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GREG

SIMNOR

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SIMNOR, GREG.
When Heaven Meets Earth

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“Freely we receive; freely we give”

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*Once again, all thankfulness goes towards the Holy Spirit
for revealing what sits concealed on the pages of this book.*

*A big thanks to Jess, Rochelle, Danny, Sandra and Arnz
who had input into the shaping of what is written.*

What a team!

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INTRODUCTION



The purpose and intent of this book is to paint a clear picture of a scene, which took place over 2000 years ago at a physical well, between the man of and from heaven and the woman who is of and from earth.

John 4:7-10 The Woman of Samaria There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

More than likely, we have all read this scene several times, but how well do we really know what is being testified of through this encounter?

This classic scene of the woman at the well testifies to the abundant eternal life we are to come into and know as followers of Christ. Yet, I am afraid that just as Paul declared to the Corinthians many of us have been led astray in our minds from the simplicity of what is concealed within this encounter.

Taking the micro and making it the macro

I can't tell you how many times I have heard this story recounted as a testament of evangelism. Whether it be from the pulpit or in conversation with fellow believers, the core message that is shared is that after her encounter with Jesus this woman returned to the city and shared Him with the people and because of this the city got saved.

Did this happen? Yes, absolutely, but is this the whole story? No, absolutely not. In fact I would go as far as to say it is only a fraction of a much larger story.

Why do we do this? Why do we take one aspect of a scripture and turn it into the whole story? We do this because we cannot hear or see what is concealed right in front of us. We tend to only see what we want to see, what we have an interest in or a reference for. It may even be that we fear the bigger picture because it may expose something within us.

Changing or creating a narrative which suits us

Another thing we have a tendency to do is to add to the story with our own thoughts or perspectives. People have told me this woman was of the Spirit and when I have asked them what brought them to this conclusion they reply, "Because I think she was." We must allow the scriptures to speak for themselves, while using other passages of scripture to bring greater context to what is being revealed. This keeps us from making these kinds of presumptions from what we think, believe or feel and protecting us from being led astray in our minds from the simplicity concealed on the page.

Let me show you what I mean. As a rule, unless specifically mentioned, as in the case of John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit had not yet been poured out upon man. Jesus hadn't returned to the Father and sent the Holy Spirit to abide in us, so this woman couldn't have been filled with the Spirit. The scriptures say we must be born again to see and enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

This woman was blind to the things of the Spirit. Hence, Jesus

standing before her offering her the opportunity to have her eyes opened to the reality of true Life.

All the other text in relation to these verses also speak to the fact that she was not a woman of the Spirit, but of the flesh.

People have also told me they believe that she brought her husband to Jesus. When I ask why they believe this their answer is simply, “because I believe so.” We know that she didn’t go straight to her husband and bring him to Jesus. What happened after this we can’t say. There is no record in scripture of her bringing her husband to Jesus or not. We can’t add to the story, putting our own spin on it and create an ending that sounds better, is more complete, or that simply makes us feel more comfortable.

What we do get to do is contend for what is already written, and to ask the Holy Spirit to bring to light and life within us, what is in fact concealed in front of us.

Proverbs 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

Jude 1:3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

Prophetic imagery

The woman at the well is a prophetic picture of a people group raised in the systems of religion, with religious structures, teachings and ceremonies. A people with a fleshly knowledge about the Messiah and all things related to Him, without the capacity or reference for the spiritual life the Messiah demonstrated and calls us to live from.

I am constantly meeting followers of Jesus that fit this category.

Followers, who can quote you Scriptures, answer all the questions and tell you all the stories in the Scriptures. Followers who attend Sunday services week in and week out, who also attend groups during the week, prayer meetings and every conference.

Followers who are highly active within their church body, trying to discover their individual calling and assignments, while at the

same time serving in all the areas of ministry, tithing and working really hard to try to come to know Jesus through studying their bible and doing good works for their communities.

All of this activity and function, and yet when asked about receiving, knowing and experiencing the Living Water that Jesus gives us the silence is deafening. All of this work for God and yet no reference point for the wellspring we are to become, or the rivers of Living Water flowing from our hearts offering water, refreshment and sustenance to others.

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you *Living Water*."

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

Do we have any reference for this Living Water that quenches our thirst for the things of this world? The water that only Jesus gives. The water that creates within us a well spring of water springing up to an eternal life.

If not, then I invite you to put aside all things and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what is concealed within this story. Ask Him to open your heart to receive all that He has for you and to dive into the prophetic declaration of this book, drinking deep of the Living Waters Jesus promises to all those who ask.

The scene is set.



1

**THE APOSTOLIC
ENCOUNTER**



The One from above is above all

John 3:31-32 “He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. What He has seen and heard, of that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony.”

The man from above, who is above all, has come to make known and testify to what He has seen and heard from above. He has come to bring heaven to earth.

John 3:11-12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”

The great Apostle who was sent from heaven by His Father is about to engage in a conversation with the woman who is from earth and give her a divine invitation into receiving a life that knows no boundaries and is constantly full and overflowing.

It is the Life He lives His life from.

John 5:26 “For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave

to the Son also to have life in Himself;”

Let’s unpack John 3:31-32.

These verses lay the groundwork for the conversation about to be outplayed between Jesus and the woman at the well. They lay the framework for what Jesus is about to share and why the woman at the well will respond the way she does, to what is proclaimed to her.

Jesus speaks words, which are eternal life to her, words which are spirit and life, which the flesh cannot understand and has no reference for.

John 6:63 “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”

John 6:68 Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.”

The things of the earth cannot appraise the spiritual words that Jesus proclaims. The man of the earth attempts to hear and receive through the agency of earth, his mind. We see the woman at the well doing the same thing. She is trying to appraise the spiritual through a natural lens. Not only does she fail to hear and receive what He is releasing but also she completely misunderstands what He is talking about. Hearing through the agency of the earth, she misinterprets what He is saying and creates her own version of truth from what she has heard.

Not only this but she completely misunderstands what Jesus is talking about or hears completely the wrong thing and creates her own truth from what has been spoken.

This happened constantly as Jesus walked with his disciples.

John 6:59-61 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, “This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?” But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble?”

This is a common issue where those of the earth attempt to interpret the man of heaven and the realm He is from through the wisdom of the earth and not the wisdom of the eternal.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My

kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

The Word of God Himself, declares this unseen seen Kingdom into the earth. He testifies of a living dimension with the hope that all those who are called to be His will hear the frequency of an eternal reality and pursue Him and all that He has released.

Christ stood before this woman presenting this opportunity to her. He now stands before us presenting this same opportunity.

While they may appear similar the flesh and the eternal spirit are two opposing realities. They have nothing in common and live in opposition to one another. This is also true of the realms they come from. The earth and the eternal are completely opposite kingdoms, living in opposition to one another.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Both kingdoms have their own operating systems and priorities, who they love first, who they live for, how they live and what they value most and hold dear to their hearts are complete opposites. The One from heaven speaks to these opposing realities in Matthew 6:24 and follows this up with verses 25-34, in order to enable us to identify which master we are serving.

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Matthew 6:25-34 "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon

in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Not focusing on our earthly lives

The One from Heaven teaches us we are not to be worried about our earthly lives, as to what we will eat, what we will drink and what we will wear. He says life is more than this. What kind of a life is more than this? An eternal one! We can only know this reality when He truly becomes the source of our life. When He becomes our food, our water, our clothing and even our shelter.

The One from Heaven teaches us not to worry or be concerned about the basic commodities each human being needs to survive upon this earth. He goes on to say that, the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things. He says the Father knows we need all these things, but that we, as ones who are called and chosen by Him, are to seek first His kingdom and righteousness and all these things (food, water, clothing,) will be added to us.

You and I are not to be like the Gentiles or in other words earthlings, those of earth. Those God has predestined to be His sons are called to an eternal life, an eternal standard, a kingdom standard, which is not only above the earth but completely opposite to that of earth, even though it is demonstrated on the earth.

Those who are driven to provide for themselves may not realize it but they are slaves to the god of mammon. They serve money, bowing down before their god. Slavishly working to provide and sustain their earthly lives, constantly worried about money and not having enough. They will never know the freedom the man from Heaven declares.

The cure for anxiety, worry, fear and depression is not found in the things of the earth or anything associated with this earthly kingdom. True freedom can only be found in losing your earthly life for His sake, entering into the reality of an Eternal Life found in the One who came down from above.

Ephesians 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

The man from heaven always makes the first move

John 4:3-9 He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. And He had to pass through Samaria. So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water.

Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Therefore, the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

The city of Sychar, in the region of Samaria, beside the well of Jacob sets the scene for this apostolic encounter. The Man from heaven stops and waits to meet the woman from earth and bring an apostolic confrontation that could change everything.

The Man from heaven intentionally pauses at this well, waiting for the woman of earth. He knows she needs to come here every day to sustain her life with this physical resource. This was her place of life where she could draw precious water to meet the needs of her physical body.

Jesus knows where we go to seek life and He will meet us there, waiting for the opportunity to offer us freedom from our earthly sources.

John 4:6 and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

When viewed through the eyes of the natural, we may be surprised to find the Man from heaven waiting by a well in Samaria. The

woman of the earth expresses this when she says, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)”

The Man of heaven is not bound by natural customs, or earthly wisdom. His heart is led by His overwhelming and all-consuming love for humanity. The purpose of His journey was this very encounter, bringing the opportunity of a lifetime to this woman of the earth. Living Water stands before her offering an eternal life and inheritance. Jesus waits for us in unexpected places to give us the same invitation of Life that he offered this woman.

Do you remember the physical location where the Man of heaven met you? The place where Life Himself was waiting for you, to call you to Himself. The place He found you. Do you recall the time? The day? Where the Man from heaven waited to have an encounter with you and to confront you with the reality of His eternal realm. I can personally testify to this reality. The date was the 23rd December. The year was 1997. The time was 10.00am and the place was at my work in the James Smith building in Manners Mall, Wellington city, New Zealand.

The day of the apostolic encounter where heaven met earth.

Contained within this man from Heaven, is the life giving transformational knowledge of His Father, who is God, the Eternal Life, the One who is Love. This is whom I received that day and my life has never been the same.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

John 5:26 “For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;”

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

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.

As we continue to unpack this encounter between the Man from and of Heaven with the woman from and of earth, we will take a true

look at what is taking place. What is the purpose of this confrontation between the Kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of earth? What does it mean for us? My prayer is that by the end of this book we can identify which life we are living in, from and for.

We will break these verses down, viewing them through an eternal perspective. Each chapter of this book piecing this encounter together, revealing the macro picture before our eyes. Only the Spirit can enable and empower us to access these truths and have us possess them, causing Living Waters to flow and birthing the Life of the Kingdom within us.

The first and most essential question we need to ask ourselves and receive a revelation of is, “WHO’ is this Man from Heaven? A man who is not of and from earth, even though He came through the earthly vessel and bloodline called Mary.

We can know the why, the what, the how, the when and the where, but if we do not know the Who, then we do not have the one thing, which is the most essential thing.

Who is this Man?

GREG SIMNOR



2

KNOWING THE
MESSIAH



Identity is always the first place we start from in God.

Hosea teaches us God's people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge¹. The knowledge is not an intellectual knowledge, but a lack of knowing who God is and who we are in Him – IDENTITY.

John 4:10-12 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?"

The woman's response to Jesus, "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are you?" is the unmistakable evidence that she has no clue who Jesus is.

In Chapters 2 and 3, we are going to unpack four very specific truths, which are essential if we are to come into the incredible life Jesus offers.

1 Hosea 4:6

The first truth...The woman does not know who Jesus is

"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you..."

It is abundantly clear from the passage above that the woman at the well has no idea who Jesus is. She has no reference point for the reality of the gift she is offered nor the One who is offering it to her.

Her lack of knowledge about who Jesus is shapes her responses to Him. Her ignorance of Jesus' identity extends to her own identity. Not knowing who He is means she doesn't know who she really is, beyond shaping her responses to Him this has defined her very life, and we are no different.

Who is this man?

"Who do the people say I am? Who do you say that I am?"² Of all the questions Jesus asked, this is the most important, "Who am I?" It is still the most important question He asks today.

The greatest issue in the body of Christ is not a lack of 'doing' for God but a lack of 'knowing' who God is and who we are in God. While many are trying to figure out a very fleshly reality of "how to do church differently," few are asking the question of the Spirit, "who are we to become?"

The apostle Paul wrote these words regarding how much he valued the true knowing of God compared to everything else.

Philippians 3:7-8 *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,*

Paul considered the true knowing of God to be the most important thing. It is our true knowledge of God that produces the eternal life of God within us. It is this revealed knowledge of God's true identity that births and grows the love of God within us and it is His Love, His identity that is the most important attribute of all and His most excellent way.

It is not miracles, prophecy, preaching, moving mountains, healings, feeding the poor, getting married, having kids, singing, works etc. etc.

² Mark 8:27-28

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.

It is continuously receiving the divine impartation of the knowing of Jesus, which produces the love of Jesus in us. All of this taking place through the revelation of the Spirit. If we do not know Him then this will not be our reality, just as it is not this woman's reality.

Paul considered everything else rubbish compared to this true knowing of Jesus, and he did so, in order that he may gain more of Christ and be found in Him.

Do you and I carry the same hunger and thirst for the true knowing of God, which Paul did? It is this true knowing, which is on offer to the woman of earth, through this divine encounter with Jesus. The true knowing of God, will transform her from a being of the earth, with earth and its ways at her core, to being an eternal being, filled with an eternal life that causes Living Water to flow from within her.

The challenge for this woman is whether she can recognise the opportunity that stands before her or will she remain unaware and continue to live as she always has. We face the same challenge. Will we remain bound in our earthly existence when we are called to, and promised an unlimited eternal one?

In the parable of the ten virgins the five unwise virgins find themselves locked out of the wedding feast. It was not that they hadn't purchased extra oil that kept them out of the feast. It was the fact that they didn't really know the groom. "Truly I say to you, I do not know you." It was not a functional or works based issue it was a relational issue.

At face value the answer to the question, "Who do you say I am?" is incredibly simple. So simple even a child can confidently answer it. Everything in God is simple and should remain that way. However, the answer may be simple but within the simplicity is contained a

profoundly deep reality.

It is possible to answer this question factually correct while having no awareness or reference for the LIFE contained within a true knowing of the answer. You can respond Jesus Christ is the Messiah, ticking the box with the correct and factual answer while still being completely devoid of abundant LIFE. You remain completely oblivious to the reality found in the one who has come to know Christ through a revelation of Who He is through the Holy Spirit. How is this possible?

Because all you have is a verbal or intellectual agreement and understanding of who Jesus is, but you have no revelation of who Jesus is, so you have no life in you. The woman at the well has no idea who is standing in front of her, and she has no idea of the life she is being offered. Proximity has no bearing on possession.

Revelation through the Holy Spirit is the only way to know who Jesus Christ is. It is this revelation that produces LIFE in us. No revelation, no life. If we profess to have received revelation but do not have the corresponding life, we are deluded and lying to ourselves.

Outside of a true revelation of Who He is all we have is an intellectual, factually correct, knowledge about Jesus. This knowledge doesn't produce His LIFE within us and keeps us blind to the true reality of Who He is. It will have us reject and deny the Truth when He stands right in front of us.

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."

Matthew 16:21-23 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

We too can become a stumbling block to Jesus and His kingdom when we do not know Him through revelation of the Spirit.

This is why Hosea says that God's people are destroyed for lack of true knowledge. This true revealed knowledge of Who He is and who they are within Him.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Destroyed from becoming who we have been created to become. Destroyed from our inheritance. Destroyed from receiving God's eternal life in us. Destroyed from becoming the overcomer God calls us to be and become. We can be justified by His blood and find ourselves going to heaven, while at the same time being rejected as His priest.

Revelation 5:9-10 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

Destroyed is a powerful word.

Jesus tells Peter that he is blessed because it was not flesh and blood, or in other words man or the earth, that revealed this true knowledge to him. It was Jesus' Father, the Eternal One that revealed the true reality of Who Jesus was.

Matthew 16:15-17 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

It was this revealed knowledge of who Jesus was as the Messiah that held Peter and prevented him from leaving Jesus, as many of the other disciples did, when confronted with the truth, that Jesus was the Bread of Life, which they needed to eat and drink.

John 6:66-68 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

Would we have walked away from Jesus with the many because we didn't have the revelation of Who He is? John 6 is a relational issue. Many disciples left Him when He spoke of eating His flesh and drinking His blood. Due to their own reasoning of who the Messiah would be and how he would act, they could not see who Jesus really was. In their minds the Messiah would never speak about drinking blood and eating flesh, as this would go against the Law of Moses.

Deuteronomy 12:23 Only be sure not to eat the blood, for the blood is the life, and you shall not eat the life with the flesh.

Jesus was the fulfilment of the Law and so He was not speaking contrary to the Law in what He said.

Back to the question. Would we have walked away from Him? It is so easy to say, "of course not," but how do you know you are not doing it even now when the Word of God is declared into the earth?

Saying who He is through words and living out who He is, are two completely different dimensions. Anyone can say who He is, even the non-follower, but not everyone can live a life that is defined by who He is.

