine expression of knowing God, because God is love. One cannot separate the two. They are inseparable. To know God is to love as God loves, and to love as God loves, is to know God for who He truly is. This is why the Scriptures declare love to be the

greatest out of love, hope and faith. Love defines everything. Knowing love shapes how we love, how we live, how we serve, how we speak, how we lead, how we give. Love defines absolutely everything, because love is the first fruit of this eternal life, this life in the Person.

Love never fails and no one can separate a person from this kind of love, if they have experienced this love.

This love always does what it is – loves. It never fails not to be what it is, so it continuously demonstrates itself to all it comes into contact with. When this love enters into us and continues to be formed within us, we find ourselves with a capacity to love in a way that never fails. This is the first fruit of an eternal life.

Joy

The second fruit of the nature of Eternal Life is joy. Joy is commonly mistaken for a feeling or an emotion. When our “joy” is no more than a feeling we will say things like, “I have lost my joy.” Our reality is we just don’t feel happy or content because one cannot lose joy because of what joy is.

Joy is a fruit of the Eternal Life – Christ, a fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Joy is the substance of the Person, and if one has the Person dwelling within them as we are called to have, one cannot lose the Person. If we are not living from being in Christ, all we are left with is our emotions or feelings. When things don’t go well, we tend to think we have lost our joy, when we may not have had the true substance of joy formed in us in a way that empowers us to live above the situations we go through.

Joy is formed within us through the receiving of God’s living Word which builds and forms the Eternal Life – Christ, in us.

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

What things is John referring to here so that His Joy in us, is made full?

It's the testifying of the abiding life from John 15:1-10 which is formed and established in us through the receiving of the spiritual Word of God.

If there is no abiding in the Vine, Eternal Life, Jesus Himself, then there is no joy, or any other fruit being formed or produced in and through the branch. The branch which is a follower of Jesus, will have no joy or fruit of the eternal life to live from, and yet His joy is to be made full in every follower, through this abiding of the Vine.

John also reinforces this position in John 17:13 of our absolute need to abide in the Vine, so we can keep His Commandments and have this joy in us.

John 17:13 But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves.

We will unpack later in this book the abiding life in the Vine and "how this eternal life is formed in us", so we are not only the recipients of His life, but the demonstrators of it as well.

This joy, along with peace and righteousness, is a fruit or a characteristic of the kingdom of God.

Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

We know right now that the spiritual kingdom of God is to be established in the hearts and minds of God's followers, so that this Eternal Life comes through us into the earth for all to receive and experience.

Peace

The third fruit of the nature of Eternal Life is peace.

Just like joy, peace can be mistaken for something it is not, because joy and peace are of the same kind and highly connected within God.

We say things like "peace be with you" or "I hope you have a peaceful day." These are lovely gestures and I am certainly not saying they are wrong, but they are not the peace which the Scriptures testify to.

Let's have a look at this powerful passage in Romans 15:13 in relation to peace and joy.

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace

in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The prayer of Paul who wrote Romans, is that the God of hope would fill His people with a peace and a joy through believing, which has the church of God abounding in hope, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Say that to yourself again, “abounding in hope”, “abounding in hope”.

What a prayer! What a statement! What a dimension and a reality to experience, to know and to live from. All because you have received God’s joy and God’s peace within you through His power. What does a person and a people group called the church, look like, speak like, think like, act like, sound like, live like, who abound in hope, a living hope?

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Hopefully we are starting to grasp the magnitude of this eternal life, which we are to be having formed within us so we can be living from it, because of the God we worship. The Scriptures testify to the fact that this peace I am describing, surpasses all comprehension and guards our hearts and our minds.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

God’s peace surpasses all comprehension...

God’s peace guards your heart...

God’s peace guards your mind...

Have you and are you experiencing the reality of God’s peace in your life. The verse before this verse says, “be anxious for nothing”. Wow, if there was a reality in today’s world that people need to lay hold of, it would be this one. Depression, anxiety, worry and stress, attack people tenfold and appear to be a common denominator in many people’s lives today. The answer given to this issue, is to do what man only knows how to do, and that’s to deal with the symptoms, but not the root.

Only Jesus the God of hope can deal with the root issue and He

does this by offering us something far greater than man made solutions. He gives us His peace and joy through His divine power, as we cry out in prayer, supplication (asking earnestly/humbly) with thanksgiving. As the Scripture testifies to, God's peace goes way beyond our ability to comprehend this reality in our minds, but it is something we can receive and live from by having the Spirit dwell in us.

While the mind plays catch up, the reality of being the recipient of His peace via the Spirit, is defining and determining the way we live. This peace can never be grasped by the mind first and as long as it attempts to, we will never enter into this peace of the eternal life that surpasses our comprehension.

The Scripture says God's peace guards our hearts and minds. The question is, guards our hearts and minds "from what?" All the lies, deception and temptation that come our way from the flesh, the world and the adversary, which if believed and received keep us out of and away from an eternal life in Christ.

We have three highly motivated opponents whose sole mission is to win you to them, rather than have you receiving this Eternal Life, hence the Father of Truth, gives us His peace through His power, which guards our hearts and minds from this onslaught attack of these opponents. Because Christ has won the victory, we can live victorious lives, abounding in hope, and not getting entangled in our hearts and minds, through the lies which these three opponents speak.

The armour or the protective system that keeps us from being entangled and defiled in our hearts and minds, is the peace and joy of God. What an impenetrable barrier. God's hope for us is that we have these fruits operating and growing within us.

Patience

The fourth fruit of the nature of Eternal Life is patience.

How many times have you said to yourself, "I need more patience," or "I am praying for patience" and yet we never seem to receive this patience we ask for. I wonder why that is? Could it be the fact that

patience is a fruit of the Spirit, and the Spirit is God, and God is love, and it says that love is patient, so what we really need is more of Him, the Eternal Life, Love, so we are patient.

The more Eternal Life we receive through the impartation of His Word within us, the more we are enabled to be patient with ourselves and one another. We are able to be still. The more patient we become the more we experience a “holy waiting” which enables us to wait upon Him for all that He promises. We’re not in a hurry nor do we get frustrated when things aren’t happening fast enough, we wait upon the Lord for His perfect timing.

We now find ourselves with this new eternal reality of waiting for God to do what only He can do. This is a whole different way of looking at things for many and yet it is the only way of the Father. Paul said his life was the demonstration of God’s patience. What a statement of truth that is.

1 Timothy 1:12-16 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

This can be hard to get our head around, hence the reason we must allow the Holy Spirit to etch or engrave this reality on our hearts. Paul shares his previous life with us, of being a blasphemer, a persecutor and a violent aggressor of God’s people, and yet when the time was right, he was shown and revealed God’s incredible mercy through the empowerment of grace.

All this for the purpose of God showing humanity just how patient He is with us, giving us an abundance of time to turn from our wicked ways and receive His love and life through repentance.

This is God's desire for all of humanity.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Paul's previous life as Saul, is an incredible testimony to just how patient the Father was with him, waiting for His perfect timing to arrive, before He would call him into his new identity and purpose as Paul.

Acts 9:15-16 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

If this patience, which is of the Eternal Life, lives in us, we too will find ourselves being able to demonstrate the very same kind of patience towards others.

Kindness

The fifth fruit of the nature of Eternal Life is kindness.

Do we have a reference for His kindness? Romans 2:4 says it is the kindness of God that leads a person to repentance – it also says we can think lightly of the riches of His kindness, tolerance and patience.

A person who thinks lightly of His kindness is a person who is unable to demonstrate this kindness. We may have our earthly version of kindness but it will not be eternal. It will not be of His kingdom.

We are called to taste and see that the Lord is good. The Scripture says blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him. Only when we taste of His kindness can we be blessed and be this blessing to others. Let's take a look at 1 Peter 2:1-3 in relation to this.

1 Peter 2:1-3 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

Look how the taste of the kindness of God affects our life in Christ. Firstly, we start to put aside aspects of our old life, a life that keeps

us living fleshly all because of tasting God's kindness towards us.

Secondly, we start to long for the life that is in the Word of God. Just like a new born baby has a hunger and a thirst for a brand new food source once they are born, we too have a hunger and a thirst for the eternal gospel, the eternal Word of God. As we can see the eternal Word produces the Eternal Life. This is what this passage means when it says, "so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation". "It" being the eternal gospel.

To grow in salvation is to grow into the full measure of the eternal life we can know and live from now. Salvation is firstly an event and then it becomes a process of maturity, hence the words of Paul in Philippians 2:12, where he testifies to working out our salvation with fear and trembling. Too many followers stop at just acknowledging Jesus as the saviour and so come short of an eternal life they can know now.

Goodness

The sixth fruit of the nature of Eternal Life is goodness.

Jesus said to the rich young ruler, "Why do you call Me good. There is only one who is good and that is My Father."

The problem with humanity is that we judge goodness on the basis of a person's behaviour as opposed to their nature. This is why we hear continuously, "I am a good person, why do I need God?" or "Certainly all you have to be is a good person to please God or to get into heaven." This is why we see many other faith belief systems doing good works, thinking it is by their works that they will earn their way into an eternity with God and it is the same reason the rich young ruler says to Jesus what must he DO to inherit an eternal life.