We find this pattern of truth throughout scripture to ensure we recognize the operating system of Heaven as opposed to the operating system of earth. Receiving a revelation of who Jesus is through the Spirit is the only way to know Christ and have His LIFE produced within us. Matthew 11 is a great expression of this Heavenly operating system.

Matthew 11:27 "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."

We see from this verse it is the Son who reveals who the Father is, where in the earlier verse it was the Father revealing who the Son was. Why is this the case?

Because the Father and the Son are one. Knowing who the Father and Son are unlocks the heart of God, and contained in the heart of God, is the true knowing of God and the true knowing of God produces the life of God in us.

Concealed in this true knowing are all the mysteries of His

kingdom. If we have seen the Father, we have seen the Son and if we have seen the Son, we have seen the Father.

This seeing is not a natural seeing. It is a seeing that brings us to the end of us, crushing the spirit of lust within us while birthing the spirit of humility within us at the same time. This seeing propels us forward into receiving this eternal life in Christ.

Isaiah 6:5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

The reality is that no one can know who Jesus truly is unless the Spirit reveals Him in us and to us.

John 1:4-5 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 1:9-10 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

At best we can know 'about' Jesus through reading or hearing about Him. We cannot know Jesus the way we need to, the way of life, unless the Holy Spirit reveals Him in us.

Christ Himself is this true knowledge of God.

Colossians 2:2 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,

Are you and I in the revelation of this truth so it's His LIFE in us which is being birthed, or are we only in a mental and verbal agreement with this truth, so we are void of this LIFE?

If we are void of this LIFE, then unfortunately we do not know who Jesus is, because Jesus Christ is LIFE. Life is within Him, and He gives life and life abundantly.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

The goal through believing in His name is LIFE, not head knowledge!

This is not about what He DOES but who He IS.

John 20:30-31 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

This is why Jesus prayed to the Father that He would keep His disciples in His name, the name that the Father had given the Son, so that the disciples would be one even as They were and have His life formed within them.

John 17:11 "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are."

What does it mean to be baptised into His name? To receive His fire, His power in us.

This is far beyond just being baptised in water with someone saying "In the name of Jesus". It is about being baptised into the LIFE that is contained and concealed in His name. We get baptised into Him, becoming one with Him and His Father, this is what the scripture gives testimony to. Do we know this reality?

This is not some technical position you agree with mentally and verbally, but a living tangible experience you give testimony to as a witness of Jesus Christ.

"In that day," the day the Holy Spirit, who was abiding with you, baptises you in His power, and you are brought into this divine posture of oneness, where you will know what it is to be one with the Father and Son.

John 14:16-17 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you."

John 14:20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."

Believing in who He is and what He says comes through the

spiritual ears and eyes of the heart.

Ephesians 1:18-19 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

It is through the enlightenment of the eyes of our heart about Who He is that births and produces His life within us. Without this true revealed knowledge we will reject and deny Him when Truth confronts us. This is why you see many people drawn to Him when He's performing miracles who then turn away when He starts declaring Who He is. They will mentally accept Him as God when He's doing supernatural wonders externally but when He turns up at the door of their heart wanting to transform them internally, they don't have the capacity to believe in Who He is and what He says.

John 12:37 But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him.

Their belief or acknowledgement is coming through the eyes of earth and not the eyes of the spirit.

Let us ask this question again. Who is this man? This man is the Messiah, and all those who know Him through the revelation of the Spirit as the Messiah, will have His life being formed and built within them. This is the natural outcome and consequence of believing who He is.

John 7:38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'

Here are some more words that describe the identity of who Jesus IS:

- Love
- Lord
- Light
- Life
- Rest
- Peace
- Joy
- Saviour
- Bread

- Water
- Word
- King
- Beginning
- End
- Alpha and Omega.

When we know about Christ through an earthly operating system we may use these words to describe who He is in different circumstances or “seasons”. When we have a true revealed knowledge of Christ the Messiah through the Spirit, we know He is all of these things and more. We are able to live from the reality of this full picture of who He is. We don’t separate elements of His identity from Him as His true identity is found in all these attributes. You can’t have one without the other. To know and live from this true identity is truly profound and highly impactful.

As we live in this eternal reality of Jesus Christ being Love, Life, Light, Peace, Rest etc. we get to experience the literal embodiment of the manifold reality of God, wrapped up in one package.

There is no more compartmentalisation in our relationship with Jesus, which is an earthly way, but we have come into an eternal way called fellowship or oneness in Christ.

As mentioned before, Jesus Christ is the true knowledge of God, in WHOM are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. HE is the mystery.

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.*

Did we hear that? Jesus Christ is the true knowledge of God. This is why He is able to say, “if You have seen Me, you have seen the Father”. Jesus is the embodiment of the true knowledge, which sets and makes us free. He is absolute truth and builds His eternal life within us. He is the exact representation of His Father, the One of Truth.

Hebrews 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact

representation of His nature and upholds all things by the word of His power.

He is the mystery man from Heaven in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, hence without true spiritual revelation from the Holy Spirit, we cannot know Him the way we need to for life and godliness.

Why would anyone continue to be the lord of their own life as a follower of Jesus, having idols in their lives, and only incorporating Jesus into their lives, when having Jesus, AS our life is the invitation?

Why would anyone say I have Jesus Christ in my life BUT I also need this as well? Alternatively, why would they say I have Jesus Christ in my life AND I need this as well? It is because of our faulty belief. Jesus IN your life is not at all the same as Jesus AS your life.

Acts 18:27 ...he greatly helped those who had believed through grace,

Believing through grace or believing through the intellect

There is a massive difference between the two. We can think we know and believe in Jesus because we mentally and verbally agree that He is the Messiah, the Lord. We come into agreement through the intellect and not grace, which is God's divine power.

Because of this we pray the prayer of salvation, never realising we do not have the true knowing of God which sets and makes us free from ourselves as gods. This leaves us in a position of God IN our life but not God AS our life.

Consequently, we confuse and complicate everything through our flesh, building for ourselves God in our own image, living in our forms of godliness, and this keeps us bound up in a life that is void of a demonstration of true Christlikeness - death.

God warned the Israelites about this but they did not heed His warning. Paul warned the church of this also but I'm not sure the church has heeded this warning either.

Deuteronomy 4:15-20 "So watch yourselves carefully, since you did not see any form on the day the Lord spoke to you at Horeb from the midst of the fire, so that you do not act corruptly and make a graven image for yourselves in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or

female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the sky, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water below the earth. And beware not to lift up your eyes to heaven and see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, and be drawn away and worship them and serve them, those which the Lord your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, from Egypt, to be a people for His own possession, as today.”

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

Paul warned the Corinthians of this danger of not keeping it all about the simplicity of a pure devotion to Him and Him alone through revelation. He shared how easy it is to be led astray by the counterfeit when knowing Christ is not our focus.

Christ and Christ alone is the true knowledge of the Father, and yet He is the MYSTERY MAN of and from Heaven, in whom all the treasures of wisdom and understanding are HIDDEN.

2 Corinthians 1:20 For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

Proverbs 25:2 it is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

It is the glory of God to conceal Himself within His Son, and for His Son to be concealed within the Father. It is the glory of God to conceal His son Jesus from us but for us, in the hope that we would cry out to Him and have Him show us mighty things about Himself, which we do not know.

Jeremiah 33:3 ‘Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’

Mysteries are to be revealed for them to be known and all hidden

things are to be found. The Holy Spirit has been given the mission of making known to us the Christ Himself, (the True Knowledge of God), along with all of God's promises.

Let us turn our focus to the woman of the earth as we unpack this question.

Who is this woman of Samaria?

We don't really know too much about her, but what we do know, is she is of and from earth. Because she is of earth, she speaks of earth. She is a citizen of earth and lives in accordance to the patterns and operating system of earth.

John 3:31 "He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all."

This woman speaks the language of the kingdom of the world. She hears, thinks, perceives, believes, and attempts to understand and comprehend as one of earth. Her entire operating system is of flesh.

The woman from Samaria is a prophetic picture of a certain kind of people. These people have a religious background, they have been brought up in religious traditions, ceremonies, ways, laws, rules, mind sets, and belief systems, which lead to religious practices.

They have informational knowledge ABOUT God but not life IN God. They don't know the ways of God and never enter into Him as their very life source. They continue to live from their own knowledge and don't know what it is to be taught by the Spirit who reveals all things within them.

I suggest that this woman reflects many of God's followers today. Many who have been brought up with religious practices and acquiring informational knowledge about God, but who do not know God.

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father?'"

This happens when we live according to the patterns and operating systems of the world, being raised in forms of godliness but devoid

of the one substance that will truly quench our thirst – Living Water.

The woman has come to draw water to satisfy her physical thirst, like many who go to a building they call the church each week hoping to satisfy their spiritual thirst. They turn up week in and week out looking for life in the place and the functions as opposed to receiving eternal life from the Person. These followers make the place they go to and the things they do, everything, believing that they are putting Jesus first.

How many times would she go through the motions, repeating the same behaviour and getting the same result? How many times do we do the same thing, repeating the same behaviours and getting the same results?

If we were only created for the earth, then we cannot expect more than what we already know and have, but all those who are called and chosen for the eternal, inherently know deep within them, that the earth can never satisfy this deep yearning for more.

Philippians 3:12-16 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

This woman has been offered the invitation of a lifetime. Will she realise and recognise it? Will she do what was asked of her so she can receive this life-changing, life-giving water that will free and empower her to live a life beyond all that she has ever known. Will she go get her husband to be released from the futility that she has known?

Only time will tell.



3

**KNOWING THE
GIFT OF GOD**



The second truth is...The woman does not know the gift of God

The woman has no reality or reference for the gift of Living Water, which only Jesus can give. Jesus IS this Living Water, and He gives this Living Water to those who ask, hence He says to her, if you actually knew who I was, (and we have already established she didn't), and knew the gift I give, you would have asked for it, and I would have given it to you.

The woman only has a reference for the physical water she draws from the well. She is a woman of the earth literally drawing her source from the earth. This is all she's ever known, it's all any of us have ever known. This water cannot satisfy and quench our eternal thirst for life. This water will nourish our bodies for a moment but will have us returning to the well day after day, week after week, and year after year seeking a fresh supply to satiate us for a little bit longer.

What Jesus is offering her is not this physical water that brings a moment of refreshment but leaves one thirsting for more shortly after. Jesus is referring to Eternal Life, the very Life He came to bring those who were predestined to be His, hand-picked by His Father. He is

speaking about a spiritual Life that can only be found in Him. If received this Living Water will be an eternal wellspring of Life within us.

His Life fills and completes us. Our thirst is satiated, the lusts and desires of the flesh are quenched and we are no longer found seeking life in the things of the earth. Do we know this Living Water, the gift Jesus was offering this woman?

Look at the abundance Jesus promises to those who believe in John 7. This is the same promise He is offering to the woman at the well.

John 7:37-38 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of Living Water.'"

This is what Jesus is offering this woman, but there is a pre-requisite before coming to Him and drinking. The first pre-requisite is having a thirst within you for a reality, which you do not currently have, something you have not yet experienced.

The second pre-requisite is to believe in Him as per the Scriptures.

A scriptural belief is to carry a living conviction received through a revelation of the truth that is implanted in your heart through grace. It is not to agree intellectually or verbally with the truth.

This woman comes as many of us do. She has no reference for anything outside of what she knows and therefore has no thirst for this Living Water. With no taste for what she cannot see, there is no capacity for a living conviction of who stands before her, in other words she does not believe.

She has come to Jacob's well to satisfy and quench her natural thirst. We too can be found at man-made establishments seeking something that will satisfy and quench our insatiable thirst. This is the same reality we find in Matthew, where Jesus says, "Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest...rest for your souls."

There is a specific way we are to come to Him if we are to receive what He promises us. In both of these incidents Jesus gives clear references to the way we are to come to Him. Do we have a reference

for His way? This doesn't mean that He won't engage with us if we don't come this way. He is Love and will meet us however we come, however, if we are to receive what He promises He will need to do a work within us, so that we can come in the way He has stipulated and only then can we receive what He has promised.

The sacrifices of God firstly are a broken spirit and a contrite heart. This sacrifice God will not despise, He will gladly receive it.

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

We are to come to God in a state of humility, spiritual brokenness. This means that the spirit of pride we are all born with, 'our will', must fall upon the cornerstone and be broken into pieces.

Luke 20:18 *"Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust."*

The spirit of pride, 'our will', is smashed beyond repair, never to be put back together again. The Father replaces it with a brand new spirit of humility and we become "poor in spirit" as Jesus spoke about in the sermon on the mount.

The promise of God for us as His disciples, if we have this spirit of humility, is that we will be recipients of the kingdom of heaven within us.

Matthew 5:3 *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

This is a beautiful exchange, where God replaces, 'our will' or spirit of pride, with His perfect will, or spirit of humility. This is where rivers of Life are birthed within us.

If we do not come to God with a broken spirit and a contrite heart, as King David teaches, then it does not matter what kind of sacrifice or burnt offering we bring, He does not delight in it nor is He pleased with it.

Psalms 51:16 *For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering."*

God is not interested in our words, preaching, works, forms of godliness, labour, songs, prayers, offerings, giving, or our service, until we come before Him and offer up our lives unto Him for His

sake, with a broken spirit and a contrite heart, as this is our true act 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.

The Father still desires to engage with us, however we must be prepared to engage with Him. We must give Him full consent to perform heart surgery, allowing Him to do what needs to be done in us to bring us into this posture of true spiritual humility, giving us His will in exchange for our will.

The Holy Spirit is the One tasked with the responsibility of bringing us into this divine impartation of Life within us. We can confidently expect to receive this promise in His timing, where the gift of Living Water becomes our new reality.

A true knowledge of who Jesus was and the gift of Living Water He was offering her through the Spirit, would have had her asking Him for this Living Water. Instead all she can ask about is her physical reality. How will you draw water without a bucket, the well is deep, where are you going to get this Living water from?

This leads us into the third major truth.

The third major truth is...Jesus is the one who gives this Living Water – we do not work for it

Jacob had to dig that well to provide water for himself, his family, his people and his livestock. With his blood, sweat and tears and the labour of his own hands, he built the well and from this well came the springs of natural water.

Water from the earth is perfect for quenching earth's needs, but water from the earth cannot quench our spiritual needs. Jacob could not provide this eternal water from his blood, sweat and tears. No matter how intelligent he was, none of Jacob's hard work and effort could provide Living Water. It doesn't matter how good the well was, how pure the natural source, it cannot compare or even come close to the Living Water that Jesus gives.

Not only does Jesus give this water freely, but He is the very well

this Living water is contained in. The eternal well containing Living Water stands next to the earthly well containing earthly water. This eternal source and the gift He offers are not inaccessible to this woman. He is not far from her, outside of her reach. He is not hidden from her and yet His true identity remains concealed from her.

We need look no further than Christ and Christ crucified for the operating system that leads to receiving this eternal source of life. To all those of the flesh (or earth) this is foolishness, a stumbling block, but to those of the Spirit it is life and godliness.³

It is fully possible to be a Christian but to live your entire life from the flesh.

Receiving such a valuable and precious gift for free is a foreign concept to our flesh. Our prideful hearts cannot comprehend that we do not need to work for this free gift of Living Water.

Our only reference is to work hard for everything we get. The more valuable something is the harder you need to work for it. We have no reference for laying hold of things we do not know or understand. We strive to acquire knowledge and understanding through our mind and natural abilities in an attempt to understand and receive all that Jesus has for us, but what He offers is of the Spirit and cannot be obtained by the ways of the flesh.

We try to do all of this through what I call the 'agency of man' not the 'agency of grace' and we fail.

Another notable example of this truth is in John 6, where Jesus teaches those following Him not to work for food, which perishes, but for the food, which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man gives. **John 6:27-29** "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." Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

Not only does the Son of Man give this Eternal Food, this Living

3 1 Corinthians 1:18-23

Water, but He IS the Eternal Food and Living Water that births Eternal Life within us. We cannot fathom how He can freely give such an incredible gift. As I said before we only have a reference for working hard for everything we receive. We have been conditioned by the fall of man to earn everything we get. Nothing good or valuable comes without a price. This is what we see in the people's response to Jesus, *"What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?"*

Just like the woman at the well, the people heard Jesus' incredible offer of Life through the ears of flesh. Instead of hearing what they could receive they heard a call to do, to earn or achieve through their own ability and strength. Once again this incredible gift in the Spirit is left untouched as the people seek to grasp it through the operating system of the flesh, the physical.

Even when Jesus shares the simplicity of what the work of God is, to believe in Him, they still respond out of function. Asking Him to prove Himself through doing a work, as opposed to simply believing in what He says. Jesus invites them into fellowship with Himself and the Father, and the people hear an instruction for function and they respond with a test telling Jesus to prove Himself so they will believe. **John 6:30** *So they said to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?"*

We live like this because of the root system of function which lies deep within the hidden part of our inner most being, due to the curse of the fall. I call this the curse of Cain. It is where you work the land but receive no life from it.

Genesis 4:11-12 *"Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth."*

We did not just lose our place in eternity when we fell by partaking of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, we lost everything, and I mean everything.

We lost the ability to freely receive Life from Christ with no need to earn or work for it and we lost the intimacy and ease of divine fellowship with Him.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We lost our belief in who He is, His words of spirit and life and who we are in Him. We lost the knowing of His eternal purpose and plan for us as His children, so in turn have produced our version of all of the above, creating a god in our own image.

Jesus fulfilled the law and the prophets making it possible for us to enter into His Sabbath rest. Hebrews 4:10 tells us that when we enter His rest we cease from our works. The functional root system we were born with, due to the fall, is removed and we receive a brand new root system of fellowship.

In other words, we are restored to the position we had in Him before the foundation of the world. We are reconciled back into spiritual oneness with the Father and Son. We return to the place of Eternal Life.

Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

With our original root system of fellowship restored we automatically shift from the earthly operating system of function to the divine operating system of fellowship. We are now able to live the abiding life of the Spirit that will produce much fruit in and through us. We become the recipients of the Spirit working within us, with no effort or striving required on our part, just as the scriptures promise.

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

1 Corinthians 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

There is no more fleshly labour, physically exerting ourselves trying to enter into all that the scriptures declare God has for us. No longer are we found fighting and trying to enter into rest but only ever achieving spiritual exhaustion.

This true spiritual rest and Eternal Life is what Jesus offers this woman at the well. It could all be hers if only she would ask for it.

This leads us into the fourth major truth.

The fourth major truth is... Asking is the key to receiving

Jesus shares the way of Heaven with this lady, ask and you shall receive. If she asks He will give her Living Water.

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you Living Water."⁴

All she had to do was ask Him and all we need to do is the same!

He says if you had asked, I would have given you Living Water. The power of the ASK!

The problem here is the power of the ask requires her to understand the context of two eternal truths. Knowing who He is and the gift He offers. She is completely oblivious to who it is that stands before her and even less aware of the value of the gift that He is offering her.

This unawareness has her redirect the conversation to her own understanding and her own reality as opposed to seeing her ask for this Living Water.

John 4:11-12 She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that Living Water? You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?"

She instinctively tries to define what He is saying using her own knowledge and understanding. Her response is to ask two questions framing them with two statements as she attempts to bring His spiritual declaration into her physical understanding. Lacking the capacity to receive this spiritual word through the spirit she attempts to make sense of what He has said through her earthly experience and references.

This is what happens when those from below try to understand those from above via the operating system of the earth called flesh.

Instead of asking for this Living Water she asks two completely

4 John 4:10

opposite questions.

This is common today in God's people. This is called operating from the wisdom of the world, and this wisdom is of the kingdom of darkness, as it is of the flesh. She is operating from the carnal trying to comprehend the eternal.

This is the sincere heart posture of this woman. She is doing all she knows how to do, and we can be the same. She is of the flesh and trying to understand God's spiritual truth through the flesh and so does not ask for this Living Water. Flesh produces after flesh while spirit produces after spirit.

You and I can be the same when it comes to our journey with Christ. We act like this because we approach Christ and everything He says through our flesh, our carnal nature and mind, and so in turn miss what is right in front of us, whilst being completely oblivious to this fact.

We have learned that this lady does not ask due to the spiritual condition of her heart, but there is also another fleshly position we are to be made aware of. We may hear what Jesus says in the spirit and therefore ask for what He is offering, but due to the wrong motivation of our heart, we still do not receive what He wants to give.

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Jesus knows the true state of our hearts way more than we do and He 99.9% of the time only gives in accordance to the pure motive of the heart. The motive that is selfless and centred around blessing God and pleasing God, doing His will, as opposed to the self-pleasure, and pleasing oneself, taking what He gives for the glorification of self.

Jesus will not give to this heart posture, He knows that it would be to our detriment and He loves us way too much to do this to us. If we were to receive the gift of Life while in this state, we would remain entangled with our own fleshly desires, a slave to our own pleasures, pursuing our own glory and further distancing ourselves from the Father.

When we approach the Father with a righteous heart motive,

asking to receive what He has for us for the purpose of bringing glory to His name, He lavishly pours Himself, and everything found in Him, into us.

Luke 11:9-13 “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”

When our asking is in alignment to the Father’s will He gives us what we are asking for. It is that simple.

So, to recap here are the four major truths, which the woman was unaware of:

1. The woman did not know who Jesus was.
2. The woman does not know the gift of God.
3. Jesus is the one who gives this Living Water, we do not work for it.
4. Asking is the key to receiving.



4

**JESUS SPEAKS IN
ABSOLUTES**



John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

Jesus (Who is Truth) always speaks in absolutes because this is the culture of the kingdom and even then, there are absolutes contained within absolutes. This is how powerful the Word of God is for life and godliness.

In two verses He gives three absolutes to make it abundantly clear, what we can know, what we can expect and where we stand in relation to receiving Life in Him.

Absolute number 1... *Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again.*

Absolute number 2... *but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst.*

Absolute number 3... *but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.*

Absolute number 1... Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again

You cannot get a clearer message than this from Christ Himself.

If you drink the natural, you get the natural and you will thirst again. This is the absolute promise Jesus makes to everyone. The natural cannot and will not sustain or satisfy those who desire life in the spirit.

Notice it says everyone. It does not matter what culture you are. It does not matter how you were brought up. It does not matter what country you are from. It does not matter whether you are male or female. It does not matter if you are rich or poor. It does not matter what skin colour you are. It does not matter if you are brought up with Christianity or any other faith. The promise is for all.

We all have a reference point for the natural water, this life giving resource that our physical bodies require even more than food. No matter how much we drink our thirst is never fully satiated, we must always return to the well seeking more. Those who live for the things of earth, the things of flesh or the things of the natural, will never find satisfaction. While their thirst may be temporarily satiated they will find themselves returning to the well to draw from their source in an attempt to find Life. Earth cannot give Life, as it's dying itself. It cannot provide peace, contentment or fulfilment because it does not know these things either. Those living for themselves, will return over and over again drawing more water just as an addict returns to their choice of poison, seeking their fix to give them their short lived moment of freedom and peace, completely blind to the fact that their fantasy satisfies them less and takes a greater toll to receive each time.

Jesus is letting us know without a shadow of doubt that this earthly water will never bring us into contentment and rest as His followers. He shares this truth so that we may hear and be set free and be enabled to lay down our source in order to receive something far greater.

Remember the woman would come every day to receive her fill of this water.

It is not the need for this water that is the primary issue. There is a far deeper concealed issue that must be confronted. The water is a smokescreen for the true issue, but we will look at this later when we unpack Jesus' request for the woman to go get her husband.

Absolute number 2... but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst

The next absolute is as abundantly clear as the first one and builds upon the truth of Jesus Christ. Absolutes cut straight to the heart of a matter leaving us nowhere to run and nowhere to hide. They pin you right where you stand offering no wriggle room to work yourself free. These absolutes are pure unadulterated Truth and when we receive a revelation of them through the Holy Spirit we receive the fullness of the promise and experience the reality of Jesus' words of Spirit and Life.

The first absolute was everyone who drinks of the natural water will thirst AGAIN for natural water, but the one who drinks of the water which Jesus gives shall NEVER THIRST.

The promised outcome is never thirsting again for natural water, due to the drinking of this Living Water. The Living Water is available to ALL.

Whoever drinks

Jesus does not differentiate who gets the water and who does not. The water is available to Jew and Gentile, freeman, and slave.

We all know what it is to drink of physical water, but do we have a reference for the reality of partaking of Living Water? Living Water is not of the physical realm, you cannot simply turn on a faucet and watch Living Water come forth. This water is just as tangible as natural water but is powerful and transformational in nature.

How can we drink of a water that we can't see? How can something invisible to our natural senses have such a powerful and tangible impact on us? If we can't see it, and our natural senses and abilities can't access it, how can we possibly partake of it?

I am not even going to attempt to describe the reality of drinking

Living Water. I will say that you will know if you have partaken of it because you will experience the impact and actuality that this water will have upon you and your life.

The key words here are '*whoever drinks*'. In the natural we know whether we have drunk water or any other liquid, or not. Why? Because not only do we taste the drink, but we feel the impact the drink has on our bodies. We feel the cooling presence of cold water or are warmed by a hot drink, but the biggest impact is that our thirst has been quenched. We are no longer thirsty for what we once were.

Just as it is in the natural so too it is in the Spirit.

If you have not experienced the Life and reality found in this Living Water, then you have your answer regarding whether you have tasted it or not. When you have, you know, it's that simple, that absolute. When you have tasted this water you will have the corresponding actuality of the promise Jesus gave us.

There is not an instruction guide on how to receive this water. You won't find a five step plan to bring you into this reality, this is not how it works. You cannot apply natural methods to bring yourself into the reality of this Living Water.

If you are still asking, "have I tasted of this water?" the answer is you have not. You know if you have and to still be asking is evidence that you have not. However, to be exposed for not having received it yet is not to be a discouragement. We need to recognise this for the opportunity it is to seek Him for a revelation of this Living Water that we may partake of it. Jesus came to the woman at the well to show her what she didn't have for the purpose of offering her the opportunity to receive it from Him. The same is true of us, if He is exposing the have not position within you at the same time He is extending the invitation to lead you into the have position.

I will give

Jesus makes it clear that He is the One and only source of this Living Water. We cannot earn it, work for it or learn it. He gives us an absolute promise so we can avoid wasting time, energy and effort attempting to obtain this spiritual treasure through physical methods.

It is freely given through the power of the ask, and because He is the One who gives it, no one else can take it from us.

Accomplished from a state of Sabbath Rest, it is that simple and effortless, ask and receive. Yet many in the body of Christ seem void of this Living Water. Sabbath Rest is the rest Jesus offers for our soul in Matthew 11. It's a spiritual dynamic that brings our mind, will and emotions under the authority of and into alignment with, kingdom life.

This 'I will give' pattern is something we see throughout the entirety of the testimony of Jesus Himself. Here are other examples of the 'I will give' or 'I will do' pattern in the living Scriptures.

Matthew 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

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."

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."

Matthew 10:8 "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give."

Ezekiel 36:26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

Failure to recognise, acknowledge, confess and turn from the ways of man's learning and understanding, where we try to possess life through our own efforts, will keep us as a dry river bed. We will be a well with no water.

It is essential we learn the ways of Jesus, the way of the Spirit, as Paul testifies to in Ephesians 4. This is the way to receiving this all-encompassing, overflowing and abundant life in Him.

Ephesians 4:17-23 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given

themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

One of the fruits produced by the flesh, through attempting to work things out or make things happen in our own strength, is burn out or spiritual exhaustion.

This is a reality many leaders in the body of Christ experience as they do not know the reality of Sabbath Rest within them. They have not experienced the power of God working within them as Paul testified to. They attempt to obtain through their own strength or power, that which only Jesus can give.

Colossians 1:28-29 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

A leader who knows and lives from Sabbath Rest never burns out they only burn up. The life which Jesus gives only burns up and not out. Many leaders think sabbaticals are the answer to this deeply rooted problem of burn out.

The truth is until we come into the revelation that it is the root system of man still living and working within us, the root system of function and not fellowship, we will always be void of this life, no matter how many sabbaticals we have. We do not even need sabbaticals when we are in this reality of the Spirit, because we have no reality of spiritual exhaustion. We only know the burn up dimension.

Isaiah 33:14-16

Sinners in Zion are terrified;

Trembling has seized the godless.

“Who among us can live with the consuming fire?

Who among us can live with continual burning?”

He who walks righteously and speaks with sincerity,

He who rejects unjust gain

**And shakes his hands so that they hold no bribe;
He who stops his ears from hearing about bloodshed
And shuts his eyes from looking upon evil;
He will dwell on the heights,
His refuge will be the impregnable rock;
His bread will be given *him*,
His water will be sure.**

Never thirst

Never means never. It does not mean sometimes or now and again, or on the odd occasion, but never. This reminds me of other statements Jesus makes like, “apart from Me you can do nothing”. Never is never and nothing is nothing. Not even a little, tiny, minuscule bit.

The greatest day of our lives is the moment we come to the end of ourselves and through the revelation of the spirit recognise the absolute inability to bring ourselves into Life. It is in this moment we lay it all down before Him and give him permission to take over and do what only He can do within us.

If we do it God’s way, which is impossible in us but fully possible in Him, then we get to drink of the water that only He can give, and we will never thirst again. What will we never thirst for? Never again will we thirst for the temporal to be the source of our lives. The temporal is everything of man and everything that man uses to attempt to bring himself into life. We will never rely on ourselves, our natural abilities, gifts and talents. We won’t seek love and meaning in physical relationships, possessions, passions or the purposes of man. No longer will we depend on our own intellect, understanding or ways of learning. We will not find security in natural bloodlines or finances. Our time, energy and focus will not be absorbed in the pursuit to provide natural food, water, clothing and shelter. Never again will we seek life from the things of earth, man or the temporal.

If we drink of this Living Water we will never thirst for any of this again. Wow! What an incredible promise we are assured of in Christ and Christ alone by faith.

When we partake of this Living Water that Christ and Christ alone

offers, we will never look to the natural for our very life source again, because we have discovered that Christ Himself and the words He speaks of Spirit and Life are in fact the source of life.

Colossians 3:1-4 *Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.*

Acts 17:24-25 *"The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 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.'"*

Luke 4:4 *And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"*

Psalms 19:7-8 *The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.*

It does not get any clearer than this. If you live from the absolute promise Jesus gives, you will never again thirst or seek life in the temporal or natural.

You will be set and made free from this state of bondage, where you are the source of your own life and brought into the supernatural reality of having Christ as your life.

Christ is no longer in your life, but He has become your life.

Absolute number 3... "but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life"

This absolute truth completes the picture of the promise Jesus made to the woman and to all of us as well, if we are partakers, drinkers of the water, which Jesus gives. Look at what happens to the Living Water that Jesus gives us. It becomes in us a well of water

springing up to an eternal life.

Do you and I have this Living Water in us springing up to an eternal life and if not, why not? Is it because you have become content with a knowledge that does not produce life?

Every time we receive Living Water from Jesus it fills the well within us. We are taken from one measure of life to another with every drink we receive from Him.

We are becoming a wellspring of Living Water. We are the recipients of this Living Water and are able to live from this new reality. At the same time we become a well that others can drink from. Because the Father is continuously pouring Himself out into us there is always an abundant supply for us to live from and for others to taste of.

Just like in the feeding of the five thousand. There was more than enough to go around and there was even leftovers.

We always have an abundant supply, which means we are ready and able to freely give to anyone seeking this Living Water. There is no need to limit or guard the supply because the One we receive from gives more than we could ever contain.

We live from this water and not towards it. This water that lives within us provides refreshment to all those who are dehydrated and parched. It is sustenance for those who are thirsty for the reality of eternal life, if they have ears to hear it and a heart willing to see it.

Paul refers to this in Galatians 4 where he talks about being in labour again until the Christ is formed within the church. Paul knows the reality of being this well spring, hence he is the one in labour for the church to come into this supernatural dimension of eternal life.
Galatian's 4:19 My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you.

The Christ is Eternal Life, so to have Christ formed within us, means that the reality of Jesus' absolute statements will be out-worked within us.

Psalm 51:6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.



5

**GO, CALL YOUR
HUSBAND**



In this chapter, we will unpack the reason Jesus instructs the woman at the well to “go call your husband”. This will reveal the true issues that lie deep within her heart. The same kinds of issues that lie deep within all our hearts.

Previously I mentioned that our need and desire for this natural water is not the primary issue, it is just a smokescreen diverting our attention from the real issue. It is time to look beyond the smokescreen and confront the true issue.

Here’s my disclaimer: If you are not willing or ready to confront the true issues of your heart, now is the time to put this book back on the shelf. If you do choose to continue there is an invitation waiting for you in this story that could lead you into a Life that is more incredible than anything you could ever have imagined. So what’s it going to be?

The woman at the well is a prophetic picture or image of followers and non-followers alike. There are very distinct similarities between these two people groups and what they struggle with, while at the same time there are also distinct differences.

Whether you are a follower of Christ or not, every issue we have

starts in the heart, hence, we are taught to watch over our hearts, as from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

Does this truth from Proverbs sound familiar. Doesn't this sound like what we have just looked at, the well spring of water bubbling up within us, coming forth from our inner most being?

Let's pull apart this next passage to seek out what is concealed in these words for us.

John 4:15-18 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly."

After their initial dialogue about this Living Water, where this woman deflected His offer with questions, she now begins to lean into what He is offering. She now says, "Give me this Living Water."

Jesus' response is fascinating. It may appear that He is taking the conversation in a completely different direction, but not everything is as it appears.

He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here."

You would think that as soon as she asked Him for the Living Water He would have given it to her. Especially in light of what he said in verse 10, but He doesn't, and we must ask why doesn't He.

What is Jesus discerning about the state or the condition of this woman's heart which she is more than likely unaware of? A question to consider is what is the motive of her heart in relation to asking for this Living Water? Is it pure or is it contaminated for self-gain?

The Scriptures say we do not receive because we do not ask, while in the same breath, saying we do not receive because we ask with the wrong motive.

James 4:1-5 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and

cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

Let's take a look at the woman's response to Jesus in context with this passage in James.

John 4:15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw."