It's not about our behaviour primarily, but it's about our nature. Only the nature of our Heavenly Father is good, because man's nature from his youth is evil. As much as we don't want to believe it or even acknowledge it, man is born with an evil nature.

Genesis 8:21 The Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done."

Just like a person needs a heart transplant when their heart is poisoned with a toxic substance, man needs a nature transplant. Man doesn't just need to change his behaviour, man needs a brand new nature, and it is only when we receive His nature, which is good, through His power that we can know what it is to be good in nature.

2 Peter 1:4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Just as we looked at in kindness, where it said "if we have tasted of His kindness" it will lead to repentance, and repentance leads to life, we see in Psalm 34:8 this declaration of truth, when it comes to tasting of His goodness.

Psalm 34:8 O taste and see that the Lord is good.

As we partake of Christ we receive His nature which is good and eternal.

Faithfulness

The seventh fruit of the nature of Eternal Life is faithfulness.

What does it really mean to be a faithful follower of Jesus? What does it really mean to hear "well done my good and faithful servant?" What does it mean to live a life by faith in Jesus Christ?

Timothy says, if we are faithless, He remains faithful⁷. It's a very simple equation. The more eternal life we have formed within us the more full of faith we are, and to be full of faith, means we will be faithful in the way we live towards God and God's purpose.

To know the reality of being faithful and being full of faith is to have the same spirit of faith according to what is written⁸. One cannot be faithful or full of faith if one has no reference for what the living Scriptures testify faith to be. Having our own version of faith is futile and just our vain imagination running wild. Faith that isn't connected to the living knowledge of God which is transformative isn't faith at all.

⁷ 2 Timothy 2:13

⁸ 2 Corinthians 4:13

So what do the living Scriptures testify faith to be?

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Faith is an absolute knowledge of something that is true. The word conviction means to hold firmly to a very strong belief. The Scriptures testify to the fact that faith is an absolute conviction and assurance of the things not seen. How does one have an absolute conviction and assurance of the things which one cannot see?

It is because one has seen them, but not through the natural eye. Faith sees what is concealed in the unseen seen realm called the kingdom of God. Faith is the currency that enables us to access and possess all the life that is concealed and contained within the Christ, who is the King of His kingdom. Without this kind of faith growing and forming within us on a consistent basis, we unfortunately won't be able to live a faithful life in Christ.

This is why the Scriptures teach we are to live by faith and not sight. We are to live by everything we are seeing in the unseen. All the great people of faith in Hebrews 11 lived by this great faith, this great spiritual sight, of what is already written and predestined.

Hebrews 11:13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Unfortunately, many people have confused faith with trust. Faith and trust are part of the same family, just like a brother and sister are, but faith and trust are not the same and operate quite differently. As we come into this understanding, we start to comprehend why Jesus told His disciples throughout the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke that they had little to no faith.

What many call faith is actually trust. We say we live by faith, but really we are living by trust, and even this can be a challenge for many. Trust in God and trusting in what God says is what you need when you don't have faith or you are one of little faith. This is why the Scriptures say we are to trust in God and not to lean on our understanding.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on

your own understanding.

Faith and great faith are determined by one thing and one thing alone – revealed knowledge of God. And it is in Him that all the promises of God are concealed.

Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ. Faith is increased by our ability to hear not any word but the spiritual Word of Christ. This is a Word of power, which builds and forms faith within us. It's not just the words on the pages of the bible or man's very well explained understanding of the words on the pages. The Word we are referring to is the same Word that spoke and built all of creation. The Word is spirit.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

“What is seen was not made out of things which are visible.” Now there's God's greatest party trick. What we see in front of us, all of creation, came from an unseen realm and it was the spoken Word of the Father that brought creation into being. It is this same Word that builds and forms faith in us, because it is all of the same spiritual kind.

As we have previously stated, we don't get to come up with our own version or interpretation of what we think faith is, because God has already done this for us. He has already spoken from the unseen realm what faith is and this spoken word through the revelation and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, has been written down in word form.

Jesus is the Author and Perfector of faith. How can one have faith the way the scriptures declare, if one doesn't know the Author or Perfector of it?

I like to say it this way. There is a specific kind of faith, that comes from a specific kind of hearing, which comes from a specific kind of Word. Faith, hearing and the Word of Christ are of the same kind. If anyone of these is of the flesh, then we can expect a fleshly outcome and as we know, the flesh profits us nothing.⁹

9 John 6:63

When the revealed Word of Christ is spoken by one who knows this Word, and one has the ability to hear in the Spirit, faith is the by-product of this spoken word being heard. Not a wishy washy kind of faith or a blind faith, but a faith that is assured of what it hopes for and has a conviction of things not seen.

The more we are living by this faith the more we will be a partaker of Christ. The more we are a partaker of Christ, the more we will be faithful to His heavenly calling on earth.

Hebrews 3:1-6 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession; He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honour than the house. For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house – whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

Gentleness

The eighth fruit of the nature of Eternal Life is gentleness.

Matthew 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

As in all things, Jesus is the one we look to when we want a reference point for who we are called to be and the nature within us we are called to have. Jesus had a gentle spirit, but we are not to confuse this with a weak spirit. He saw humanity's brokenness and he would always approach this brokenness from a place of gentleness and humility of heart.

Jesus never ever self-righteously judged anyone from a place of condemnation. This is what the religious self-righteous spirit does. Love was and is always the first position He approaches humanity with, as it is the way of restoration and reconciliation. It was the spirit of gentleness and love, which got Him into severe trouble with this religious spirit, because the religious spirit always approaches

humanity from a legalistic standpoint.

John 8:1-11 is a brilliant example of what I am referring to. Here are the last verses outworking themselves with the woman who was caught in physical adultery, and Jesus demonstrating the spirit of gentleness towards her.

John 8:10-11 Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."

All Jesus refers to in relation to her adultery, is that she go and from now on sin no more. He doesn't give her the riot act. He doesn't have to. She is fully aware of the Law and the breaking of the Law. Jesus is not condoning her behaviour, but He deals with her behaviour from a spirit of gentleness, a spirit of love. We too are to model this spirit of gentleness to one another and to all of humanity.

It is the same with the woman at the well in John 4. She has had five husbands and she has a current man in her life that is possibly going to be her sixth. Jesus doesn't start with this reality. He asks her if she wants living water. Love always looks for the root or the heart issue, to which love then responds from a spirit of gentleness in addressing the root issue. Jesus could see this woman was looking to apply a natural solution to a spiritual problem and His heart was moved in compassion for her, to see her set free from the real problem.

As we come more and more into Christ, who is eternal life, through the spirit of revelation, we too start imitating the way of Christ. It's important we note the difference between imitating and copying. One cannot fake this spirit of gentleness. Man's best attempts or efforts to be nice and kind through human effort, doesn't come close to being able to demonstrate this spirit of gentleness.

This is why Matthew 5:5 says **"Blessed are the gentle for they shall inherit the earth."**

This is the third beatitude out of the nine beatitudes that exist. What's important to note, is that for every beatitude there is a blessing and the blessing for being gentle in spirit, is that they shall inherit the earth.

What does this mean that those who are gentle in spirit would inherit the earth?

The earth is the place that God's spiritual kingdom is to be established upon, and one of the roles of the church is to inherit the earth to see God's estate or kingdom established upon it. As we learn who He is and who we are in Him, all from a place of revelation, we get as ambassadors of Christ, to take back some of the spiritual domain that has been lost to the demonic forces.

We inherit a measure of dominion or territory, which we steward and take care of as spiritual ambassadors who are gentle in spirit. We walk with Christ to see broken hearts and lives healed. We walk with Christ to see blind ears and eyes both spiritually and physically opened. We walk with Christ to see the lost reconciled and the found disciplined. In other words, we get to be part of God's restorative plan for humanity, ministering to all people from a spirit of gentleness while we are living on earth, knowing this is only for an appointed time in Him.

1 Peter 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defence to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

2 Timothy 2:24-26 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Self-Control

The ninth fruit of the nature of Eternal Life is self-control.

I am a firm believer that God is very specific in the order in which He places things, because He works everything in accordance to His design. Every part has its pre-measured place and fits perfectly into the divine order it has been created to be in. This is why self-control is last.

Self-control isn't the ability to control one's self or one's behaviour,

through one's own strength. This is the flesh trying to control the flesh. Remember self-control in this context is a fruit of the spirit, which is the nature of the eternal one. Self-control is when a person comes under the power of the Holy Spirit and allows the Spirit to lead them.

Jesus could have called down twelve legions of angels when He was arrested in the garden, but He didn't, because the fruit of self-control was at work within Him.

Matthew 26:51-54 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?"

Peter on the other hand, as we have just read, who doesn't have the fruit of self-control working within him, lashes out and chops off the ear of Malchus. Peter doesn't even have a reference for an eternal life yet and his behaviour is the evidence of this fact. He only knows an earthy and earthly life of the flesh within him, which he is constantly demonstrating through his exuberance and zeal.

Peter has plenty of fleshly strength and energy to do the things he isn't asked to do, but has zero of God's divine power operating within him to do the things Jesus instructs him to do, and it is because of this that he lacks self-control.

Because self-control is defined by love, the expression we see coming forth from a follower who is living from this Eternal Life and having it grow within them, is one of love. Followers who have this divine nature of self-control have the capacity to model peace and joy in times of pressure, testing and sufferings. Not because they are trying to but because this is the new nature of the Eternal Life living within them.

While Jesus was hanging on the cross He was spat at, taunted, mocked and ridiculed by the Roman soldiers, the other two thieves being crucified that day and the Israelite people, and yet He didn't

retaliate or speak a word against them. The fruit of self-control had Him live as His Father had commanded Him to live.

It was the same for Stephen when the religious leaders decided to take the matter into their own hands and stone him to death. The fruit of self-control was present in Stephen and we see this in the demonstration of his life firstly, and then in the words he spoke.

Acts 7: 59-60 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

Stephen doesn't run and preserve himself from death. His eyes are locked on the one who has given him an eternal life, knowing with full assurance and conviction, as he was a man full of faith, that although he was about to die physically, this was just a stepping stone to an eternal glory with His Father and the Son. Stephen was about to return home and it was this reality that empowered him to close his eyes and surrender his life for Christ's sake.

He didn't attempt to run and fight his way out of the situation he was confronted with. He didn't raise up his own stones in self-defence and fight for his life. He wasn't looking to get out of this life and death reality. He stood in the face of this demonic murdering spirit, asking the Father to forgive the people it was operating through, and said, "Lord receive my spirit."

This is an amazing example of having the eternal nature of self-control operating in and through your life.



4

**HOW DOES ONE
ENTER INTO THIS
ETERNAL LIFE?**



The simplest answer to this question with the fewest words is, “by keeping His commandments”.

Matthew 19:17 “But if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

The rich young ruler has just asked Jesus what he needs to do to obtain an eternal life, and this is the answer Jesus gives him.

There is absolutely nothing burdensome about these commandments once one has entered into this spiritual dimension of life in Christ.

Being able to keep the two Commandments

If we want to live out a life which is eternal, then we must be able to keep the eternal commandments of God. The commandments of divine love.

These are the very words of Jesus Christ Himself. If we want to enter into and have built within us the nature, characteristics and power of an eternal life, then we need to be able to keep the 2

Commandments that all the Law and the Prophets depend on. We need to be able to do what is impossible in our ability and strength, but what is fully possible when we live a life which is in Him.

The rich young ruler makes the same fatal mistake that unfortunately, many are still making today in His body.

When Jesus lists the Commandments that are to be kept, the rich young ruler automatically replies with “All these things I have kept.” It’s no different today. Many in the body will tell you that they love God and are keeping His Commandments. Why is this the case? Because of what we think it means to keep God’s commandments.

In the rich young rulers own mind, reality and understanding, he has kept the commandments that needed to be kept, so he can’t work out what the issue is. Once again, it can be no different today.

Proverbs says there is a way that seems right to a man but it ends in death.

Proverbs 14:12 *There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*

This rich young ruler is operating from his own understanding. He is actively operating from earthly demonic wisdom, when it comes to the commandments, but is completely unaware of this which is why he proceeds to ask Jesus, “What am I still lacking?”

Matthew 19:20 *The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?”*

If the rich young ruler was actually keeping the Commandments the way the Father instructs, he wouldn’t be lacking anything and he certainly wouldn’t be asking the question. Why, because he would know the living dimension to the question he is asking, which is no different today.

What the rich young ruler is still lacking, is the thing that many are still lacking in His body today. He is lacking Lordship. While he had done many things for God, his life was not yet surrendered to God. (We will unpack more of the reality of Lordship to Christ in chapter 8.)

The command God gives us to love Him with all we are is to become the most innate response out of the heart of the follower of

Christ, because of the supernatural divine work of the Spirit within a person.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

Ephesians 3:14-19 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

What is spoken by God (His spiritual Word) and written down by man on paper through the agency of God, the Holy Spirit, is now being engraved, etched, tattooed, written on our hearts and minds, which brings us into the knowledge of God, empowering us to live out the two greatest Commandments and in turn be a recipient of an eternal life. This is all a work of divine grace and grace alone.

John 12:49-50 For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

These 2 verses above are massive insights into how all this work of transformation happens within the hearts and minds of God's people, empowering us to be one with Him, become like Him and walk and live as He did – the Eternal life now. Not gods, but Christ-like followers.

Let's start with these words which are Spirit and Life, "I know that His commandment is eternal life."

Jesus is making things extremely clear and simple here for all those who have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying. The keeping of the commandment of God and eternal life are intrinsically intertwined as one spiritual dimension. Jesus knows this is not His commandment but His Father's commandment, to which He is also

fully aware that His Father's commandment is of an eternal life, an eternal not earthly substance.

There is no way those of earth can keep eternal commands. Only those of Christ, the Eternal One can keep eternal commandments through grace. Without this knowledge, God's people perish in relation to receiving the fullest measure of an eternal life now. An eternal life we are all to be coming into and living from now.

This Commandment like the entire Word of God comes from another dimension.

As we keep His word through divine grace, the love of God is perfected in us, empowering us to be able to keep God's love commandments.

1 John 2:5-6 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

God's commandments are not new; in fact, they have been in place from before the beginning of Creation. God's conclusions were set in Him before the foundations of the earth and they cannot be altered or changed. God's design is all based around receiving life, and we don't get to determine any of this. Our role is to just receive what already is established and complete.

1 John 2:7-8 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.

We can see from this passage of truth, that the commandments that were given to Moses by God are the same commandments that Jesus taught His disciples. Now that we have established how one obtains or inherits and grows in an eternal life, let's look at where we are to receive these commandments.



5

**WHERE ARE
THE GREATEST
COMMANDMENTS TO
BE RECEIVED?**



For this answer we need to look no further than Deuteronomy 6:4-9 **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Let’s look at v6 for this answer. “**These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.**”

Verses 8 and 9 also define places where the Commandments are to be. Let’s have a look at what these verses indicate.

“You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your

house and on your gates.”

These three verses identify five places in which the Commandments of God are to be upon. Let's list them in the eternal divine order, so we can clearly see them and know exactly where these Commandments are to be and in the order God has given them. God doesn't make mistakes and is intentional about everything He says and does.

1st The heart

2nd The hand

3rd The forehead

4th The door posts to our homes

5th The gates of our property

We also see Deuteronomy 11:18 use the word “soul”, which as we know is defined by our mind, will and emotions.

The greatest Commandments are to be literally engraved on every aspect of us as a people, including our homes and properties. Who we are, what we own and possess, is to be consumed, engulfed and forged by the greatest Commandments God has given us as His church.

So let's start with God's first placed position and ask the “why” question. Why is the heart, the first place God instructs His Commandments are to be upon?

The HEART

The heart is the FIRST place we are to have the Commandments engraved because the heart is the place of understanding through revelation. The heart is the epicentre of all life, in other words the control system of our very being. In the natural or temporal world, the mind is the first place of understanding, but in the spiritual kingdom, the eternal, the heart is the first place of hearing, seeing and understanding.

This is why when we attempt to understand what God says through our minds first, we never come into the true knowledge of God that makes us free. We are using the natural, earthly, demonic operating system of learning, believing we are going to receive Life.

This is why the Scriptures testify we must guard and protect our heart, only entrusting it to God and not man. We are not to receive or allow anything to come into it which is of darkness. We are taught not to come short of the grace of God, so that no root of bitterness can spring up and get itself established within us, causing all sorts of trouble and defiling many.

Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.

Our hearts are the wellspring of life and this is why we must guard and protect them in relation to what we allow in, hence John 4 talks about us all being a well of water, a well spring of life. The heart is to inform and educate all the other areas the Commandments are to be upon, starting with the hands.

The HANDS

The hands are the second place that the Commandments are to be upon.

Man builds with his hands. When the heart informs the hands, man stops trying to build what only God can build, using God's name to do his own will. Instead, he is the one who is being built in alignment to God, while at the same time supporting and encouraging this very same building work happening in the lives of those around him. When the heart informs the hands, the building work man is engaged in becomes prayer, the demonstration of the revelation he has received, walking with and loving others as God loves them, declaring The Word and inviting others on the journey to truly come to know the Father through divine revelation.

Jesus is the builder of His church and Jesus is the builder of His kingdom, called the kingdom of God, which is to be established within the hearts, minds and body of His church.

If man believes he is the builder and is attempting to build the church or the kingdom of God, then this man's hands are being informed by his mind, keeping this man highly functional at his core, operating from his own strength and not the power of God.

A follower of Jesus who thinks we are the builders of the church

or the builders of the kingdom, is a blind guide, who will lead many to doing only functional works as opposed to knowing the person of Christ Himself.

Jesus makes it very clear to us who the builder of the church is and He makes it very clear where the kingdom of God is, and how it is expressed in the earth.

Matthew 16:18 I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Luke 17:20-21 Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."

We don't build the church or the kingdom, and the Scriptures clearly testify to this. Jesus also said "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the gospel."¹⁰

If the kingdom is at hand, then it comes as an already established kingdom with the One who brings it. We don't need to build it, but it is to be built and formed within us, so it can come through us.