What do you notice about her motivation for receiving this Living Water? Her motivation is for selfish gain. It is all for her own sake, for the benefit of self and what she can get out of this interaction.

Not only does Jesus know this woman's motivation for receiving this Living Water, but He knows the source of her motivation. Jesus discerns the true issue of her heart and until this issue is dealt with, He cannot give her what He truly wishes to give her, hence the instruction to go and get your husband.

This woman needs a new wineskin before she can receive the new wine, the life-giving water of the Spirit. Her current wineskin has absolutely no way of being able to receive and hold within it the life, which Jesus wants to pour out and into her.

Luke 5:37-39 "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new; for he says, 'The old is good enough.'"

Love will not allow itself to destroy someone who does not have a wineskin capable of holding the abundant life, which Jesus desires to pour out. So, Love which never fails to love offers to do an internal eternal work of the Spirit first, which is why He asks her to go and get her husband.

The Scripture says those who want to find this new life in Christ

must be willing to lose their old life and lose it for Christ's sake.

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."

They must be prepared to let go of what is good for what is God and this letting go must be for His sake and not for their own sake or benefit.

For "My sake" is the key here. This woman's heart is not positioned as it needs to be if she is to receive this Living Water, and Jesus knows this, hence the comment to, "go and get your husband".

Before she can receive this Living Water there must be a deep work of the spirit take place in this woman's inner most being and we are no different.

What will this woman do?

What would you do?

What are you doing?

Will this woman go and call her husband as she has been instructed to do so she can lay hold of this eternal promise, not knowing why she must call him first, other than this man said she must? Will the promise of this Living Water empower her obedience and be greater than her need to understand why she must go and call her husband? Will she disobey the instruction for something else, demanding to know why she must call her husband first before she can receive this water?

Will she say things are ok, they are not that bad and continue to live from her current reality? Will she continue to believe that she knows best and ultimately do her own thing?

Jesus knows exactly what this woman really needs and discerns the true state of her heart. He knows why she continues to seek life in the natural looking to it to quench her thirst. He knows our motivation too. He sees within our hearts and knows, their state and discerns the reasons we seek life from the natural instead of Him.

He knows why she has had five husbands and is on to the sixth. Just as He knows the state of our hearts and our motivations. The incredible thing is this doesn't prevent Him offering us this Living Water. However, this amazing gift does come with some conditions.

We must adhere to them and be obedient if we genuinely want to receive the promise of Life only He can give. These conditions are non-negotiable.

This woman is at a crossroad. She is at what I call the transitional or transactional point between continuing to live as she always has or embrace a brand-new journey. She can remain where she is, living from what is good, familiar and comfortable or she can trust in God and follow Him where He leads. This journey is unknown, she doesn't know what it will cost her or how it will end, it's not familiar or comfortable but it is God.

You must relinquish your way, which you believe is right even though it has not produced life to date.

She may have asked what getting her husband has to do with receiving Living Water. Have you ever found yourself asking questions about God and receiving answers that you didn't expect? Maybe they seemed wrong, ludicrous or just plain stupid.

She must have had so many questions racing through her mind. How do I feel about this? What should I do next? Do I do what He says or do I walk away from this stranger and get back to my routine? Do I do what He asks and see where it leads me?

I wonder how many of us have walked away from conversations like this because we did not recognise who was speaking with us, whether it was God directly or through the agency of man. We walk away because we have no reference or reality for what we are hearing, or we say it all sounds lofty and abstract. We say who do you think you are asking me to do such a thing and what makes this your business?

I wonder how many of us have taken offence because of these types of conversations because we lack a spirit of humility and an inquisitive nature about us, and so in turn our pride has no ability to enter these types of spiritual conversations.

I wonder how many of us will continue to do this because we try to comprehend and understand everything we are hearing through our own lens and filters. Lenses and filters which we have created and built in our own image of God, so when God shows up on the scene

literally or through the agency of man and starts to speak, we end up rejecting and denying Him, never realising what we are doing.

I have personally witnessed many followers over the years walk away from Christ and the life He has for them, never knowing they are doing this. All the while believing they are walking away from a false reality painted up as truth.

I have walked with many who say yes to the Word being spoken, only to see them walk away when the Word that they said yes to confronts their hearts. The word of their lips is put to the test to see if their yes and amen was in word only and not of Him.

John 6:66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

These disciples did not walk away from a place but a Person, this Person being the Christ, the Messiah. Did they truly know whom they were walking away from? The answer is no, and at times neither do we. Peter's response to Jesus' question, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" was to say, "to whom shall we go", not "where shall we go."

No one's race is over until it's over, but if we continue to walk away, deny, deflect, justify and ignore what Jesus desperately wants to address in our lives, then we sabotage the life we can know now and in the future. This has nothing to do with our justified position in Christ but everything to do with becoming Christlike and receiving our full inheritance in Him. This is a lordship issue.

Dealing with the ROOT issue

Jesus is fully aware of the root issue in this woman's life, which must be dealt with before He can pour His Living Water into her. He also knows our root issue, which funnily enough is the same as hers.

Not only will we look at the root issue, but we will also look at the secondary issues, which come into being when the root issue is not destroyed. In other words, the root issue propagates creating secondary issues, both create entanglements that strangle and entrap us, preventing us from receiving the rivers of Living Water within us that Jesus promises.

James 1:14-15 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 Timothy 2:3-4 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

It is here that I am going to make two bold statements of truth, which you may find extremely confronting and challenging, but statements that I personally believe are 100% truth.

1. If our will has not been crucified by God's power we are still lord of our own lives.
2. As lord of our own lives we sit on the throne of our hearts gathering our idols around us.

Luke 14:16-20 But He said to him, "A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.' Another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.' Another one said, 'I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.'"

Luke 14:25-26 Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

Luke 14:33 "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."

Can you spot the idols in the above verses due to self still sitting on the throne of believer's lives. Can you spot her idol?

Jesus told her if she knew WHO He was (Lord) and the gift (Living

Water) He gave, she would have asked, and He would have given.

Knowing Jesus as Lord and tasting the Living Water He gives, brings us into His life, where we never thirst again for being our own lord or drinking water that does not quench our thirst.

The self-lordship and idols are all connected to only knowing about Jesus and only partaking of natural earthly water. Jesus is about to address this with this woman by touching on the most sensitive, crucial, and essential issue of the human heart.

Who is the source of life itself? Who is her source?

He is going straight to the heart of the matter, the matter of Lordship.

This is not primarily a matter of spiritual adultery or idolatry at all for this woman. These issues are secondary to the real issue of self-lordship and when Jesus comes to you to address this issue that lives deeply embedded in the heart of every human being, we get to see the problem first hand.

Our response to Him exposes our true state of being. The problem for many is that we are spiritually blind to this posture of self-lordship, so never end up turning from it. We inherently think we are good people because we are trying to live a life of moral correctness, never realising we are missing the point entirely.

Using the request to call her husband and His discernment of this woman's heart, Jesus leads her into a process of self-discovery. His hope is that she will be willing to journey with Him and trust Him so that He can reveal to her the true state of her own heart. He wants to bring light into the dark recesses of her inner-most being and reveal who and what are really sitting on the throne of her heart. Who is the true lord of her life?

He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly."

Five husbands and onto the sixth is a remarkably big effort to try to find what you are looking for in another person – (because you

are still the lord of your own life) and still not found what you are searching for – LIFE.

When we are still the lord of our own lives we embark on a journey of SELF-discovery attempting to find life in anything and everything. We sample anything seeking to quench our thirst and find the fulfilment and life we crave. This woman believed she would find life and fulfilment in a physical relationship with a man. She sampled five husbands, is now onto her sixth partner, and is still searching.

Would this man be the sixth victim of this woman's insatiable thirst for life and contentment in the flesh? Will she drain the life out of him, just as a vampire drains the blood out of its victim, in the pursuit of fulfilment and completeness?

This may sound harsh, vulgar, and even offensive, but the truth is sharper than a double-edged sword and it judges the thoughts and intentions of the human heart. It pierces and divides soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow. This is not harsh, it is just the truth, and the truth will make us free.

Every one of us goes on a journey to discover the life we were created for. We inherently know there is more to life than the life we currently know, because God has placed eternity deep within us, but it is a life we will never know, while we are still the lord of our own lives.

While we stay the source of our own life, remaining in control of our lives, dreams, thoughts, beliefs, destinies, legacies, goals, and our purpose, we will fail to not only live in and live out the fulfilment of life in Christ, but fail to have these rivers of Living Water being formed within us.

God created us to know Him who is Eternal life, and to know Him means to come into this abundant Eternal life within us. Many give God lip service and declare they know God, keeping themselves busy with functional activities, but they lack the Life that God promises all those who know Him.

Do we have a demonstration of His Life, the actuality of our words, or do our lives communicate something entirely different proving us to be liars? Do we declare Him as Lord of our lives all the while

denying His truth causing our hearts to remain in the darkness and depth of spiritual blindness?

Maybe this is why God told five unwise virgins He did not know them, even though they called Him Lord.

The vessel of self is a cistern dug and procured from the earth formed by us, from dust. It cannot hold water so everything we pour into it to quench our thirst and sustain us, leaks out leaving us unsatisfied. This is why we have idols in our lives. We use them to supplement our lack of knowing Love Himself, but these idols will never suffice.

Only when we receive God who is Love in our inner most being place, will we be set free from the spirit of self, AND from all our idols. Our idols being a false image of God, people, our own purposes and passions, and other priorities, which we value more than God, due to not knowing Him.

Matthew 6:21 “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

In other words, whom or what we absolutely love and find value in is where we will find ourselves drawing our life from. This is the perfect opportunity to remind us of the verse I quoted at the beginning of this chapter.

Proverbs 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

The idolatry of man which exists in the heart of the woman at the well, only exists due to her not knowing the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord in her inner most being.

The eternal solution to this woman’s eternal problem stands directly in front of her, even though she cannot see or hear Him, and this is where her, and our, hope is found. Jesus is the seventh man on the scene, and we know in Hebrew that the number seven stands for fullness or completeness. Is this a coincidence? I think not.

We will look at this seventh man on the scene in the up-and-coming chapter. The Groom of all grooms has appeared in this city called Sychar, in the region of Samaria, a place where Jews do not go. Jesus is intentionally waiting by the well of Jacob to engage with a woman who is looking for fullness and completeness, having within Himself

the offer of a lifetime for all those who are hungry and thirsty for more.

Revelation 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.



6

CREATED FOR
A MARRIAGE
COVENANT WITH
CHRIST



How many of us have a revelation (birthing a living conviction through grace), that when we received the gift of justification for our transgressions, we received an invitation to our own wedding as well.

The wedding and marriage covenant between Christ and His people, the church, is the context in which the living Scriptures find their purpose.

James 4:1-6 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell

in us"? But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

This is the great mystery that Paul described. Like all of the mysteries of the kingdom of God, it must be revealed by the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 5:22-33** Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Saviour of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. *This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.* Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

It is the Holy Spirit's role to bring to light and life all that is concealed in the Christ. This knowledge is to be revealed in the hearts and minds of God's people. It is not acquired, learnt, or studied through the operating system of man.

John 16:12-15 "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. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you."

Without the revelation of the Holy Spirit bringing to light and life the Word of God in our hearts, we will remain spiritually blind to all

the mysteries we have been granted to know and live from. To not have the knowledge of the mysteries will mean you don't have the life of these mysteries in you.

Matthew 13:10-12 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him."

This is a powerful passage of Scripture, but I believe many either miss or do not realise that Jesus is speaking to us. He is addressing His disciples. If you are a disciple of Christ, then He is speaking to you. So, in other words, we have been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but we will only ever know those mysteries if the Holy Spirit is revealing them.

To the disciple who is receiving these kingdom mysteries through revelation, more mysteries shall be given, which results in more of Christ's life being formed and built within them, due to receiving these promises of inheritance.

This is what I call an eternal life now.

Look at what Jesus said to those who are void of these promises even though they have been granted to know them.

Matthew 13:12 "but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him."

Even what they have or perceive to have will be taken away from them!

One follower is growing from strength to strength, maturing into the full stature of the Christ within them, becoming ready, while the other is remaining in their immature stature, being void of any internal life or fruit.

Both followers are children of God, but they are not of the same kind. One stays very childish and has a very shallow fellowship with the Lord, while the other becomes mature and has a deep fellowship with the Lord.

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 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? For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men?

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

Paul described the marriage covenant between Christ and His church as a great mystery. This mystery is concealed for the mature disciple or wise virgin of God to find and know. It is the mystery which must be revealed in us if it is to have the necessary impact – LIFE, and see us being made ready for this day and reality now.

Revelation 19:7-8 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

We were created for the most intimate fellowship or oneness with the Father and Son, through the marriage covenant. Paul laid his life down for this and was living to see it accomplished in every follower of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.

Colossians 1:28-29 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

The word 'betrothed' means to join, to fit, to join to oneself.

We are not betrothed to one another but to Him. We are in a marriage covenant with Him before anyone else, and this also applies to those who are not physically married. Every follower of Jesus is betrothed to Jesus alone.

To be led astray from this truth is to be found unworthy of Him

and not ready on the day He returns, just like the unwise virgins.

Matthew 10:34-37 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's enemies will be the members of his household. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."

Jesus is our Groom, to whom we are betrothed. Jesus is our husband, and we are to be His wife in the future, but in accordance with the truth, we are in this marriage covenant now. Because of this we are to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, which is the first commandment of God to all those in this covenant.

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."

Mark 12:28-30 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognising that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'"

Let's return to the woman at the well and this fascinating encounter. She has sought love in all the wrong places. She has been married five times looking for life in a man, hoping to find completeness and

satisfaction. Five times she gave her heart away and five times she's been disappointed.

Once again she finds herself alone, empty and ready for the sixth partner. Still seeking love in all the wrong places and coming up empty. It is in this moment that the perfect Man (Christ) enters the scene.

The perfect Man introduces her to the life she was created for and offers her an opportunity of a lifetime. Everything she has ever searched for and more can be found in this Man and His offer. A covenant of marriage with the One who created her. Fellowship – a deep spiritual oneness between Creator and creation. To become the Creator's own possession and be reunited with His original design, becoming One with the Father and Son.

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Ephesians 1:14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

Have you ever asked yourself why there are no human marriages that exist after the resurrection as per the teaching of Jesus in Scripture?

Mark 12:25 "For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven."

The context for this reference relates to the laws of Moses and you can read about it in Deuteronomy 25:5-6. In this passage from Mark, the Sadducees ask the question of a man with six brothers who gets married and dies without a child. Fulfilling the law his brother marries his wife to produce an heir for his brother but dies before succeeding and so it continues until all seven brothers are dead, and the Sadducees ask Jesus at the resurrection which brother will be the woman's husband.

The answer is none because people neither marry nor are given in marriage to one another after the resurrection, because all those who

have lived a spirit filled, faithful, obedient life unto the Father and His will, will find themselves being married to the Christ, becoming His wife.

Contrary to what many believe the truth is, not every follower will be the wife of Christ. His bride will reflect Him and will have lived a faithful and obedient life while on earth. Many are justified by His blood and will enter into eternity with the Father and Son, but few will experience all the Father has prepared for those who love Him and have become His possession.

Why is this? Because they chose self over Spirit. They chose self over God.

Many believe and are taught that because they are betrothed to Christ now, they are automatically going to be His wife in the future. We say, 'but we are the bride of Christ,' to which I say, 'but do we live as the bride of Christ?'

It is fully possible to be the betrothed but not live as the bride, due to still being the source of our own lives. Just as it is fully possible to be a son of God and not live as a son. It is fully possible to agree with all the identity attributes intellectually and verbally but not live in alignment to the identities of a bride or son.

Jesus shares the parables of the ten virgins and the talents as a wakeup call for all followers who believe the way they live here on earth has no bearing on their eternity, what they will receive or be entitled to at the judgement seat of Christ. We will dig into this later when we talk about the will of God.

In the parable of the ten virgins we see that five do not enter the wedding feast. Even though they profess Him as Lord they are turned away because the Lord doesn't know them. The parable of the talents shows us that the wicked lazy servant ends up in outer darkness, which in this case is not hell, because he was unfaithful with that which was entrusted to him.

It is fully possible to be betrothed to Christ, set apart to be His bride but break covenant with Him because we love ourselves, others, or our possessions more than Him. We cannot have two masters or we will find ourselves living for our own will and not His.

Luke 14:25-33 Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."

This is a very powerful passage of Scripture that is not to be ignored or overlooked. Jesus is making it perfectly clear to every follower of His what is required if you genuinely want to be His disciple and not just stay in the crowd as a justified believer.

We see this type of warning in other areas of Scripture as well, so we can be absolutely sure Jesus means what He is saying and doesn't want us to miss it.

Matthew 10:34-39 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's enemies will be the members of his household. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it."

Matthew 22:8-14 Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they

found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests. "But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' And the man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

2 Timothy 2:1-7 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

1 Corinthians 3:8-15 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because

it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

All of these verses are making us fully aware that there is way more to life in Christ than being justified and biding our time before we go to heaven. Failure to enter into the fullness of our marriage covenant with Christ now, where we keep His two commandments and live out His Will and purpose, will see us coming short of the life we could have known in this age, the age to come and also our role in the new heavens and new earth.