All those who believe it's about building the kingdom, as opposed to having the King establish His kingdom within them, will lack the values, characteristics and life changing qualities of the kingdom within them. Things like being poor in spirit and having a hunger and thirst for righteousness, will have little value to those who think they build the kingdom.

There is no building of the kingdom with human hands, just the administration of it through the divine power of God working in us and through us.

The FOREHEAD

The third place we see the Commandments are to be upon is the forehead, or the mind. What's interesting is we also see the word "soul" used in Deuteronomy¹¹. We know the soul is broken into three parts,

¹⁰ Mark 1:15

being the mind, the will and the emotions. When the Commandments are engraved on our soul, it is engraved on our will, and our minds which defines our emotions.

The forehead represents and is symbolic of our minds, so it becomes very clear where God wants His Commandments. The mind is always in catchup mode in the spirit to what the heart and hands are already doing. This is the way of the kingdom. The heart, being the first place of the Commandments, informs the hands of man, and in turn the hands of man are working in absolute alignment to the hands of heaven. The work of God is taking place in and through God's people while the mind is being renewed and coming into the understanding of what is already taking place. The mind is playing catch up with what the hands and heart are already outworking. This is highly significant, because it flows in completely the opposite direction to the kingdom of darkness or the world, where the mind is the first place of understanding and the heart is the third.

In the kingdom of darkness, the mind or the intellect is informing the hands, which means the hands are building in alignment to the kingdom of darkness, which informs the heart, creating a hardened and calloused heart full of unbelief. As we live out this reality we are walking away from God rather than with Him, but we are completely unaware of this. We are completely void of the reality we read about in the scriptures and yet we never stop and ask why. We simply continue doing the same things we've always done, working harder at it and still receiving the same results.

When the commandments are written on our heart, hands and mind in the divine order they were given, the reality of the scriptures becomes our reality from the inside out. This divine eternal pattern empowers us to live out a Commandment empowered life.

The DOORPOSTS

The fourth place the Commandments are to be upon, are the doorposts, which represent our physical homes. Our homes where our family members live, are to be Commandment centred, inspired, empowered and led homes. We see this reality in Deuteronomy 6:7.

Deuteronomy 6:7 You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Every single person in our physical families are to have the Great Commandments embedded on their hearts, hands, and heads through the power of the Spirit, because they live in a home which is Commandment-centred. We can draw another awesome analogy from this home/doorpost reality. The Scriptures describe us as being a house, a home, a temple in which the Spirit of God abides. The door posts represent our hearts which Jesus knocks on, wondering if we will open the door and invite Him in.¹¹ Too often this passage has been used as a truth to reach lost people, but the context for which the heart must be opened is not a lost person, but in fact a found person.

What would the church look like if every single member of the church had the Commandments of God infused upon their entire being as a follower of Jesus? What would our gatherings look like if this was the case? What would the world see and read about us, because we are letters to them? What would the letter say? What would be the tangible reflection and demonstration of the church, to a lost and hurting world, if this was in fact our reality?

Deuteronomy 6:7 is very clear. Parents if you confess to be a follower of Jesus, have you and are you raising up your children with the testimony of the Great Commandments, as you are instructed to by God? If not, then why not? Perhaps it is because you yourself are not yet a Commandment infused follower, and so you don't know where to start? I urge you to start seeking God for His truth and love to be formed in you, so you can be found faithful as a parent to what you have been commanded to live out.

A natural family and a church family who have the Great Commandments written on their hearts, hands and minds, will be in divine spiritual fellowship with the Father, Son and Spirit and one another, fulfilling the prayer of Jesus in John 17. This is nothing short of breathtaking.

¹¹ Revelation 3:20

The GATES

The fifth and final place the Commandments are to be written, is upon the gates of our properties. This is exactly like the doorposts which represent our physical properties. As people who own physical properties, the Commandments are to be infused into the DNA of all we are and own.

God is clearly making His point known to us as His people through these verses. He raises up Commandment empowered people, who are in Covenant with Him. The gate and door are very symbolic, because they are both entry points. The gate being the entry point onto a person's property and the door being an entry point into the person's home. Gates and doors have double purposes though. They allow access and they deny access to the property. The heart is the same. It allows access or denies access.

If we allow the truth in and deny the lie, we are promised and guaranteed abundant life, but if we allow the lie in and deny the truth, then we are promised and guaranteed death. The soul is no different. Each and every one of us starts life covered up and over, protecting ourselves, and void of the substance of spiritual life within us. Because of this our first point of call is to cover over, accuse, blame, excuse, justify, ignore, and hide from Him and His Way, which keeps us out of life in Him.

Only when we start to truly open up our hearts and become incredibly vulnerable, exposed, naked, transparent, real and honest, can we have any chance of coming into this IN HIM LIFE, through the receiving and engraving of His Greatest Commandments and live a Commandment infused life.

In this chapter we have looked at the five areas the Great Commandments are to be upon, in the eternal order that the Spirit of God has given us. It is essential that we all have the Great Commandments written on all these areas of our lives and in the order to which the Spirit has spoken and written.

The Great Deception

1 Corinthians 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.

The greatest deception to this Commandment testimony is the fact that one can still be used by God, using His name in which all authority is found, to do external works for Him and still not know God and love God or others. I believe many in the body of Christ have fallen foul of this great deception, keeping them outside of the abundant life promised to one living a Commandment led life. The fact that we can function outside of this abundant Commandment led life prevents us from seeing the mysteries that have been concealed for us to discover.

This very functional lifestyle for Christ matches our very functional inner realm, keeping us completely and utterly satisfied with our current lives, while also keeping us out of divine fellowship on the inside. We are void of any inner spiritual fruit or attitudes of being, but we don't really care enough to do anything about that, because of the value, accomplishment, meaning and the sense of purpose we are receiving in what we are doing for Him.

When our relationship with Christ is built and formed on external works, as opposed to being built and formed on love, and who we are in Him, we will fall short of having the Great Commandments written on our hearts, hands, minds, doorposts and gates. This in turn causes us to be void of the eternal inner abundant life on the inside of us which is associated with the Commandments.

What we become known for is our works rather than being a people of love, who love as their Creator loves. We become a people just like the Israelites who in the name of God neglect and set aside the Commandments of God in order to keep our own traditions and ways.

Mark 7:6-9,13 And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honours Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me.' But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' Neglecting the commandment

of God, you hold to the tradition of men.” He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.

V13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.”

We don’t believe we do this because we are very busy for God, but as God himself says, unless we have lost our lives for His sake and are only doing everything from the Spirit initiating everything, it is all our works which will be burnt up at our judgement seat.

The Scriptures are very clear. Unless we have the love I am talking about operating in and through us, we are just clanging cymbals and all our efforts mean nothing. When we lead from the mind first we are instantly setting ourselves up for deception. Paul said he was afraid for the Corinthian church that they were being led astray in their minds by the craftiness of the serpent, just like Eve was in the garden, when the serpent appealed to her mind, by telling her she could be just like God if she ate from the tree she was commanded not to eat from.

The serpent appealed to Eve’s natural eyes which are connected to the natural or carnal mind and he also appeals to our natural eyes and minds in the hope that we too, just like Eve, take the bait and are led into spiritual death, by trying to know and understand God through the mind first. Without even realising this we sabotage our own spiritual life if we embark on this journey of the mind first.

As we are led astray from the simplicity and purity of a devoted love relationship of the heart with the Lord, we as he says, can easily find ourselves receiving another Jesus, a different spirit or a different gospel and bearing this beautifully, without ever knowing this. This leads us away from the Commandments on our hearts and so in turn, we miss out on all the corresponding life which the Scriptures declare are a byproduct of the Commandments.

The two tables below make it very clear to us what the divine eternal operating system of God is compared to the earthly operating system of man.

<i>God</i>	<i>Man</i>
1. Heart	1. Head
2. Hands	2. Hands
3. Head	3. Heart

It is imperative we operate and live from God's divine pattern.



6

**HOW DO THE GREAT
COMMANDMENTS
GET TO BE ON OUR
HEARTS?**



The answer: Through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This may or may not surprise you, but the way God got His word, the ten commandments on the two tablets of stone, is the exact same way God will get the word of God, the two commandments on our hearts. The synergy here between the two realities is breathtaking.

The “how to” is probably the most asked question there is within the body of Christ. There is a “how to” and it’s extremely simple, yet many still ask the “how to” question, when they have already been given the answer. Why do we do this? It’s because we have not yet experienced the “how to” of the Spirit.

Romans 2:29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter...

Only when we have experienced God’s “how to” by the Spirit will we stop asking this question.

It is right here, that we have to put down all our own ways of understanding, all of what we think, all our ways of learning, what

we believe we know, and hear what the Spirit is about to say. Failure to hear in the Spirit what I am about to say, will have you continuing to ask for the “how to” and you will write off as foolishness what I am about to share, because it appears way too simple.

The Spirit *IS* the “how to”.

1 Corinthians 2:10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

We say, “Yes we know the Spirit is the how to” and then we go right ahead and ask for the “how to” again and again and again. You might be saying to yourself right now that I have already mentioned this and that I am repeating myself and you would be absolutely right. Ask yourself why I am repeating myself, because have you ever caught yourself doing this? Asking for the “how to” when you have been given the “how to?”