Revelation 22:3-4 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.

This is the reality that Jesus invites the woman at the well to enter into when He offers her Living Water. This life will remain a mystery and be concealed from her if she does not heed his instruction to go and get her husband. Later we will unpack the consequences to us and others when we choose to do what we think is right instead of what He asks us to do when we look at the chapter on disobedience.

Unless we truly know what it is to be in the vertical marriage covenant in Christ through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in us, we will be unable to keep the horizontal covenant with one another as the body of Christ. We will also be unable to love our neighbour who does not know Christ, the way we are commanded to. All in all, we find ourselves unable to live the way we have been commanded to live.

Mark 12:31 "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Those who actually live as the bride of Christ will be known for this kind of love and loving their neighbour the way God commands. The reason they can demonstrate this wisdom is because they have lost their life for His sake through receiving grace and knowing what it is through God's power to abide in the Vine. Because of abiding in Christ who is the Vine and who is Love, love is innately produced and

formed within this follower or branch. This kind of follower just gets to live a life of love, fulfilling the law of Christ, walking in the same manner that Christ walked.

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.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 5:13-14 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

To love like Christ and to be able to live as He lived demonstrating who He is and His ways, is a significant purpose of the marriage covenant between Christ and His church. To be unaware of this or to attempt to enter into the marriage covenant other than the way God commands will have us void of the life the covenant produces. We will be unable to be faithful and obedient in living out the covenant of marriage with the Lord.

This is why the five foolish virgins were told, "I do not know you." **Matthew 25:11-13** Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open up for us.' But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour."

I pray as virgins that none of us will arrive at this future point in the kingdom of heaven and hear these same words, because we have not lived our lives in accordance to our marriage covenant with Christ. We cannot just assume we are wise virgins and not ever consider we could be the unwise ones. What is our life telling us about this?

2 Corinthians 11:2-3 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

We can see from these two verses just how easy it is for the church to be led astray from this life in Christ, because we have tried to come to know God through the mind. Paul compares the fall of humanity from the glory of God, with a pure virgin being led astray from her husband, who in our case is Christ. I am not sure you can get a greater comparison than this!

This is a fellowship issue. This is a relational issue not a functional one. Jesus did not say, "You did not do enough for Me" or "you did not try hard enough," but that "I do not know you". The word know is the Greek word 'eido', which means to see or to perceive with the eyes. Jesus did not recognise these five virgins, even though they are children of His Father. This truth is to have us asking questions of our own fellowship with Him especially in light of the following scriptures.

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."

1 Corinthians 8:3 but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

The Scripture is clear. The Lord knows those who are His. In other words, the Lord knows those who love Him in accordance with the marriage covenant and those who live for Him. He knows the followers who give Him lip service and the followers who profess a reality but live in accordance with self.

I want to bring our attention to Matthew 25:13.

"Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour."

Be on the alert! What are we to be on the alert for? What does it look like to live a life on the alert? Why is this a warning from Christ Himself to you and me?

We must be on the alert for His return as He is returning to collect His bride. He is returning to collect all those who have loved Him and lived for Him the way He has commanded. He is returning for the overcomer, His co-heir, His co labourer, who will sit with Him on His throne next to the Father.

These are the virgins the Father has been seeking this entire time as His true worshippers, as it is these virgins or worshippers the Father seeks to be His Son's bride and ultimately His wife.

John 4:23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers."

Living on the alert has nothing to do with knowing 'when' Jesus is returning but 'why' and for 'whom' He is returning. While many virgins in the body of Christ chase and try to figure out the 'when' a much smaller number of virgins (called the 'few') are only concerned with the 'why' and the 'who'.

The why and the who become the core motivating factors for living a life, which is always on the alert and ready for Christ's return. These virgins are not entangled in civilian affairs or living for the priorities and passions of earth like their fellow virgins. Their only concern is pleasing the One who enlisted them and to be a living demonstration of a kingdom virgin because of the marriage covenant they are in with the Lord.

Doing the will of the Father is their primary concern and purpose. They value and hold the Spirit and the things of the Spirit in pre-eminence above the natural and the things of the natural. Being part of God's spiritual family and living in accordance with this over natural bloodline family is just one example of the follower who understands the marriage covenant of Christ and His church.

Matthew 12:46-50 While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. Someone said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You." But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

Are we hearing what is being released here? Are we hearing the prophetic utterance, which we are not to despise and shy away from? What I am prophesying here is the eternal purpose of the Father for all those who desire to be faithful and obedient virgins to their heavenly kingdom calling.

We do not want to be found like the many, busying ourselves with

Christian activities while being asleep to the marriage covenant with Christ. Believing that our godly works are the evidence of our love for God and our will to live for Him, when in actual fact they are just fleshly attempts to be good. I am sure the unwise virgins, the servant with the one talent and those in Matthew 7 who operated in their spiritual gifts didn't expect to hear what they did.

The truth is clear. Only those who do the will of the Father enter the kingdom of heaven and get to participate in all He has for them now and in the age to come.

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

To practise lawlessness is to live your life in accordance with the flesh and not with God's Word by faith. It is where we put our spin on everything through the flesh, and we create our own image of God and His Word. It becomes all about what we think, feel, and believe He is saying, as opposed to what He actually says.

This is remarkably easy to do when as virgins we are led by the flesh and not by the Spirit of Truth as true worshippers.

Although this woman at the well has no reference for anything we have just looked at, Jesus does. We also may have no reference or reality for anything we have looked at so far, but Jesus does, and He wishes to give it to all those who ask wholeheartedly with a pure heart.

Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

Jesus knows exactly the reality, which exists in Himself and every promise the Father has promised for all those who overcome. As we come to know Him through the revelation of the Spirit and get to drink of the Living Water He gives, then this unseen kingdom dimension becomes known, seen, and laid hold of by us.

We become imitators of God, and we start to live by faith from the unseen seen realm called the eternal kingdom of God.

2 Corinthians 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight—



7

**LIVING FROM OUR
PERCEPTIONS**



John 4:19-22 The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.”

Living from what we perceive to be truth is an extremely dangerous practice for a follower of Jesus. Our perception of Him and His truth will lead us into a greater depth of darkness and away from the reality of the life Jesus came to bring us. The greatest danger to ourselves in relation to living from what we perceive is true, is that we are convinced without any doubt that our perception is in fact the truth.

It may be our truth and reality, but it is not His truth and reality, and it is only His truth and reality that matter.

The key word here in verse 19 came directly from the woman’s mouth. The word ‘I’.

‘I’ perceive you are a prophet. While the ‘I’ in us is still operating,

then this 'I' acts as a lens or a filter, which all of Christ's truth runs through first. This 'I' is demonic in nature and it will reject, deny, deflect, justify, ignore, shun, and hide from the Truth that comes to crucify it. The 'I' in us at times will even accept the truth but on its terms, manipulating the truth where it puts its spin on things for the benefit of self.

This is where everything we do is self-motivated and stems from the pursuit of self-gain. Externally we may appear to be in close relationship with the Father, serving Him and doing everything for His sake. Internally the motivation of our heart is self-centred and anchored in our pursuit of self-gain.

Our perceptions are built according to our earthly existence and experiences. Everything we come into contact with can mould and shape our perception, from our upbringing to what we have been taught by others, to what we have taught ourselves. Everything we experience, feel, think, see and hear will have a hand in creating what we believe and perceive.

This is why it is extremely dangerous for a follower of Jesus to be led, and live their lives from, what they hear, see and feel through the natural as opposed to the spiritual.

The woman perceived Jesus to be a prophet because of what Jesus told her about the five husbands she has had and that she was onto her sixth partner, looking for the same thing she could not find in her other five husbands.

Was Jesus a prophet? Yes, absolutely but He was also far more. As we have already discussed, this is the Messiah standing before her, not just a prophet. This is Eternal Life speaking to her offering her a Life that will quench her insatiable thirst for everything of the natural. He is the One all things have come into being through and apart from Him nothing has come into being. He is the One that is Life and this Life is the light to all men. Jesus is a prophet that is true but it is only a piece of the truth not the whole truth...which is also Him.

John 1:3-4 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 woman's perception was that Jesus was a prophet. The truth is Jesus is God and the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature. The One who upholds all things by the word of His power.⁵

Jesus knows that as a rule, people only give considerable time, attention, worth, value, seriousness, and weightiness of what someone says to them, in accordance with who they say they are to them.

It does not matter that Jesus was the Messiah or that Paul said he was an apostle if the person, the group, or the crowd who are listening to the person speak do not know and believe who they are in God. Many people will only give any weight, attention or authority to what is being said, based on their perspective on who they believe the person is.

It does not matter who the person actually is or the gift on their life. If the listener does not believe this or recognise this then they will ignore, reject, deflect and walk away from this person, even when this person was sent for them.

This happened to Jesus, and it will happen to His followers who truly follow Him in the way of truth.

This is why Jesus asked His disciples "Who do the people say I am and who do you say I am?" along with, "Why do you call Me Lord, Lord, and not do what I say?"

Matthew 16:13-15 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

Jesus knows that our true knowledge of who He is decides our response to what He says. If this woman only perceives Him as a prophet as opposed to who He is, she will live in accordance with this perception, hence we see in verse 26, Jesus literally tells her that He is the Messiah.

5 Hebrews 1:3

John 4:25-26 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

Jesus clearly articulates that He is the Messiah so that she can transition from her perception of Him as a prophet to knowing His true identity as the Messiah. From this new knowledge, she can then ask for Living Water knowing that only He can give it to her. However, her response reveals that she still filters what He says through her own perception that He is a prophet.

John 4:29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?"

She leaves the conversation with Jesus and immediately goes to the city. This is not what she was instructed to do, but we will discuss this more later.

She says, "Come, see a man" followed up by a question "This is not the Christ, is it?"

Let us first look at the statement "Come, see a man" and then tackle the question "This is not the Christ, is it?"

Come, see a man

Once again, her perception informs her that Jesus is a mere man. A man she perceived to be a prophet. A man with a gift on his life to be able to see things, which others are not graced for. Perception is like tunnel vision, without sight for anything else it is all you see. Jesus understands how important spiritual sight is as He advises us to buy from Him eye salve for our eyes⁶.

Jesus took the form of a bond-servant, taking the form of a human, and yes, He was a prophet but His primary form and position (which is the most important in God) was not that of a man, but of God.

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

Jesus was the visible image of His invisible Father, the firstborn of all creation. By Him, all things were created, both in the heavens

6 Revelation 3:8

and on the earth, visible and invisible. All things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

When we know Jesus as God, as the living Messiah through divine revelation, we no longer live from our perceptions of who He is. We also start to speak in alignment to this actuality. If this woman knew Him as the Messiah as Jesus told her He was, as opposed to the man who was a prophet, or a mere man, then her language would have been remarkably different in her testimony to the people of the city.

This woman is in good company with the disciple Philip. In fact, Philip takes it up a notch or two because his profession through his perception is that he has not found a man, but the Messiah Himself.

Philip claims he found the One, which Moses in the Law and the prophets wrote about, and technically he did but...

John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

This does not mean he truly knows Him the way he needs to know Him.

Philip's perception, Philip's reality is one thing, but Christ's truth about Philip is something entirely different.

Why is this the case? Because Jesus knows just because He is standing right in front of Philip, where he can touch Him, see Him, and hear Him with his natural senses, does not mean Philip knows Him.

Proximity is not the proof of possession.

In fact, it was Jesus who found Philip first and said, "Follow Me".

John 1:43 The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me."

For all intents and purposes Philip is convinced he found Jesus

and knows who Jesus is, so how confronting would it have been to have Jesus inform him some time later, after they had been walking together for some time, that he does not know Him at all.

John 14:7-9 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

"Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip?"

Wow, what an absolute mic drop statement, which confronted Philip's true heart posture of not knowing the One he said he had found. Philip's perception is being challenged, confronted and blown apart by the very One he said he had found, and this is all for the purpose of life.

Have you been confronted by the Apostle of God yet? Asking if you have a true revealed knowledge of who He is, not just a mental knowledge about Him. If you haven't had this confrontation yet, it is still to come. When it does do not hide, deflect, ignore, justify, attack, reject or deny it. This will only sabotage yourself and prevent you from coming into the Life Jesus has for you as His follower.

There is a reason Hosea 4:6 says what it says.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

When we as his people reject the true intimacy of knowing Him for our own perceptions about Him, we are destroyed. We will never enter into the Eternal Life Christ has for us, both now and in the future.

1 Corinthians 3:15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Matthew 25:11-13 "Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open up for us.' But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know

you.' Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour." Matthew 25:30 "Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Yes, we will be in heaven with Him, but we will miss out on the reward He had intended for us. The reward of our inheritance as sons who lived in accordance with spirit and truth, as true worshippers.

Everything of the natural or the physical is just flesh and flesh has no place in God's spiritual kingdom.

Flesh is of earth and earth has its mode of operation in darkness. Earth is of the image of Adam. Earth has its own wisdom, thoughts, and ways of being and it is diametrically opposed to everything of the Spirit. The flesh is opposed to the Spirit and the Spirit is in direct opposition to the flesh.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

This is why the woman at the well, Philip and all the other disciples could only know, see, and hear Jesus in a fleshly way, but could not know, see and hear Him in a spiritual way.

The One who Moses saw through the eyes of faith stays unseen to those of flesh. The disciples only saw Him as the Son of man and not the Son of God. We too may only have seen Him as the Son of man and are in need of seeing Him as the Son of God.

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.

This is why it is critical we know what it is to be a true worshipper who worships from the posture of spirit and truth not flesh and truth. This is fully possible to do, as it is these worshippers the Father seeks. We will unpack this more in the next chapter called, 'True Worshippers'.

It is fully possible to have Jesus Himself turn up in a physical manifestation directly in front of you, sharing with you who He is and declaring His truth to you, and still be none the wiser when it comes to knowing Him, hearing Him or seeing Him the way we need to for our transformation.

We can share this information with others as this woman does, and Jesus can even move and touch the hearts of others as we see in this story, all the while we stay the same and are no better off than we were before.

Let us move on to the second part of this verse where we look at her question.

“This is not the Christ, is it?”

The woman is wrestling with the reality of who this could be. Jesus has told her who He is, but she has only heard Him through the seen dimension, which is earthly as opposed to the unseen dimension, which is eternal. Moses and the other people of faith saw into the unseen heavenly dimension.

The word she heard did not profit her one bit because it was not united by faith, exactly as it was for the Israelites.

Hebrews 4:2 For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

She approaches the people of the city posing the statement as a question because she doesn't really know Him. Jesus, has told her He is the Messiah, told her 'all the things that' she has done but she is still left with the question rather than the assurance of who He really is.

John 4:29 “who told me all the things that I have done”.

It is the fact that He has told her things about herself that He couldn't know that has grabbed her attention, not the fact that Jesus told her He was the Messiah. This is a pattern we see in the scriptures and the same pattern we see in many followers today. This is the same reality we see playing out in John 6 where Jesus performs signs and wonders and feeds the five thousand.

John 6:2 A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick.

John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.”

Many follow Jesus while receiving physical benefits such as

miracles and physical food but walk away the moment Jesus starts declaring things of the Spirit. When He begins to release Kingdom truth regarding who He is and the reality that flesh profits us nothing, and that Life is found in Him and Him alone, the many walk away.

Let us be completely honest. Many of us are more intrigued and drawn by the supernatural works of Jesus, what He can do through us, or what we can do for Jesus, than Jesus Himself.

This is why so many followers fail to be still and know Him just for who He is. Our inability to be still is the evidence of our lack of true inner spiritual life, which in turn exposes the lack of love we have for God.

So many followers are about the miracles, the healings, the works, prophecies, the gifts, positions, titles, and what they can do, all the while loving God and others like God does is relegated to the back seat never to be seen again, as this holds zero appeal.

It is like when a well-known prophet or speaker comes to a Sunday service and people you have not seen on a regular basis for ages turn up in hope of receiving a word for themselves. God's people come out of the woodwork in droves for some individual word and then just as quickly as they came, they all disappear, not to be seen again until the next visit of the prophet, speaker, or miracle they hear about.

Our first response to things tells us so much about where we are truly at in our walk with Him and our love or lack of love for Him.

The need for revelation and ongoing revelations of Jesus by the Holy Spirit imparting His Word in and upon us, is the key to leaving all of our perceptions and forms of godliness.

Revelation births a manifestation of Christ's life being formed within us, which enables and empowers us to demonstrate a wisdom, which is eternal. As we know, Jesus is the Wisdom of God and the Eternal Life. What we get to demonstrate is a Christlike life into the earth, as the Scriptures testify.

2 Corinthians 4:7-11 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but

not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 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.

Only those who truly know the Christ through revelation and are having His Word imparted into them on a consistent basis can demonstrate this eternal wisdom into the earth.

James 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

James 1:21-22 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know

What a powerful statement Jesus makes to the woman at the well. When we live from our perceptions of God and His ways, this can be you and I without ever realising it. We worship a God we do not actually know. This means we are worshipping and living for an image of God, a form of God, which is not God at all. A god, which we build in our own image. This god is our version of God but elevated as God in our hearts and minds, leaving us void of life.

We do this because we are still the builders who reject the chief Cornerstone, believing and convinced we have not, all the while still trying to build our own lives, His church and His kingdom based on this false image of God.

Our reverence for God is in our traditions, which we have learnt by rote, all the while being oblivious to this reality. Without ever realising it we honour God with our words, but we remove our hearts far from Him. Our worship is in vain and without ever realising it, we become a false worshipper, worshipping a God we create in our own image.

We have information about the Messiah just as this woman did, but that is not enough to have us worshipping God the way He desires to be worshipped. It is Jesus' compassion and love for this woman

that sees Him share His truth with her and where she is truly at, in the hope she will turn from her perception and start living in accordance with His words.

You worship what you do not know!

Was she offended by these words? Would we be offended if Jesus said this to us? Love does not get offended, or hold offence so to be offended is the evidence of not knowing Love. If we had a true revealed knowledge of who He is and all that He has for us we wouldn't be offended. We would know that Jesus doesn't confront us in order to hurt us, offend us or ruin our fun. He is Love, His very nature is Love and everything He does and says is motivated by and from Love. He sees our true spiritual state and the delusions of grandeur we hold when we filter everything through the lens of our own perceptions and He uncovers the shaky foundations we are building on to save us from being crushed by the Rock.

This is exactly the reality for the church of Laodicea.

Revelation 3:14-20 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me."

Jesus comes to this church and clearly communicates with them where they are at spiritually. Once again, He says this for life and not death. He says this for gain and not loss. Jesus loves the church and laid His life down for her and the church of Laodicea is no different.

Jesus brings several observations against them based on truth. He says:

- He knows their deeds, that they are neither cold nor hot.
- They are lukewarm in their fellowship with Him and He will spit them out of His mouth if things do not change.
- They do not know their true state.
- They are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

His answer to these allegations is that they should buy gold from Him so that they may become all that they believed they were, rich and in need of nothing, and receive white garments from Him to clothe themselves.

Their bold claims to Him from their own perception of themselves is: We are rich, wealthy and have need of nothing.

These are two completely different paradigms, just as spirit is from flesh. These followers' perception of where they are at in Christ is 100% opposite to Jesus' declaration and I wonder if this could be our reality as well?

Do we know our true spiritual condition of heart, mind and body? This woman certainly did not.

Are we believing a false reality about our lives as to where we are at in our fellowship with the Lord and the accomplishment of His will? Do we measure ourselves by ourselves? Do we perceive to be in a reality we are not?

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

Peter measured himself by himself because of his perception of where he believed he was at, telling Jesus he would not deny Him, even though Jesus told him He would.

Mark 14:27-30 And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, because it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away, yet I will not." And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, that this very night, before a

rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times." But Peter kept saying insistently, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all were saying the same thing also.

Mark 14:66-72 As Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Nazarene." But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are talking about." And he went out onto the porch. The servant-girl saw him, and began once more to say to the bystanders, "This is one of them!" But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders were again saying to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean too." But he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about!" Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, "Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And he began to weep.

Jesus speaking this way to Peter is no different to Jesus telling the woman and the Laodicean church the truth about their true states. It is the spirit of pride in us that has us declaring the opposite reality to what Jesus shares with us and believing our perceived truth over the Truth.

Jesus is God not you and I, so if Jesus takes the time to share with us our true state before Him, He does it for our good, our gain, so we can leave our false state and move towards life in Him. The key to this is truly hearing in the Spirit, not our own thoughts, feelings, beliefs, or vain imagination.

The Scripture says we do not yet know as we ought to know, so if the One of the Scripture shares with us of a reality we do not yet know, can I encourage us all to believe what He says over our perceptions of truth.

Our perceptions, images and versions of truth keep us out of the Truth, which makes us free.

John 8:31-32 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

We must be a people who live from the true knowing of God, which only comes via the revelation of the Spirit.

Colossians 2:2-4 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. I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.

True Godly worship is where we have lost our lives for His sake through the receiving of His love being implanted within us. We are then free to lay these new lives in Christ down for His sake and truly start to live for Him and His will, empowered by His grace.

Anything other than this is merely our perception of what worship is, and this is not worship God receives. This leads us beautifully into the next chapter called 'True Worshippers'.



8

TRUE WORSHIPPERS



In this chapter, we will cover many passages of scripture as we continue to bring to light and life what is concealed within the living scriptures. It is clear from what Jesus declared that the Father is seeking true worshippers, those who worship in spirit and truth.

This is a little different isn't it? It's not just about us seeking Him, but the Father is seeking us. The Father is intentionally searching and looking for a kind of worshipper, a true worshipper and not just any one who says they worship God.

John 4:23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshippers."

The very fact that Jesus uses the words true worshippers means it is fully possible to be a false worshipper and not even recognise this fact, as we looked at previously.

We see Jesus call this false worshipper position out in John 4 and Mark 7.

John 4:22 "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."

Mark 7:6-8 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."

This false worship position is called flesh and truth, and we will unpack this as we work our way through the verses.

Let us jump straight into these verses in John 4 and see what unfolds.

John 4:20-26 "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."

"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

Under the new covenant in Christ, everything has changed. It is no longer about a place, location or destination where worship is to take place as the woman believes. What once was is no longer.

This does not mean it was wrong, of course not, but it was only a foreshadowing for what was to come, a copy and shadow of heavenly things.

Hebrews 8:1-6 Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain." But

now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

Colossians 2:16-17 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

It is not about a place, location or destination

As I already mentioned, the first thing to recognise and know is that worship has nothing to do with a place, location or destination. We see the woman say, “our fathers worshipped in this mountain and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship”. The true worshipper knows that primarily worship has nothing to do with a physical place, but everything to do with the loss of one’s life for God’s sake through the divine power of Grace.

True worshippers have lost their lives for His sake and have fellowship with the Father, Son and the spiritual words of Christ. They live their lives based on knowing Him and these words of truth.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.”

As He speaks to this woman, Jesus is ushering in a Kingdom way of worship, replacing what man has known up to this moment. He is bringing restoration of His original plan where worship is not confined to a place. This woman fails to hear what He is saying. How sad it is, that many of His followers today live under the same fleshly mind-set that worship is about a place, or destination, or worse yet they have watered worship down to the playing of music or singing songs.

We say things like, ‘where do you worship’ and ‘where do you go to church,’ which is all indicative of an un-renewed mind-set, which is of flesh. We believe that worship is limited to the singing of songs during a church service or gathering, whether that be in a large building, a home, on the beach or in a stadium.

We say things like “wasn’t the worship amazing today”, or “I only go for the worship,” all the while having no reference for what we are actually saying or living.

It is here that we see Jesus follow up this statement with these words, “You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews”.

As we have already unpacked this passage earlier I won’t say any more about it now. I just want to note how fascinating it is how all of this connects and that it still affects many in His body today when it comes to the reality of being a true worshipper.

True worshippers worship in spirit and truth, so if we are going to be true worshippers and not just followers who play music and sing songs at physical locations, then it is imperative we know the Spirit, we know the Truth (which is actually of one dimension) and what worship actually is as defined by God.

1 John 5:6 ...It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

God is Spirit

Jesus starts by saying that God is spirit, and we know Jesus is Truth, so one has no capacity to worship in spirit and truth unless one knows God Himself. The Holy Spirit had not yet been poured out into the hearts of people as a general rule, so this woman, of John 4, was not yet of the spirit within her, just like the disciples, even though the Spirit walked with them.

John 14:17 “that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”

The key words here are “will be in you”.

God IS Spirit and He desires to take up full residence within us at our very core, the centre of who we are.

This is all part of God’s identity and who He is, which is to shape who we are as well. Spiritual beings who now have their existence in a flesh suit.

He IS Spirit and unless we are of this IS dimension, which is spirit, we will not have a clue who He is or who we are either. This lack of

identity leaves us completely incapable to become followers who worship in spirit and truth.

From birth we are of the flesh. It is all that we know. There is not one single person that is born into the Spirit due to the fall of humanity. None of us were born with any reference for the Spirit or who God is. We are born into darkness and live in darkness, in need of God's divine grace to rescue us from our flesh and bring us into the Light, which is Spirit.

Colossians 1:13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

This rescuing does not just happen because we pray a prayer of repentance. If there is no power in the prayer, then nothing happens.

This only happens when God's power, God's grace, goes to work within us, pulling us out of a spiritual posture of death and raising us up into a brand new life, a brand new existence. We go from death to life, not being bad to good or ok to better.

Romans 6:4-5 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

Psalms 40:1-3 I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear And will trust in the Lord.

David's testimony is not a physical declaration but an inward one of heart. It is a spiritual circumcision of heart as per Paul's words.

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; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

All of what he declares is taking place within him. Do we have a reference for this work of the Spirit within us?

The flesh has its own counterfeit version of the "IS" reality and when we live from the flesh we live from this counterfeit version. We

will have our own image of God and our own image of who we are. This counterfeit “IS” reality will define what we believe it is to worship in spirit and truth. This false version will appear to us as Truth, all the while being a shallow counterfeit of the real thing.

This counterfeit “IS” posture will deceive us and lead us astray in our hearts and minds through our own fleshly belief system.

This counterfeit “IS” position is so innate to us and appears to be authentic and true. It is part of our fallen nature and all that we have ever known and we see it as who we are and therefore cannot fathom or comprehend its insidious nature. It’s like breathing, we don’t have to think about it we just do it, it’s not strange or foreign. The same is true of this false fleshly “IS”. We don’t consciously choose to live this way, it is simply how we live. This is the same position the woman at the well was in.

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

This is so serious and yet I fear that many of us fail to see the critical nature of this matter and blindly continue our lives in this counterfeit reality.

Those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth

This again is another absolute statement of Christ. He is making it perfectly clear to us His expectations and design. We **MUST** worship Him in spirit and truth. There is no wiggle room in this statement. There is no other option or another way.

There is no I think, or I feel, or I believe this is how we are to worship. Jesus is giving us a clear directive. We **MUST** worship Him in spirit and truth as these are the followers the Father seeks, so what does it mean to worship Him in spirit and truth?

Worship in spirit

One cannot worship God who is Spirit in spirit, if one does not know and have the Spirit within them. Even then, just because you have the Spirit in you does not mean you know how to worship and live your life on earth in the Spirit.

It's not rocket science, in fact it is extremely simple. If one does not have the Spirit in them then flesh is present and it is from the flesh that we live out our form of worship and truth. As mentioned before you can have the Spirit but still not know how to worship in Spirit.

This is a counterfeit false way of being and living but it can be painted up to the earthly eye as real. This is how you get the statement Jesus says to the woman, "You worship a god you do not know".

So what does it mean to be 'in spirit'?

We know what it is to be in flesh but what does it mean to be in spirit. Once again, this is not something we profess to be in because we have grown up in a Christian home, or we have read the bible, done works in His name, say we believe, or mum and dad are pastors of a church.

Being in spirit is to be of the Spirit and this is eternal or supernatural. It is solely the role of the Holy Spirit to bring us into the Spirit. If this does not take place, then we are still of the flesh, the earth.

The Scriptures are clear and say we must be born again or born of a brand new spirit if we are to be partakers of the spiritual kingdom of God. We must be born of God's spirit to worship Him in spirit.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Just as a child is born of the natural we are to be born of the spiritual, for God is Spirit. This is not something we can do but God does within us through divine grace. As mentioned, it is the Holy Spirit who brings us into this 'in spirit' life.

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing..."

It is fully possible to be justified by His blood due to believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, but still not be 'born of spirit'. This is where we have received John the Baptist's message for the repentance of iniquity and sin but are still to be born of the spirit.

Acts 19:1-7 It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some

disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptised?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptised with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. There were in all about twelve men.

The starting point to knowing what it is to worship in spirit is to be of the spirit. If we are not yet of the spirit, then we are to seek and ask the Father for the Holy Spirit to baptise us into His name as per the Scripture above. There is also the receiving of the power of God which we receive when the Holy Spirit comes upon us which Jesus promises us in Acts 1:8 and Luke 24:49.

As we are baptised in His name and receive His power, we find ourselves fully able to lose our lives for his sake, laying it down as Jesus did and living for the Father's will.

Entering into His Sabbath rest, we cease from all our man-made efforts to learn and understand. We find ourselves learning in, and of, the Spirit through the spiritual posture of abiding. We are the branch connected to the True Vine.

As we live connected to the Vine, we can now hear, see, know and understand in, and of, the Spirit. We simply live in accordance to the vine, due to the work the Spirit does within us, called Sanctification. **2 Thessalonians 2:13** 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 really is that simple. Just as we innately lived by the flesh, we now find ourselves living innately in the spirit.

The next question then is "What is it to worship Him in truth?"

The truth is more than just knowing scripture, or knowing what is true or false, right or wrong. It is more than attempting to live a

morally correct life.

Firstly, the Truth is the One who said, "I am the Truth". Secondly, the Spirit is the Truth and thirdly it is the words of Jesus, which are spirit and life.

We are to be continuously receiving greater revelation of the Truth – who Jesus is, who the Spirit is and the words He speaks. This Truth alone will make us free and produce His Life within us.

To worship in truth is to live in accordance to the Truth. What Jesus said, He lived and what Jesus lived was intrinsically connected with what He said. When we enter into fellowship with the Truth, our lives are intrinsically connected to God and His words, which are spirit and life. We are empowered by His grace to live in accordance to what He says.

Jesus was the perfect example of living out the Father's truth from the posture of abiding in the Spirit. His life was a living sacrifice, an act of spiritual worship poured out for His Father's sake; this is the example we are to exemplify.

As Jesus was on earth, we are to be.

1 John 4:17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

To worship in truth is to become Christlike in nature and character and to walk as He walked and live as He lived. Then we are confident of receiving our inheritance in the day of our judgement seat.

Mighty in the Scriptures but in need of a more accurate way

You can be mighty in the Scriptures as Apollos was, believing and thinking you are mighty in the truth, and still need to be led into a more accurate way in Christ. The way of spirit and truth.

Acts 18:24-26 Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla

and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Being mighty in the Scriptures does not mean you are mighty in Truth. Being able to quote the Scriptures does not mean you know the Truth. Being able to answer all the questions in relation to the Scriptures does not mean you know the Truth. All of this adds up to not being in the life of the Truth, which makes you free.

I have known many who can quote the Scriptures all the while being bound up in pride and self-righteousness.

Truth that is not producing His life in us is not Truth. It is simply our version of Truth, because we do not know what it is to worship in Spirit and Truth. The woman at the well has this kind of knowledge from the Scriptures about the Messiah coming and that when He comes, He will share all things, but this knowledge did her no good.

When we approach the Scriptures through an intellectual pursuit of knowledge, we receive a knowledge about God, but fail to come into Life – Who is God. We apply our human means of learning to reading the Scriptures and attempting to understand the words on the page. Taking what we have learned we attempt to apply it to our lives through our own strength and capacity but this is the way of spiritual death.

A knowledge about is good, but it cannot transform us or empower us to live in accordance with the Truth. It will not enable us to be worshippers in spirit and truth.

No amount of human learning and study brings us into this living transformative Truth, which only Jesus gives. If we could bring ourselves into this true knowing, which births and forms His life in us then there is absolutely no need for the Holy Spirit. If this is the case the Holy Spirit is redundant in all our lives, and this cannot be any further from the truth.

What is worship?

We need to know God's version of worship, just as we need to know God's version of spirit and truth if we are to walk in alignment to His instruction. Once again, the Scriptures clearly indicate from God's

perspective what Godly worship is, so there is no need for you and me to come up with our own definitions.

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.

We can see here that true spiritual worship is the laying down of our lives for His sake. Moved by the mercy of God and empowered by grace, we offer ourselves and all that is ours to the Lord as a living sacrifice for His glory. We give Him all rights and ownership over us to the Father, becoming bond-servants.

Worshipping Jesus means we are no longer lovers of self, but have become lovers of Him. We are no longer the controller of our own lives but relinquish all control to Him. No longer are we living for ourselves, we now live for Him. Worshipping Jesus means being wholeheartedly devoted to Him and Him alone.

It is that simple but there is a twist. None of us can demonstrate this Eternal Wisdom without God's grace empowering us. Unless we are of His Spirit and His Truth it is impossible to live as we are called to live.

The second twist is there is no way of receiving His power unless our heart comes before Him the way He says it must come, broken and contrite.

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 the only sacrifice, which is acceptable to God. All other sacrifices, no matter what it looks like, are futile and vain. It is pointless and means nothing to Him.

Psalms 51:16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering.

Amos 5:21-23 "I hate, I reject your festivals, Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them; And I will not even look at the peace offerings of your fatlings. Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps."

The fleshly hardened stiff-necked heart denies its need for God's

power and trusts in its own strength, to live out God's truth. God's power or grace and our broken and contrite heart go hand in hand, hence the heart we bring before God must be a broken and contrite one.

The spirit of pride in us all from birth, which is demonic, must be broken into a trillion pieces, where it ceases to live, if we stand any possibility of worshipping the Father the way He instructs.

This is the worship, the sacrifice God does not despise. Anything less than this kind of worship, this holy sacrifice, is NOT worship.

Anything less than this is an unholy sacrifice, which God despises as we see in Amos 5.