This is because our yes is only a mental agreement, rather than receiving through experience, a living conviction of the Spirit in the heart through the power of revelation which causes us to believe.

The passage above from Romans and Corinthians are brilliant Scriptures which clearly give us the answer we seek. **“For to us God revealed them through the Spirit.”** There it is in black and white for all to read. The “*them*” Paul is referring to here, is all the things that God has prepared for those who love Him. All the things which eye hasn’t seen, ear hasn’t heard and has not yet entered the heart of man.¹²

The role of the Holy Spirit is to reveal all these unseen things that God has already prepared for those who love him. Paul then reinforces this truth just two verses later when he shares this.

1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.

Once again we are made fully aware of the “how to” in relation to coming into the eternal life that is discovered within the Christ. The Spirit’s role is to bring to light and life this Eternal Life, by engraving or writing His Word on our hearts and minds. This is all

¹² 1 Corinthians 2:9

accomplished through God's divine grace.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbour and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Hebrews 8:10-11 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, And I will write them on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people." "And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, and everyone his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' For all will know Me, From the least to the greatest of them.

1 John 2:27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

It is from this divine work of the Spirit writing His Eternal Word on our hearts, that one now finds themselves fully capable and empowered to be able to keep the two Commandments of God and be the recipient of this Eternal Life.

When we look at the beginning of the book we see the exact same pattern emerging for how God got the ten commandments on the two tablets of stone.

Exodus 31:18 When He had finished speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God.

Exodus 32:16 The tablets were God's work, and the writing was God's writing engraved on the tablets.

Deuteronomy 4:13 So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.

It is explicitly clear how God got the 10 Commandments on the two tablets of stone and it is just as clear and explicit how God gets His two Commandments on the modern tablets of stone, our hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:2-6 You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Engraved, written by the finger of God. Wow, now that's incredible. There is nothing of man in this process. Can man stomach the fact that he has no part in this process?

God the Spirit wrote them then and today He also writes them. It's that simple and sure. Moses wasn't there with a chisel and a mallet, etching the Word of God into these two tablets. Just like it's not natural ink that writes the letter we are becoming, but the Spirit of God. They are one and the same kind – the Spirit. The Commandments were written and are written on human hearts through the power of the Spirit.

What is this telling us about God?

He not only provides the stones, the new heart, but He engraves, He writes His eternal gospel of His Son, through His divine power on both. The part we play is to allow God to do this divine work within us, firstly by the losing and laying down of our lives in view of His

mercy. This is why our spiritual act of worship is in the presenting of our entire being as a living and holy sacrifice. This is what God finds acceptable, not all of our empty words and works for Him.

Romans 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

This is to be our true beginning position. If we haven't yet allowed Him to go to work within us, we won't know this inner abiding life in Christ in the deepest recesses of our being. It's as simple as that. If we haven't done this, then the Spirit cannot write the Commandments on our hearts, which means the Commandments are literally not on our hearts.

This means we are void of the life that is upon these Commandments and we cannot live out the Commandments. This is a disastrous reality for a people who are to be in both of the spiritual dimensions mentioned above – Life and Love.

Look at these verses in 2 Corinthians 3:4-5 **"Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God."**

What a declaration of truth by Paul. A man who at one stage in his life as Saul, said the complete opposite and declared his confidence was in his ability to keep the law through his own righteousness. Wow, what an absolute reversal.

Paul did not consider anything as coming from himself and we too are not to consider anything as coming from ourselves. We are completely inadequate to bring anything of eternal value or worth. We like Paul bring absolutely nothing to God, apart from a broken spirit and a contrite heart.

We are eternally transformed internally, by receiving His resurrection power within us. It is only as we allow and receive this inner work of the Spirit that we truly come to know God and are now capable of keeping these eternal Commandments.

1 John 2:3-6 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

Let's take a look at the spiritual sanctification process of God for us as His people. Paul is once again the author of this truth, because he is experiencing the literal work of the Spirit's power within him. This is what it means to have the Spirit teaching him directly. The way the Spirit teaches us, is to perform the work in us. This is how we learn and come into the knowledge of God within us. This is how we come into this eternal life, which is what the next passage of Scripture testifies to.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-15 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.

It is here that I want to address this statement of truth, "**that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**"

The outcome of the ongoing process of sanctification is to have the Commandments of God, the Word of God, written upon our hearts and because of this, the glory of God will rest in and upon us.

If we have entered into God's Way of salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth, then we will have the glory of God upon our hearts and radiating from us. It is a guaranteed promise of and from God Himself.

The divine connection between Exodus 31:18, 32:16, Deuteronomy 4:13, 2 Corinthians 3:2-18, 2 Corinthians 4:7-18, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-4, 7-8, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15 and 1 Thessalonians 2:13-14 is nothing short of breathtaking. All these passages are about God's glory being

upon our hearts, due to the Commandments being written on our hearts.

We are called to be ministers or priests of this new Covenant. A Covenant where the first instruction, is to be able to keep the Great Commandments. The outcome of this means His glory is within us and we now become ministers of His glory into the earth. Christ in us the hope of glory. We get to release this eternal life – Christ, into the earth.

God's glory was on stone, because of the Word of God, the 10 Commandments were written on those stone tablets. The glory was not in Moses but was upon Moses and his face shone. This is the old, but we are to be in the new. The new, is that the glory is now in us and increasing within us, from one measure to another. If the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory.

We are to go from glory to glory by experiencing His Word being continuously written on our hearts and minds by the Spirit. We can't just claim this as a follower of Jesus, because we say we believe in Him. If this divine work is not truly happening of the Spirit, then it is not happening. Just because we say it is or like to believe it is, doesn't mean we are the recipients, benefactors and demonstrators of His glory.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:15-18 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

As this powerful work of the Spirit takes place in the deepest recesses of our being, the glory of God which is His presence, His fire, His power, His eternal life, literally His son in us, burns at an extreme heat, and rages like a destructive fire, not burning us up,

but consuming all and every part of our being. We are to be like the burning bush, ablaze while not burning up. This is to be every New Testament followers experience and life. All this becomes the new life in us, when the greatest Commandments are engraved on our hearts by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

As we know the glory of God was upon the Commandments of God, because the Commandments of God is His Word, and His Word is His Son. Jesus Christ is the radiance of the glory of God, so to the measure we have Christ revealed in us, is to the measure the glory is in us.

2 Corinthians 3:7-8 But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory?

Even though the 10 Commandments, the Word of God was a ministry of death to the Israelite people, because only those of the Spirit could keep them, this didn't alter the fact that there was still incredible glory/power on the tablets, because it was God who wrote His Word upon them.

Acts 7:38 This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you.

Roman 7:12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Now that we, the people of God have the Spirit fully available to us, to write these Commandments on our hearts, there is no reason why we can't keep these Commandments and have the glory of God continuously being formed within us.

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."



7

**WHAT IS THE
IMPACT OF THE
COMMANDMENTS
ENGRAVED ON OUR
HEARTS?**



As the commandments are engraved on our hearts, the outcome is the formation of Christ's Life in us. We are the recipients of the building of this eternal life in us.

I want us to look at two powerful examples of what happens when the commandments, the Eternal word of God which contains the glory of God, are written on the two stone tablets. I want us to take some time to ponder what this will mean for us if these very commandments are now written upon our hearts.

The two tablets of stone, which contained the 10 Commandments, were the only things that were put in the ark of the covenant and as a result God's glory and power filled the ark. In itself there was nothing special about the ark of the Lord. What made it so special was what was in fact inside it.

2 Chronicles 5:10 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets which Moses put there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with

the sons of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

Let us look at 1 Samuel 6:7-12 for our first powerful example of what happens when God's Commandments which are filled with His glory, come into contact with earth.

1 Samuel 6:7-12 Now therefore, take and prepare a new cart and two milch cows on which there has never been a yoke; and hitch the cows to the cart and take their calves home, away from them. Take the ark of the Lord and place it on the cart; and put the articles of gold which you return to Him as a guilt offering in a box by its side. Then send it away that it may go. Watch, if it goes up by the way of its own territory to Beth-shemesh, then He has done us this great evil. But if not, then we will know that it was not His hand that struck us; it happened to us by chance." Then the men did so, and took two milch cows and hitched them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home. They put the ark of the Lord on the cart, and the box with the golden mice and the likenesses of their tumours. And the cows took the straightway in the direction of Beth-shemesh; they went along the highway, lowing as they went, and did not turn aside to the right or to the left. And the lords of the Philistines followed them to the border of Beth-shemesh.

There are a number of key observations we can make from this passage, which reinforce and give a tangibly visual demonstration of the power of the Commandments.

The **first observation** is in the cows that were given to pull the cart that contained the ark of the Covenant. The cows used are milch cows, which carry a high financial value and when sold, gain a massive profit for the owner who owns them. These cows were given freely for the carrying of the ark. The **second observation** is that these very expensive cows, who had never been yoked together, were about to be yoked together for the very first time to work as one and pull this cart. The **third observation** which is profound, is that these milch cows had recently given birth and have their calves shut up from them, while they will be used to pull this cart.

Can you imagine taking a young child away from its mother, with the mother never knowing if she will see her child again? Everything in a natural mother would scream no, unless they had the capacity to

see and value the eternal weight of the eternal demonstration they were to be a part of. This would have to be greater than even the most precious and important of natural responsibilities. The **fourth observation** is that the cart, which was not driven by man but by two milch cows, did not turn aside to the right or the left, but stayed on the straight and narrow way to Beth-shemesh.

The **fifth observation** was that the two tablets of stone, which contained the Eternal Word of God, which held His glory, were not physically touching the cows, unlike Moses who held them, but were in a box, sitting on a cart, probably some three metres away from physical distance and yet look at the profound impact on the natural, these Commandments are having.

Every aspect of the natural is being divinely impacted and overcome by these Commandments, the Word of God which are written on Stone. The glory or the Presence of God is upon the Word of God, so where the Presence is, the Power is, and the Power of God trumped all the natural fleshly connections in relation to this situation.

Q. What can we learn spiritually from this physical reality?

That the Presence, the glory of God is much more powerful than anything of the flesh, the natural, the physical order and realm and it completely overrides, dominates, determines and empowers what God says and wants to happen. There is no maybe or doubt, it happens. The power of God resides within the Presence of God and in the Presence of God we see His glory. When the Presence of God is presently present, the work of God happens and is performed. The cart made its way to Beth-shemesh the way it was instructed to.

Let's have a look at another powerful example from 2 Samuel 6:6-7 on the glory being upon the tablets of stone.

2 Samuel 6:6-7 But when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset it. And the anger of the Lord burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.

Once again we are talking about a box that is sitting on a cart, this time being pulled by oxen, or are we? No, we are talking about the

incredible presence and power that lives within this box called the ark of the covenant, where God's glory sits and resides upon 2 tablets of stone, which are housed inside this box.

Uzzah ultimately died because he had no reverence for what is of the Lord. We can view this life-giving account and think God is incredibly harsh and cold towards Uzzah. I mean all he was trying to do was help keep the ark of the covenant from falling off the cart. Man's good intentions are just that, good intentions. They lack the awe, wonder, reverence and holiness of God and they are vial and foul in the eyes of God and must be dealt with accordingly, so man grasps the significance of only doing what God asks for.

When we live lives of irreverence in relation to God and His 2 Great Commandments, we are dying spiritually on the inside. We live exactly like Uzzah, being in complete irreverence for the very things we are to be in awe and wonder to. We live in a way that is opposite and anti-God. We hold no value to what we should be valuing, and although we don't get struck down like Uzzah and physically die because love is covering us, we are dying in our inner realm.

If we hold no value for the Great Commandments, for which the inner life is birthed and formed, then there is a real danger that our inner realm is void of any true spiritual substance.

Of course some say we do and we say we love God and keep His Commandments, but to what standard are we measuring ourselves by? That's easy, our own earthly standards. To love God and love people is not to love as earthlings do, but to love as God loves.

Let's now look at some of the New Testament examples of the Commandments being written on our hearts by the Finger of God and what this empowers.

When we receive the Commandments on our hearts we find ourselves being able to live and love like Christ. Here are examples of this through the lives of Paul, Stephen and the disciples.

Acts 7:59-60 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 5:40-42 They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:21-31 To my shame I must say that we have been weak by comparison. But in whatever respect anyone else is bold – I speak in foolishness – I am just as bold myself. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? – I speak as if insane – I more so; in far more labour's, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches. Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern? If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

All this becomes fully possible for us as His people when we have the Commandments written on our hearts by the power of the Spirit.

When we receive the Commandments, the Word of God, on our heart we come into the true knowledge of God. We come to know the Eternal life, because to know Him is eternal life.

John 12:50 I know that His commandment is eternal life...

John 17:3 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

It is from this place of truly knowing the Father, that we are now

fully capable and able to keep His Commandments.

1 John 2:3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

The Commandments we are commanded to keep, are not earthly commands. Earthly commands are able to be achieved through earthly abilities, strengths and resources. These are Eternal commands from an Eternal being. We can only keep His eternal commands if we are in eternal life, and we only come into this eternal life, through the true knowing of our Lord and Saviour.

To the follower who keeps His eternal Word, His Commandments, God's love is perfected within them.

1 John 2:5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

This is an absolute promise in Him. What He says becomes our reality. He does not lie and what He promises, He performs on. God even gives us a statement of truth at the end of this verse, so we can know for sure if we are in Him or not. This is how good He is. The evidence of being in Christ, is having God's love being perfected in you, through the keeping of His Word. You can know for certain, that if the love of God is being perfected in you, then you are abiding in Christ, and if it is not, you are not abiding in Christ.

The outcome of the reality above, is that we start living the abiding life in Christ. When we live in the abiding life of Christ, we start to walk in the manner in which He walked. The manner in which He walked was love. When we walk in love we fulfil the law of Christ, the law of love.

1 John 2:6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

So we can see from these verses, that there is a consecutive order, a precept upon precept reality. This reality is an eternal one.

Being able to keep God's commandments, means we become partakers and recipients of God's incredible promises. Let's have a look at the natural or physical promises for the Israelites, from the Scriptures in Deuteronomy, who would enter the promised land and keep His Commandments.

Deuteronomy 6:10-11 “Then it shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied.

We can see from these two verses that there are five clear promises from God to the Israelite people, if they would keep His Commandments. God promised to give them:

1. Great and splendid cities which they didn't build.
2. Houses full of good things which they did not fill.
3. Hewn cisterns which they did not dig.
4. Vineyards and olive trees which they didn't plant.
5. The promise of being satisfied from the eating of everything God has done and supplied.

This is incredible. God would give all of this to them. Did you hear that? God would give all of this to them. They wouldn't have to work and toil and strive for these things. God would give all of this to His people out of His love and kindness.

Now I want us to fast forward to today and unpack what this all looks like for us now. All the things mentioned above are of the natural or physical order, and we as God's people are not receiving cities and cisterns and vineyards etc. What are the life giving spiritual promises for us that become living in us, in a tangible and real way, which we reflect and express through demonstration as His people, because we too are keeping these exact same Commandments?

God promises to give us:

1. The overflowing fruit of His Spirit.
2. The overflowing spiritual attitudes of being and the promises associated with them.
3. The future promises or inheritance in Him now.
4. Divine fellowship/spiritual oneness with God and one another.
5. The overcoming, more than conquering life in Christ in us.

This is the inner eternal life in Christ being built in us, as the Spirit engraves all of God's Word, His Commandments, which are spirit on

our hearts. The Spirit is also renewing our minds and our bodies are able to demonstrate the manifold wisdom of God upon the earth. This is how we as the church are all called to live.

Ephesians 3:8-12 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

Luke 7:35 Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”



8

WHY WE CANNOT
KEEP THE
COMMANDMENTS
THROUGH OUR
STRENGTH



It's a fundamental truth, that while we remain the source or the lord of our own lives, it is impossible to keep God's eternal commandments of love.

The spirit of pride which we are all born in and with, will ultimately deny and reject what the Father has predestined to do in us, because it refuses to let go and relinquish control of itself unto God.

2 Timothy 3:5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

This spirit of pride which lives and takes up its residency in the hidden, inner most being part of our hearts, must be crucified with the Christ, if it is to cease living, releasing us from the grip of its incredible strength.

The spirit of pride is the ultimate strongman or stronghold in all of us, which must be circumcised or crucified by the Spirit's power, for us to be able to live the lives we have been chosen and called for

in Him. We can be justified by Jesus' blood but still have the spirit of pride as our root system, determining and defining how we live.

There is no other way, than having this spirit of pride crucified, if we want to be able to live this eternal life out now.

Deuteronomy 30:6 "Moreover the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.

Psalms 51:16-17 For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Romans 2:28-29 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

We must be willing to offer up our entire bodies as a living sacrifice holy and pleasing to God, losing our entire lives for the purpose of the deep spiritual circumcision of the heart and the renewing of the mind. It's circumcision of the heart first and the renewing of the mind second, as previously stated.

It's the circumcision of the heart that leads to Lordship of the heart. Only when we are in Lordship in Christ can we be wholeheartedly abandoned to Christ. Lordship is the spiritual inner posture of one's heart, before it's a physical act of obedience. Let me give us an example of this through the life of Peter.

Peter professed to have left everything to follow Jesus.

Matthew 19:27 Then Peter said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?"

Yes, Peter left his wife, other relationships, his job and his home, but did he in fact leave everything as he so boldly declares? What do we notice about all the things listed above? They are all external realities. The one thing that Peter hadn't left or lost is the same thing the

rich young ruler hadn't left or lost, and today it's the one thing many followers have not left or lost – one's inner self, the spirit of pride.

Both Peter and the rich young ruler lacked true Lordship in their hearts at this point in their lives. The rich young ruler was still firmly fixed and positioned on being his own god, his own lord, and as much as we may hate to recognise and acknowledge this ourselves, are we too in fact guilty and found in the very same position as the rich young ruler and Peter? This is a question we must all ask ourselves through the lens of the Father's love, because until we do, we can never come into the fullness of an eternal life now and be made complete.