I wonder how much of this form of worship is offered up to God today by His people instead of a true heart of worship as the Scriptures declare. You can know without any doubt what worship you are in as you will have the corresponding life of the truth or the false. Those who sow to the spirit reap the spirit and those who sow to the flesh reap the flesh.

Jesus promises all of His followers who worship in spirit and truth an abundant overflowing all-consuming Life in Him, where rivers of Living Water flow forth from them in unstoppable measures.

God's mercy

One of the primary keys to worship the way God instructs is knowing God's mercy through the revelation of the Spirit.

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.

Only when we see (vision) His mercy for us through the revelation of the Holy Spirit, will we be in a position to present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, which is acceptable to God.

So what is God's mercy?

Although we can't find a scripture that defines mercy, as we can for worship or love, we can find Scriptures that give a certain context for God's mercy.

We will look at one of these verses below, but you will find other

great examples in James 2:13, Ephesians 2:4-7, Titus 3:5 and Hebrews 9:14-18.

We find a great example of framing God's mercy in a certain context in Paul's first letter to Timothy. Let's delve into this passage to see what insights we can glean regarding God's mercy. It's important we understand God's mercy as it is in view of His mercy that we offer up our lives as living sacrifices for His sake, which is our spiritual act of worship.

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.

Paul starts by thanking God for strengthening him and considering him faithful; putting him into Godly service even though he was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor and a violent aggressor of God and His people. Paul says mercy was shown to him even in this state, this condition of darkness.

God did not give Saul or Paul what he deserved due to his nature and behaviour, but had mercy on him, because Saul/Paul was someone God had chosen to reconcile to Himself.

Your heart will overflow with thanksgiving when you are made aware of your true state and His mercy. When you receive a revelation of your true state before Him and the way you have lived in opposition to Him, and yet He doesn't bring judgement against you, there is nothing but praise and adoration for Him.

Paul identifies himself as the worst of sinners and yet it is sinners that Jesus came to save, due to the mercy of God. Some are chosen for wrath, and some are chosen for mercy as the book of Hebrews

teaches and God bestows mercy on those He chooses.

In other words, instead of giving us what we deserve, God extends His unmerited favour to us in the form of His mercy. Have you received a revelation from the Holy Spirit of what the Son saved us from? Do you know what we all deserve because of the evil nature we are all born with?

Do we carry and have within us a living conviction of the value of God's mercy toward us? If not, it will be impossible for us to lose our lives for His sake and present Him with our spiritual act of worship. We will not have the capacity to lay down our lives when we perceive our lives to have greater value than God's mercy. We do this when we don't have a reference for WHY we need His mercy and even more so when we don't know the One WHO is merciful.

When viewed through the eyes of the natural we may appear to be serving God and doing everything for Him, but when viewed through the eyes of the Spirit our true state is exposed. Those of the Spirit, will have spiritual discernment and will see the true position that we are worshipping from. The false worshipper worships in flesh and truth.

Flesh and truth

The flesh and truth position is the counterfeit position to Spirit and Truth. While appearing real it is actually the exact opposite to the True Worshipper position. This thin veneer of worship with the undercurrent of self-affirmation and glory appeals to our flesh and is a key reason followers of Jesus still live from it.

This position is so natural to us as it stems from the root system we were born into and are of. The position of Spirit and Truth stems from the Spirit, producing Love and Fellowship because Christ is our centre. In contrast, flesh and truth is rooted in self and produces lust and function because its centre is our own lives, not Christ.

When flesh is our first position instead of spirit, we will always create our own version or image of God's truth. This is called creating a God in your own image, which God warns us against doing because we cannot see Him with the eyes of the Spirit.

I cannot express enough how destructive this demonic root

system is and the magnitude of the consequences to those who continue to live from it. It is critical that we are able to identify this in our own lives first and then in the lives of our brothers and sisters for the purpose of spiritual repentance.

This is what Paul is referring to in Romans 10.

Romans 10:2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

Zeal that is not in accordance with the knowing of truth, which makes you free, is a very dangerous operating system. The zeal is not the problem, but not having the true knowing of Jesus is.

If this root system of lust and function, flesh and truth is allowed to exist, grow, be nurtured, encouraged and ultimately given authority to lead, then expect chaos, carnage, abuse, division, burn out, offence, hurt and spiritual death in your life.

Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Galatians 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

This flesh and truth reality is the posture the woman at the well is living from and yet this does not get in the way of Jesus offering her the spirit and truth position. It is the same for you and me. He comes to us not just to wash us of our iniquity and sin but to bring us into a brand new way of being, a brand new life where we live, move and exist in Him.

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.'

It is where we have our sense of being in Him and Him alone. He is not in our lives, He IS our life. He is the very source of our life, the literal air we breathe through giving us breath.

Acts 17:24-25 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 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;"

Genesis 2:7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground,

and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

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

For this to happen we must transition from a flesh and truth posture to a spirit and truth reality through divine grace, power.

While many are still attempting to die to self and enter into this reality in Christ through their own means and strength, those of the Spirit know it is impossible to bring themselves into this Life. Through the revelation of Christ through the Holy Spirit and God's grace, we are brought into Life and empowered to no longer live from self, but live by faith in Jesus Christ.

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."

Why is it essential we live from this heavenly pattern of spirit and truth?

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Yes, that is right. We are all going to face the judgement seat of Christ for how we have lived our lives in accordance with worshipping Him in spirit and truth while we have been on earth. It will be at the judgment seat that God's fire will go through us to test if our lives have been of worship to Him or of ourselves.

All flesh will be burned up and all that will be left is what the Spirit has accomplished in our lives through truth by faith. It will be what is of spirit and truth by faith, which will be rewarded.

Gold, silver and precious stones represent spirit and truth. Wood, hay and straw represent flesh. It is imperative we know which

materials we are building with, because our inheritance depends on it. Are we being built by the Spirit living from the Spirit and worshipping in Spirit and Truth, which will lead to receiving all that God has bequeathed to us?

Saying we are of the Spirit and living out the reality of this can be completely opposite positions. It is one thing to honour God with our lips, where our reference for Him lies in our forms of godliness and an entirely different thing to surrender our hearts to allow Spirit and Truth to transform us from the inside out.

Many will say to Him “Lord, Lord” and Jesus will say, “Why do you call Me Lord, Lord, and not do what I say?” Once again, words are cheap and easy, but worshipping in spirit and truth, being a true worshipper is the upward call for every follower.

When we do not know any different and live from this false position of worshipping God from flesh and truth, we will find ourselves living from the counterfeit position of worship. This counterfeit position creates its own definition of worship, spirit and truth. This false position leads us astray from Eternal Life and the inheritance Jesus came to give us.

This is where we will experience the loss Paul describes even though we are justified by His blood. We are saved but we lose our eternal inheritance.

1 Corinthians 3:15 *If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

We can see from other Scriptures the loss of reward or inheritance other followers will experience through not living from this correct posture of spirit and truth.

Matthew 25:10-13 *“And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open up for us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’ Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.”*

Matthews 22:11-14 *“But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes,*

and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' And the man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Matthew 25:29-30 "For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Revelation 2:4-5 "But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent."

This is not to be the case and will not be the case for all those true followers who worship God in spirit and truth. The Father rewards all those who live from this way of His Spirit with an abundant inner life now where rivers of Living Waters flow, as well as being a part of the future now inheritance in God's eternal purpose for His church.

This is in the age to come and the new heaven and earth dimension. True worshippers, which the Father seeks, worship in spirit and truth. Are you a true worshipper?



9

**I WHO SPEAK TO YOU
AM HE**



John 4:25-26 The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

These two verses are far more powerful than we could have imagined. They are to shape not only the life of this woman, but the lives of all who become followers of Jesus.

On one hand you have the woman making this powerful statement about the Messiah coming, the One called the Christ, and when He comes, He will declare all things to us.

On the other hand, Jesus’ response to this is “I who speak to you am He.”

In other words, the prophetic reality you speak of has arrived and is standing right in front of you, sharing with you the reality of life from another kingdom. The challenge for this woman is whether she will recognise and become aware of this eternal kingdom life, and we face the same challenge today.

How can it be possible to have a knowledge about a true reality that really exists and yet when faced with that reality be completely oblivious to it? You profess to know this truth and yet remain deaf

and blind to it when it is right in front of you. You may even deny, deflect, ignore and persecute the very thing you declare you know.

This behaviour continues to be just as much a problem today as it was in this situation. Followers professing a reality, which they have knowledge about in their minds, while their hearts are void of a living revealed conviction that manifests this reality in their lives.

The woman has a head knowledge, in other words informational knowledge, which has probably been passed down through the generations that the Messiah, the One called the Christ, is coming into this world to share all things with us.

Is this any different today to all those raised in Christian homes where mum and dad tell their children all about Jesus and all the stories from the bible, with the possibility that neither parents nor the children have His life in them.

When we apply human learning to things of the spirit, we will think we have received a revelation of something but we will lack the Life that is the evidence of true knowledge. It is easy to say I know this and I know that but do we have the Life within us that will manifest itself to others proving it is of the spirit?

She speaks of this future reality all the while being completely oblivious to the One she is speaking of, and Who is standing directly in front of her, declaring these 'all things' to her.

John 4:23 "But an hour is coming, and now is"

How ironic and yet how common is this reality today? Followers declare future realities in God, while being completely oblivious to the fact that they are a now reality just as much as a future one. They may even reject the very same reality they declared and preached to others, when it is presented to them.

The woman at the well does not recognise Who it is that is sharing with her, even when Jesus says to her, "I who speak to you am He." Many of her responses reveal her lack of recognition of Jesus, but verse 29 is particularly clear.

John 4:29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?"

When a person receives the revelation of who God is and what

He says, they speak in absolute statements and not in the form of suggestive questions. Jesus said to her “I who speak to you am He”. He doesn’t say “I who speak to you could be He” or “I who speak to you am sort of He, or partly He”. No, “I who speak to you AM He”. This is an absolute statement with no room for anything other than what is being spoken.

Let me give you another example of what I mean. If the woman had actually known who it was, who was speaking to her she would have said something along these lines to the people of the city.

“I have just met the Messiah, the One we have been waiting for, the One who will tell us all things. This is the Son of God and He has been sharing with me intimate details of my life which he could not know as a man.”

This is an absolute statement and when we receive revelation from the Holy Spirit, we speak in absolute statements due to receiving the living conviction of the Word of God in our hearts.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

If you had run into me one second after 10am on the 23rd December 1997, when I received Jesus Christ, the Word of God in me, in my work place through divine grace as per the Scriptures above, you would not have heard me say to you, “this is not the Christ is it?”, or “I think I just received Jesus?”

You would have heard me declaring from the rooftops “I have just received in me Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour who is the eternal love of God” I would have told you a miracle has just taken place and I am radically in love with God the Father and Son.

I knew instantly how righteous I was in God without any second guessing and this has never changed one bit, even when I have sinned due to my behaviour missing the mark of faith.

You would have also heard me say I did not wake up like this and

I have never known this reality my entire life up until right now, this very second. People who receive revelation of God through the Spirit do not speak the way this woman does, because they know, that they know, that they know, whom they have just met. There is zero wiggle room for anything other than speaking in the simplicity of absolutes as God does.

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”

John 7:37-38 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of Living Water.’”

They do not leave anything to chance or give any room for humanity to start to put their spin on things, by saying things like ‘I feel’ or ‘I think’ or ‘I believe’.

Revelation from divine grace has you instantly speaking in terms of absolutes as your Messiah does. The absolute language is ‘I know’.

Because you are becoming one with your Messiah, you follow and live in accordance to the patterns of your Messiah.

It is these absolutes that start to threaten the thoughts, beliefs and opinions of man, which is why many justify, deny and deflect these absolute statements of truth for their own versions and images of His Word. This is called our vain imagination over His absolute truth and it is our pride manifesting as insecurities and fears, which drive this kind of behaviour.

We looked at another classic example of this reality earlier. Philip boldly professes that “we have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote.” However, Jesus’ response to Philip later on presents a remarkably different reality to Philip’s.

“Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me Philip?”

John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

John 14:7-9 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Why is it that the substance to which we speak and what Jesus speaks is not of the same kind, yet at times we can be like the scribe who confirmed the answer Jesus gave in relation to what is the foremost commandment of all. Jesus told him although he answered intelligently; he was not far from the kingdom of God.

Mark 12:34 When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.

Being able to answer the questions because you have read the book, or been taught the Law from your youth and continued on in your education to become a scribe, a teacher of the Law, gaining knowledge, does not mean you know Jesus and are in the life of the truth.

Acquiring intellectual head KNOWLEDGE of the Scriptures through the methods of human learning is completely opposite to receiving the LIFE of Christ through the Holy Spirit bringing the Scriptures alive within us.

We see an even greater example of the point I am making, when Jesus says to the scribes, "how is it that you say that the Christ is the son of David and yet David says He is the Lord?"

Mark 12:35-37 And Jesus began to say, as He taught in the temple, "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? David himself said in the Holy Spirit, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Until I put Your enemies beneath Your feet.'" David himself calls Him 'Lord'; so in what sense is He his son?" And the large crowd enjoyed listening to Him.

Was Jesus the son of David? Yes, in the flesh he was. The Scripture clearly says this.

Matthew 1:1 The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

So, if Jesus is the son of David as the Scriptures and the scribes declared, why did David call Jesus Lord?

Jesus goes on to say in what sense is Jesus David's son?

We will find the answer to all of this in verse 36. It is also the evidence of the point I am making. You do not acquire true knowledge through human methods of learning. This will only build an intellectual head knowledge. Life and true knowledge is only received from the Holy Spirit.

Mark 12:36 David himself said in the Holy Spirit, 'The Lord said to my Lord'...

David said "*in the Holy Spirit*".

There is a massive difference between one who speaks in the Spirit and one who speaks in the flesh. The words can be the exact same words and sound exactly the same but they are not of the same kind. They are not of the same substance.

One is LIFE and the other is DEATH dressed up as life.

To speak in the flesh is easy and of earth, but for one to speak in and from the spirit one must know the spirit. Anyone, even a non-follower can share from the Scriptures but only those in and of the Spirit, can speak the spiritual Word of God, which is concealed within the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 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, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

It is fully possible to have knowledge of the Scriptures and speak of this knowledge and not be in the LIFE of that truth. This is the position the woman at the well is speaking from when she says, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us."

Truth is not a concept but a person. Jesus Himself said, "I am the Truth". Not only is He the Truth but He is Spirit, due to God being Spirit and Jesus being God in the flesh. The Truth who makes us free is not a principle or a fact but the Person Jesus Christ Himself.

Jesus Himself said these powerful words.

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life."

The woman has no capacity or ability to know the reality Jesus declares, as she is not of spirit.

The answer to the mystery of LIFE versus KNOWLEDGE is found in these two verses, Mark 12:36 and John 6:63.

The Spirit makes all the difference between knowing the reality of LIFE in Christ or a KNOWLEDGE about Christ, where we are enabled to hear, receive and live eternal life out as opposed to simply talking about things we have heard, learnt or acquired through the flesh.

This also explains why many followers deny, deflect or justify away the reality of the Word when it confronts them. It is also the reason many of His followers are incapable of hearing the spiritual word the Spirit is speaking to them, whether it be from the Holy Spirit directly or through another follower.

This woman has KNOWLEDGE of the Messiah coming but she is not in the LIFE of this reality through the Spirit, hence when He speaks to her about spiritual realities she is utterly and completely oblivious to what He is saying.

When Jesus tells her "I who speak to you am He", she can't hear it in the Spirit. Her response to Him and what He is offering is clear evidence of this. Had she heard what He said, she would not have gone to the city first. She would have bolted to where her partner was, moving at a rate of knots that would have caused a dust cloud in her wake.

She would have brought this man straight to Jesus, kicking and screaming if she had to, as her invitation to receive Living Water was contingent on her bringing her husband to Jesus.

If the Spirit is not giving us LIFE then all the KNOWLEDGE we have accrued is utterly worthless and may even hinder us in our

pursuit of Him. Knowledge can puff us up due to the spirit of pride within us. It will have us establishing our own lives in the flesh, creating god in our image and make us believe we are being built in the Spirit. This is the pharisaic spirit, which exists and operates in the hearts of followers who pursue intellectual KNOWLEDGE in the flesh over receiving LIFE through the Spirit. The pharisaic spirit is in direct opposition to Jesus, and without the revelation of the Spirit we may not even know it exists and is operating within us. The outcome of this spirit is disobedience.

It can be as aggressive and violent as it was in the religious leaders who had Jesus crucified, or as stubborn and stiff necked as it was in Peter when he told Jesus he wouldn't deny him. It can also be as passive aggressive as the many disciples who left Jesus and followed Him no more.

John 19:6 So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him."

Matthew 26:31-35 Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away." Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." All the disciples said the same thing too.

John 6:66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

We believe we are against a person or what they say, never realising that it's God Himself within them that we are rejecting. This continues today far more than it should but those committing the offence are incapable of recognising Who they are really rejecting. They walk away believing they are walking away from the person and what they are saying, not knowing that it is actually God they are walking away from, because of the unbelief operating within them.