Do we only have Jesus as our Saviour, but not as the Lord of our lives, hence we, like the rich young ruler, have no idea what it is to be complete in Christ. The evidence of this lack of Lordship in a follower's life, is in fact the idols one has. Having idols in one's life is the evidence of the lack of Lordship. Idols are anything from a person to a possession. An idol is anything you love more than God. He is either Lord of all or He is not Lord at all.

Lordship isn't firstly about what you do or don't do, but who He is in you. Lordship is the most beautiful and freeing position one can be in and under in Christ. To not see Lordship this way, may mean that we do not know what it means to be under Christ's Lordship. If the word Lordship invokes negative connotations in relation to Christ or Christ's way, then this is a sign that one is not in and under kingdom Lordship. One may think and believe they are but they are not.

This is where the true significance of knowing Him within you as Lord first and Saviour second, as opposed to Saviour first and only knowing Him as Lord in words, impacts everything. Did we get saved into Lordship the day we received Christ, falling on the Cornerstone and having the lord of our own lives being broken into pieces, never to be put back together again, or did we just receive Him as Saviour, and give a verbal agreement about Him being our Lord.

Christ is either Lord of your entire life or He is not Lord at all. Lordship isn't an 80/20 split; it is a 100% all or nothing reality.

Do we in fact still need to fall on the chief Cornerstone and receive Christ as our Lord? Our lives will be the very evidence of this truth,

because Truth is self-evident. These two realities may sound similar but they are absolutely nothing alike.

How can one become complete when one is not in and under the Lordship of Christ? The rich young ruler had only incorporated Jesus and His teaching into his life, hence he has all this idolatry in his life.

Matthew 19:22 But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.

He certainly didn't have Jesus and His Word as his Lord and source of life, and Jesus knew this, just like He knows it today in our own lives.

Are you still lacking the one thing that the rich young ruler was lacking in his life? Are you still the god, the source, the lord of your own life like this rich young ruler and because of this, living a life of idolatry? If we love people, passions or possessions more than God, we are in fact still lacking the one thing the rich young ruler was lacking. We are lacking Lordship. Jesus is only our Lord through our words but not in our living reality.

If this is the case then we too will not be able to keep the two greatest commandments given to us by God to keep, because we don't yet have Him as our source and strength where we need Him – in our inner most being place. It is as simple as that.

Psalms 51:5-6 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

The commandments of God are spiritual and call us to live from the divine life and power of the spirit in us. Natural, physical strength does not have capacity to keep the spiritual commandments of God.

As much as we may try to keep these commandments through our own strength and ability, the truth is, we fundamentally cannot. We are incapable of keeping God's eternal commandments from earth's strength and perspective, because as we know, the flesh profits us nothing when it comes to living a life in the spirit.

Our adequacy comes from the Father and the Father alone. Everything in God needs to be a divine work of Grace, and keeping the commandments are no different.

2 Corinthians 3:4-6 Such confidence we have through Christ toward

God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

If we cannot save ourselves through our ability and we cannot change ourselves through our own ability, then why would we ever think or believe we can keep God's eternal commands through our own ability?

In understanding why, we cannot keep these commandments in and through us, we need to look at the origins of the commandments. We need to ask questions like, "Who is the giver of these commandments?" "What is the origin or source of the commandments?"

It's important to note that these commandments are not new commandments.

1 John 2:7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.

These are the same commandments the Israelites were given, so we are not on our own when it comes to not being able to do the thing we have been commanded to do.

We have already answered, in Chapter 6, "Who is the giver of these commandments?"

Exodus 24:12 Now the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction."

With God being the giver of the commandments, this leads us to ask the second question, "What is the origin or source of the commandments?" We know God is Spirit so the origin of the commandments is deeply rooted in God who is Spirit.

Romans 7:12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Only those who are of the Spirit, empowered by the Spirit, who walk in the Spirit and live in the Spirit, are able to keep the Law and the spiritual commandments of God.

This is why the Israelites could not keep the Law, because the Law was of the Spirit and the Spirit had not yet been poured out within them. How can one keep a law or a command of the Spirit when one is not of that “kind”? It is no different today.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.

Someone who lives their life from the flesh cannot keep the holy commands of God by this mode of operation. This applies not only to the non-follower but to the follower who is only justified by the blood of Christ, having no reference for the things of the Spirit. The flesh is in direct opposition to the commandments that are of the Spirit.

The Law, the commandments that were given were Holy and of the Spirit. They are living oracles.

Acts 7:38 This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received *living oracles* to pass on to you.

Acts 7:53 you who received the *law as ordained by angels*, and yet did not keep it.”

There was nothing unspiritual about the Commandments, His Word that God gave to the Israelites on the 2 tablets of stone. The issue was the Word of God was written on the 2 tablets of stone and not on the Israelites’ hearts through the Spirit, hence their inability to keep them and live them out.

This can be no different for us today. Just because you are justified by His blood, doesn’t automatically mean we are able to keep the spiritual eternal commandments of God. Unless the commandments of the Spirit are engraved on our hearts by the Spirit, it doesn’t matter how hard we try in our own strength, we will always come short of being able to live out the commandments of God the way He defines them.

We will come up with our own version of what it means to live for God, and this is called “forms of godliness”¹³ which are profitable for nothing but the ego and empire building of man.

13 2 Timothy 3:2-5



9

**WHAT IS ONE
NOW ABLE TO
DEMONSTRATE?**



It is only those who have lost their lives for Christ's sake, and are living from the divine eternal life within them, that are able to demonstrate the wisdom of God on the earth.

Luke 7:35 "Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

We are called and chosen to walk in the exact manner in which Christ walked while He was on earth. The wisdom of God is not primarily head knowledge, but the ability to live a Christ-like life.

1 John 2:6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

The answer to this question will paint a picture of the life you have been predestined to receive and live from while you are here on earth. Anything less than this is to come short of what He has for you, and to not live a life worthy of your calling, which is the calling He has for each individual member of His body, is nothing short of heartbreak.

If you truly desire all that God has for you as His child, you and I must be prepared to do whatever it takes to receive ALL He has promised us.

Let's have a look at five examples of what this is to be like in a tangible way.

Acts 7:59-60 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 14:19-22 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe. After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

Luke 6:27-36 "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

1 Peter 4:12-14 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ,

you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Acts 4:32-35 And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

Only when His Eternal Commandments are engraved on our hearts, by the power of the Spirit, are we able and capable of keeping His Word and living the way we have been commanded to live.

Failure to live this kind of life, is the very reason there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth for all those in God's future kingdom, who didn't take hold of all that Christ laid hold of them for, when they had the opportunity on earth.

Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

These words from Psalms came from the humblest man that has ever lived. Moses wrote these words and if Moses wrote these words, we ought to pay close attention to what he is saying. We must all be aware that we don't have forever to come into this eternal life as so many think they do. We think we will get to it tomorrow or the next day, because we have all the time in the world. We believe there will always be a tomorrow, even though James describes our lives as a vapour which is here today and gone tomorrow.¹⁴

There must be an urgency and a desperation within our spirits to receive and enter into all the Father has for us now, so we can demonstrate a Christ like life to the world and glorify our Heavenly Father. This is the outcome of God teaching us our days are not limitless. A heart of wisdom is produced within us, so we live out a life of wisdom – an eternal wisdom.

¹⁴ James 4:14

Matthew and Luke both teach us that wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.¹⁵ What does this mean? It means wisdom in its complete form is not head knowledge, but the tangible demonstration of a Christ-like life lived out through a disciple. Jesus is the wisdom of God, so a son of God is able to demonstrate a life of wisdom, because of the Jesus that lives within them.

Ephesians 3:10 testifies that the manifold wisdom of God is to come through His church and be made known to the heavenly realm. The realm of the spirit is to be taking note of the church of Jesus Christ, because His church is living a kind of life on earth, which truly is of an eternal kind. What an incredible opportunity and invitation we have been given.

An eternal life lived out now is the goal for every follower of Jesus. This eternal life lived out now has an eternal value. It is a continuously progressive reality which is on offer for all those who live their lives from being “in Christ”.

The first external expression or righteous work of an eternal life is in the ability to love as we are commanded to love. We have to start at what the Father values as the greatest of His commandments. We have to start at the beginning commandment as His sons and be able to keep the very first command of heaven, if we expect to receive all He has for us and finish well at the end.

Matthew 5:43-46 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

Verses 44 and 45 are extremely powerful declarations of truth. Our ability to love and pray for our enemies is the manifestation or demonstration of an eternal life operating in us.

There is no point in being able to do a whole lot of works or

15 Matthew 11:19 & Luke 7:35

miracles, or things as followers of Christ if we can't keep the very FIRST commandment. The commandment that is of the utmost importance to Him and defines everything else in Him.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

What is incredibly alarming, is that many of the things listed in these three verses, are what many followers have as their number one priority and passion, when it comes to their relationship with God. It is very clear from the Scriptures that these things are not God's primary purpose in His relationship with us. This is a very serious reality, because left unchanged, we take His name and do our will and we will end up hearing "away from Me I never knew you".

This was the warning to the church at Ephesus and Sardis. They were known for works, but somewhere along the way left Him, who is Love, and what was of utmost importance to Him, which is to Love.

What are we known for? Are we known for what He says we are to be known for?

This chapter is entitled "What is one now able to demonstrate?" The first aspect of wisdom is loving as God loves. Doing the impossible in other words, because it is impossible for one human being to love as God loves out of one's natural, earthly love. Only those who have entered into an eternal life and are having this eternal life formed within them, are capable of keeping this impossible possible command of Heaven, which is not burdensome.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

Deuteronomy 30:11-14 "For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?' Nor is it beyond

the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross the sea for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?' But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it.

It is fully possible for us to keep these commandments when we find ourselves partaking of His words of spirit and truth. Let's have a look at this God given process of being in Him which enables and empowers us to keep these love Commandments which are eternal.

The God given process is this:

Loss

Love

Lay

Live

The losing of our lives

The first and foremost is the losing of our lives for His sake. Unless we have lost our lives and lost our lives for His sake, we will still be the source of our life and attempt to live an eternal life out from an earthly source.

Matthew 10:39 He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

The losing of one's life for His sake is still a major problem in God's body today. We try living lives of godliness with ourselves being the source of power or strength, never comprehending how futile and pointless this all is. This is what we call legalism or a legalistic spirit. One who is trying to do Christianity as opposed to being Christ-like. This is where Hebrews 4:10 comes into play.

Hebrews 4:10 For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.

The follower who has not entered into His Rest and ceased from their works, meaning their self-efforts to bring them into a life of godliness, will always come short of the full measure of the eternal life Jesus has for them. This will significantly impact their life now and the role they would have played in the age to come. Unfortunately for this follower, they have forfeited their inheritance due to this way of living as His follower.

It is only those who lose their lives for His sake which find this complete full life in Christ as the Scriptures declare. An abundant external expression of works for God doesn't necessarily indicate a Christ centred and ordained life.

External, earthly, good works for Jesus can be camouflaged and painted up as righteous acts of faith by the one who has only lost their life for their own sake and not His. We must be able to discern the difference between the two, because only one holds any eternal value and substance which the Father rewards. The other is burnt up no matter how impressive they may have appeared to the natural eye.

It was Jesus Himself who said He did nothing from His own initiative and that apart from Him we can do nothing. This is a heavenly pattern of living which we are to imitate as His disciples.

This is why Jesus stated the work of God was to believe and not to do or perform. The religious or legalistic spirit always starts at function, while God always starts at fellowship – spiritual oneness. Function will come out of fellowship but fellowship will never come out of function and because of this, a follower who is still functional at their core, will be of a different kind to the one who has fellowship at their core, and this always has the potential to create division when left like this.

Once one has lost their old life, they are now positioned and ready to be filled with Love. The old foundation of self has fallen on the Rock and been broken into pieces, and the new foundation of love is being laid.

The outpouring of love

The outpouring of love is the second aspect of this heavenly kingdom way.

Romans 5:5&8 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

We are not talking about any love but God's love being imparted into a person through His divine grace or power. Paul testified to this

in Ephesians 3:14-19.

Ephesians 3:14-19 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

This love is to be continuously perfected within us, so we are full and overflowing with His love for humanity. This is what it is to be perfected in unity. To be perfected in Him – Love. This is when we are fully capable of being the demonstration of Love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Why is love the most important? What is the only thing which you take with you into eternity? To the measure you know and live a life of love now, is the measure you take with you into eternity. You will not be prophesying in heaven; you will not be speaking in tongues. You will not be preaching or casting out demons. You will not be feeding the poor. All this will be done away with.

The only thing you will have is the measure of love that was perfected within you and this will determine whether you will participate in the marriage between Christ and His church. I have news for us all, not everyone is going to be the wife of the Lamb. Only those who kept His Commandments will fulfil this role and reign with Him. This is why there were five out of ten virgins who heard “Truly I say to you; I do not know you.”

Jesus gives us all the same Commandments as His followers and He expects us to be able to keep His Commandments.

John 15:12 “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

The third aspect of this heavenly kingdom way is in the laying down of our lives for one another.

Laying down our lives

As we have seen it is impossible for us to lay down our lives for His sake as long as His love is not our true foundation. It is also true that we cannot lay down our lives for one another unless we are filled with His love.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

Jesus modelled what this looked like for His disciples, so they had a tangible demonstration of this truth. Jesus’ ability to love Peter and Judas in their denial and betrayal, is the clear evidence of what this looks like lived out. The problem for the disciples as stated above, is that until they had all lost the lord of self, through being crucified by Christ in their inner hidden realm, they would never be able to lay their lives down for Him and one another, and they didn’t.

Luke 22:24-27 And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called ‘Benefactors.’ But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

The disciples were fighting over position and who was going to be the greatest. They were consumed with themselves and getting and gaining as much as they could for themselves. This heart condition also exists today in His body. Jesus uses Himself as one who is the greatest and yet He is a servant of others. Many in His body look for positional leadership so they can control the narrative, thinking this is where true authority in Christ is found. Only those who have lost

their lives, have been filled with His Love and are laying their lives down from love for Him and others, are the ones who have the true spiritual authority and are walking in the manner in which Christ walked.

These people will always be persecuted and misunderstood by those who have yet to enter into this position of eternal life.

As His sons, His bondservants, His bride, we are called to put others ahead of ourselves and to be servants of others and not servants of self. Paul testifies to this living reality in Philippians 2.

Philippians 2:3-5 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.

Once again, this is an impossible life to live out unless one is truly in this heavenly pattern I am describing above, through God's power. Only God's divine grace can perform such a work in the heart and mind of man, empowering man to be able to express this Christ-like wisdom. Outside of this it remains impossible for man but fully possible in Him.

The disciple who lays their life down in this heavenly way, has laid it down by their own choice, their own initiative because of the eternal power operating within them, just like we see Christ did in John 10, through the revealing of God's love in them.

John 10:17-18 For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

It is the love of the Father in this disciple that enables and empowers this laying down of one's life. Love is the only source that allows this kingdom wisdom to be demonstrated. This is one aspect of the manifold wisdom of God coming through the church.

This brings us to the last part of this heavenly pattern which we are to live.

To live as Christ

The fourth and last part of this heavenly pattern is the living out or the demonstration of an eternal life. I have already spoken to this throughout this book, but it is fitting to speak of it again and remind us all of the standard to which the Eternal One calls us into.

Luke 10:25-29 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

We can see again the connection between inheriting an eternal life now and one's ability to keep the divine Commandment of heaven, which mankind cannot keep unless mankind has lost his life, received His love, and lays down this new life. It's in the loving of God and humanity the way we have been commanded to, that we discover what this eternal life is on the inside of us and through us.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

Why do you think the lawyer attempts to justify himself out of the answer he was given, by asking who his neighbour was? He is only interested in loving those he chooses to love and can love, through his own ability. He has no reference, desire or ability to love those he has a huge disdain for or those he doesn't know through relationship.

Luke 6:27-36 "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For

even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

The lawyer has no interest in loving the people Jesus loved. The sinners, the prostitutes, the tax collectors, the thief, the Gentile, the Samaritan, the Jew, the religious person, the very person he is himself. He is incapable of loving like this and has no appetite for loving like this, because he is religious and has no reference for relationship with Christ. He like many others wants to define who they love, and it will only be those who love them as per the previous scripture in Luke 6.

Although he is versed in what is written in the Law, and can answer the question he was asked, he has no revelation of these Holy Scriptures which are spirit and life and no ability to do what he said, and Jesus knew this, hence Jesus saying, "Do this and you will live." When one is keeping the commandments of love, one is demonstrating an eternal life, and this is what it is to live.

Jesus answers the "doing" question with a "doing" answer, and yet Jesus' ability to live in accordance to what is written, comes from being the Eternal Life Himself. The more we find ourselves in and growing in this eternal life, the more we also live in accordance to what has been written before the foundations of the world and find ourselves loving in accordance to God's commandments.

As this eternal life grows and becomes established within us, we find that not only can we keep His commandments, but we are fully capable of ministering and administering the kingdom of heaven into this earth. Our lives and the lives around us are all significantly impacted by this eternal life which is manifesting this eternal wisdom upon the earth.

Because we have become and are becoming His kingdom of heaven ambassadors on earth, the place where we serve our Father first and humanity second, His life, light and love radiates forth from us. His glory in us is being released into the earth for all, both

Christian and non-Christian to experience.

Colossians 1:27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

2 Corinthians 4:5-7 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

As a son of God we are called and chosen to demonstrate the wisdom of God, an eternal life.

As stated on the front page of this book, God Himself made us the promise of an eternal life. A life that has all the substance of heaven within it, coming forth from it, while we live here on earth. This is the life you and I are promised to receive in Christ now.

The only question which remains is have you and are you laying hold of this eternal life today, for it is His promise to you, that God, who cannot lie nor change His mind, is faithful to perform on what He has spoken.

Hebrews 6:13-20 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU." And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. For men swear by one greater *than themselves*, and with them an oath *given* as confirmation is an end of every dispute. In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