1 Corinthians 11:18-19 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.

Are we capable of hearing when God speaks to us, whether it be through the Holy Spirit directly or through a fellow brother or sister in Christ. Are we able to discern the difference between the Word and the words? Are we able to discern the difference between what sounds like truth and what is the Truth?

Jesus said to the woman, "I who speak to you am He." I am the One you have been waiting for. I will make all things known to you. Jesus, the Messiah, the One that she had been waiting for stands before her, speaking prophetic insights and promises to her, but she is incapable of hearing or seeing. Her language proves she does not recognise Him and she cannot hear what He is saying to her.

Until we are able to discern the Word Himself and the Word He brings, we too will be no different to this woman. Having the living reality declared to us, all the while incapable of hearing or seeing it, so in turn we go about our lives none the wiser, failing to live from and for the truth being declared.



10

**DISOBEDIENCE
CARRIES ETERNAL
CONSEQUENCES**



This chapter will be dedicated to unpacking how disobedience to what God is saying to us plays a massive part in our own spiritual self-sabotage and why we do not necessarily receive the rivers of Living Water He promises us.

Good intentions can make us feel good, and they may even have a positive impact on others, but they lead us into disobedience when they come between His commands and us. We might be doing the “right” thing but if it is outside of what He has asked of us it is disobedience and we will come short of experiencing the fullness of Life in Christ.

Obedience is the key that unlocks the door to internal and external abundance, while disobedience keeps that door firmly closed, leading to frustration, disillusionment, despair, anger, and spiritual barrenness.

This may well be the most controversial chapter in this book as it is very likely the content will challenge your previous understanding about the woman at the well. This may be a completely different reality to what you have been taught but I hope you will press in to receive all that the Spirit has for you.

I would like to begin with the specific instruction Jesus gave her in relation to the Living Water He offers her. Let's take a look at how she responds to what He asks her to do.

John 4:15-16 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here."

The instruction is clear. If you want your thirst for the things of the earth quenched, go and get your husband and bring him here. It was simple and clear. She was to go and get her husband and both were to return to the well where Christ was waiting. To do anything else is to disobey Christ.

Much of the conversation that follows we have already unpacked, so let's move ahead to her response to Jesus' request, and what she did as opposed to what He asked her to do.

John 4:28-29 So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and said to the men, "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?"

Did Jesus tell the woman to go into the city and tell the people to come and see a man who told her all things that she had done?

The simple answer is No!

As we see in the previous verses, the instruction Jesus gave her was simple, clear and specific. If you want Living Water that only I can give you, go and get your husband and bring him here.

You might be saying but look what happened when she went to the city and told the people about Jesus. A whole lot of Samaritans, people of her own kind started to believe and know that Jesus was the Saviour of the world.

John 4:41-42 Many more believed because of His word; and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Saviour of the world."

You may be thinking surely the fact that so many were saved because of what she did is more important than her doing something that was just for her. If she hadn't told everyone about Jesus the rest of the city may not have been saved. Isn't that what it's all about?

Isn't that the most important thing?

Followers taking initiative and deciding for themselves what is and what is not appropriate in the moment.

It's not that big of a deal that she put off what Jesus asked her to do, because she did what she believed to be the right thing in the moment. She could see the impact this would have on her city and knew it was more important than bringing her husband to the well. After all she could always bring her husband to the well later...right?

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

Proverbs 12:15 *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.*

John 5:30 *"I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."*

It is so easy to rationalise our way out of what God instructs. Motivated by our own good intentions that make us feel good and bring us glory, we do what seems right in our own eyes and then use the outcome to justify our disobedience.

God can use our good intentions for His glory, but this doesn't mean that we are living in accordance with Him and His instructions. God will move despite us in order to accomplish His will but this is not His preference. He wants to move through us not around us.

This may come as a surprise to some of us, but Jesus doesn't need us. All things came into being through Him and apart from Him, nothing came into being that has come into being. He didn't need our help then and He doesn't need it now.

Adam didn't create the animals, he was just asked to name them. God asked him to be a part of the process but he wasn't the primary source of the creation.

John 1:3 *All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

Do we recognise the incredible privilege and honour bestowed upon us by being invited into what Jesus is doing or do we believe

it is our right? Without being aware of what we are doing, do we supersede Jesus in the pecking order?

One is a heart posture of humility while the other is a posture of pride.

It is essential we know this before anything else as this reality empowers and enables us to be His co-heirs and His co-labourers the way He has designed.

Jesus invites us to partner with Him to see His kingdom established, first in our own hearts and minds and then in the hearts and minds of others. First He builds Himself within us and then sends us to minister through the grace of God to others. This is why obedience to Christ is the key to life and godliness. Our good intentions may appear to be the right thing to do but ultimately they are masquerading as forms of godliness and are incapable of bringing us into Life.

Being obedient in this manner is the evidence you love the Father the same way the Son did, and that all you are interested in doing is God's will the way He instructs.

John 14:31 "but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here."

What an incredible example our Lord has given us. So that the world may know that I love the Father I do EXACTLY as the Father commanded me.

This is not only doing what He says but it is also knowing how He wants it to be done. God's design is intentional and specific and knowing the way He does things is just as important as doing what He says, if not more than.

This is the kingdom standard to adhere to and live by and anything less than this is sin.

If it's good enough for Jesus to prove His love for the Father by doing exactly as He says, then may I suggest it is good enough for us and there are to be no deviations from this pattern or design, no matter how good we think our work might be.

Good has become the new God

The woman did not live up to this kingdom standard and in so doing was in disobedience to what Jesus instructed her to do, even though

we could say what she did was good.

Here are some other examples within the Scriptures of the same disobedience, which can easily be mistaken as the doing of God's Will the way God says.

Matthew 9:27-31 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them: "See that no one knows about this!" But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout all that land.

Take a look at these words from verse 30, "Jesus sternly warned them". Jesus warns them not to tell anyone about what He just did for them, but their response is to do the exact opposite of what He said.

Once again, we can justify this disobedience away by saying, "but surely Jesus did not mean this" or "it's ok, no one got hurt in the process and hey, the bible says we are to testify of what Jesus does for us, so what's the big deal?"

The big deal is that once again we find ourselves opposing God, doing our own thing and usurping His authority. This is a work of the flesh, and it is these works that are burnt up at our judgement seat for reward.

One act of disobedience can have a far more detrimental impact than we realise. We may think it's just this one thing but Jesus sees the whole picture and the knock on effect this one act can cause both in our lives and to those around us.

We see an example of this in Mark where Jesus heals a man of leprosy.

Mark 1:40-45 And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away, and He said to him, "See that you say

nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.

Again, we see the same words from the previous passage, "He sternly warned him..."

What did He warn him? "See that you say nothing to anyone." This is the first instruction Jesus gives the man to which he does not listen. He then precedes to give him the second instruction which is, "but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them".

The man completely ignores the first and second instruction as well as doing his own thing, led by his own good intentions.

Mark 1:45 But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around.

How easy it would be to justify away the actions of this man. To say, "it's not a big deal that he told everyone about what Jesus did. I mean he was a leper and Jesus healed him. Who could blame him for wanting to shout it from the rooftops? Besides, Jesus is powerful enough to make all things right, so what harm was there?"

This is what followers say who have no sight for the big picture, or macro plan of God. Jesus lived His life in alignment to this plan. He saw beyond the healing of the leper and saw the impact his healing could have on the priest. The healed leper could only see how it affected his life and had no reference for his experience being a small part of a bigger plan. His disobedience led to the priest missing out on what Jesus had intended for him. A little, like the woman at the well, whose partner didn't get to receive what Jesus had for him because the woman went to the city instead of obeying Jesus' request.

Yes, Jesus is powerful enough to put right our wrongs and even make the most of our good self-centred intentions, but this doesn't atone for our disobedience. Blatant disregard and disobedience can have dire consequences, the loss of our inheritance.

The disobedience of this man also had consequences that directly affected Jesus and His ability to do what the Father had commissioned Him to do. The healed man was oblivious to the disruption he caused Christ. Like a celebrity today being hounded by paparazzi everywhere they go, Jesus could no longer openly enter a city but had to remain in unpopulated areas.

Mark 1:45 Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.

I wonder how Jesus felt about this disobedience and the impact it had on Him personally. Have you ever thought to ask that question? What it was like for Him, what is it like for others to be on the other end of our disobedience?

I wonder how we would feel about this disobedience and the impact it would have on us when we are left to put things right because someone chose to do their own thing. You are left the responsibility of cleaning up their mess while they are completely unaware of the issues they have created. There is no repentance, no taking responsibility for their actions, because they have no understanding of the consequences of doing what they thought was the right or good thing to do.

All you ask is for people to do what you say because you are living in alignment to the macro plan. You can see way beyond those you lead, but people take it upon themselves to do their own thing. They believe they are right, and both parties suffer the consequences of this.

How many of us are guilty of this kind of disobedience?

The other question I want to ask us is how many of us are like the man who had leprosy, who live by our good intentions, what we want to do and not God's instructions, creating obstacles for Christ and others without even being aware of this?

The final example I would like us to look at is found in Mark 7.
Mark 7:31-37 Again He went out from the region of Tyre, and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of Decapolis. They brought to Him one who was deaf and spoke with difficulty, and they implored Him to lay His hand on him. Jesus took him aside from

the crowd, by himself, and put His fingers into his ears, and after spitting, He touched his tongue with the saliva; and looking up to heaven with a deep sigh, He said to him, "Ephphatha!" that is, "Be opened!" And his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he began speaking plainly. And He gave them orders not to tell anyone; but the more He ordered them, the more widely they continued to proclaim it. They were utterly astonished, saying, "He has done all things well; He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Here is another example of the good reality as opposed to God's reality. Man's ways are the exact opposite to the way of the Spirit, which Jesus modelled. The Lord of lords and King of kings, the literal creator of the universe, ordered these men not to tell anyone, but as the Scripture says, the more He ordered them not to, the more widely they proclaimed it.

You might say, "Greg if you or one of your friends were healed, wouldn't you want to proclaim it from the rooftops too? This is a miracle, something you've never seen before, you're not going to be able to contain yourself much less stop to consider what Jesus has told you to do or not do."

That may well be true, but my awe and excitement over what I have seen or experienced would not excuse my disobedience, just as it didn't excuse their disobedience. Jesus is our living example of a life lived from the Spirit. He did nothing from His own initiative and proved His love for the Father by only doing what He was commanded to do and no more.

John 5:30 "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

John 14:31 "but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here."

Just because God allows us to do things in His name does not mean these things are of God. It also does not mean that we know Him, love Him or that what we are doing is His will. In fact, this behaviour is the evidence that we don't love God but are in love with ourselves.

This can be incredibly confronting and confusing for followers who look at the outcomes for confirmation they are doing God's will. They believe the time, effort and expense invested into these works are the proof of their love for God, and the feeling that they are doing the right thing, combined with the confirmation of the outcome, is the evidence they are being obedient to Him and walking in alignment to His plan.

I would like to leave the woman at the well for the moment and expand our view of disobedience. However, we need to keep in mind that this still relates to her, just as much as it still relates to us today.

Let's unpack this passage of Matthew 7 and take a look at the eternal consequences of our disobedience.

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

We can see from this passage that God allows us to use His name to perform miracles, cast out demons and prophesy. This doesn't necessarily mean that these works are His will. To use His name to do works of the flesh is disobedience to Him, His will and His way.

It is fully possible to do all these things and not know God who is love, nor be doing the Will of God. This means we never get to enter the kingdom of heaven, and we will hear, "I never knew you, you who practise lawlessness." You of disobedience who do your own thing.

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

Did you notice what Jesus said to these people and what He didn't say? He didn't say, "you did not perform miracles, cast out demons and prophesy in My name." He said, "I never KNEW you." The issue was a fellowship issue, not a function or works based issue. This is still the issue for many today, it was certainly the issue for the woman at the well.

There are many dynamics at play here and we are going to unpack

each one. We need to be fully aware of the consequences of doing our own thing from our own good intentions. We may believe that we are doing what's pleasing to God, and be shocked to hear that we have been disobedient to Him and His way. If we are not operating in accordance with His will, we will suffer the consequences for our actions and will likely hear, Jesus say, "Depart from Me I never knew you."

Let's start with verse 21.

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter."

We see here that it is those who do the will of God, that will enter the kingdom of heaven. This means God's will must be executed exactly as He commands it.

It is important to note that we are not talking about the place heaven but the millennial reign of Christ on this earth for a thousand years in the age to come.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

To enter heaven and spend our eternity with Christ and the Father we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, as Romans 10:9 instructs.

To enter the kingdom of heaven we are to do the will of God the way of God. Heaven and the kingdom of heaven are two different things.

The thief on the cross would spend eternity in heaven because Jesus saw what was in this man's heart through his confession. He wouldn't enter the kingdom of heaven, (the millennial reign), as his imminent death would prevent him from being able to do the will of God.

Just saying Jesus is Lord and calling Him the Lord of your life is not enough to get you into the kingdom of heaven. Calling Him Lord but never receiving Him as Lord are two entirely different things.

Our words can be empty and futile. We must have done the will of God to enter and take up our role in the age to come called the kingdom of heaven.

This is why obedience is the key to life and godliness in Christ Jesus.
Hebrews 5:8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

Hebrews 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Ephesians 5:15-17 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is.

1 Peter 4:1-2 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

Matthew 12:50 "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

1 Peter 4:6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

We can see from these passages of truth how essential it is we understand what the will of God is and that we are doing it through the power of the spirit and truth as true worshippers.

The simplicity and profound depth of God's will demands more than a cursory look, so we will unpack this more shortly.

Let's move on to verse 22 and what it has to show us about disobedience.

Matthew 7:22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'"

There is one word and one phrase in this verse that I would like to draw our attention to. If we ignore them or do not recognise the importance of them it will be to our detriment in relation to entering the kingdom of heaven.

The word I want to draw our attention to is the word "many".

The phrase I want to draw our attention to is the phrase "on that day". Let's unpack both.

The word “many”

Why isn't the word *few* used here. Certainly, there is not going to be a significant number of believers who hear these words are there?

Many are going to hear words that will bring forth a weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Another word for many is mass. The mass or the crowd who go along with Jesus are going to hear, “Away from Me, I never knew you”.

Those who say they believe but do not have a lifestyle to back it up. Those who are disobedient and unfaithful to His will. Those who are living to their version of His truth.

Luke 14:25-26 Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

Those of the mass still have the spirit of ‘I’ living in them and because of this they have their own version and understanding of the passages above. They believe they are His disciples purely based on the works they do, the miracles, prophecy etc. they perform, but do not grasp they are living out a form of godliness.

They completely miss what Christ is releasing here and have absolutely no interest in seeking Him on what He means. This confronts the genuine issues of the heart and many will subtly attempt to side step the confrontation and strategically justify themselves out of judgement, believing these counterfeit works of the flesh are the proof of their love and devotion to Christ.

They use the phrase, “doing something is better than doing nothing”.

As long as we keep scratching our religious itch to do things for Him, we are all good.

The mass uses His name to prophesy, cast out demons, and perform miracles, all the while doing their own will, thinking, and believing this proves they are doing God's will. This disobedience has dire consequences for this follower.

You could also add to this list attending services, good works, tithing, serving, being in roles of responsibility within the church (elder,

pastor, deacon, preacher, small group leader/member) etc.

The 'many' or mass do their own thing attempting to find their identity, worth, value, meaning, purpose and sense of belonging in what they do for Him. They have no idea that this behaviour is rooted in self and is all about them and not God. They are spiritual orphans even though through the blood of Christ they are children of God.

They are self-serving their need to be needed and feel that sense of importance. This truly is the orphan spirit operating in the lives of God's children.

These followers are still the authorities of their own lives and reject God as Lord even though calling Him Lord. The many or the mass are all those who have given their lives to Jesus for their own sake as opposed to losing their life for His sake and the Gospels sake.

The many or mass give their lives based on getting something back in return. The Gospel they have said yes to, and received, is in fact the prosperity gospel, which is transactional, and they have received this beautifully.

The prosperity gospel is not about getting financially rich. The prosperity gospel is when you expect to receive something in return for your hard work and labour. It is where you expect to receive good things or good things to happen to you because of what you are doing for Christ and others. In simple terms, it is where you give to get.

2 Corinthians 11:4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

This gospel is the complete opposite to the true gospel, where you give and expect nothing in return.

You give freely because you have received freely. This giving has zero conditions associated with it. This is the true gospel. It is free.

Matthew 10:8 "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give."

The mass or the many genuinely believe and are convinced they are in life, when the truth is they are in a form of deception, deluded by the lie they believe is truth.

Verse 23 declares how serious this disobedience is to the mass when it comes to entering the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 7:23 “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”

We will look at this verse next after we have unpacked the phrase “on that day”.

On that day

The question we need to ask ourselves is what day is Matthew referring to? The answer is our judgement day. The day where we will stand before the judgement seat of Christ for the lives we have lived and His fire will go through us to reveal if our lives have been built on gold, silver and precious stones or wood, hay, and straw.

What substance was the woman at the well building her life upon? Gold, silver, and precious stones or wood, hay, and straw?

This has nothing to do with your eternal destination and everything to do with entering the kingdom of heaven. This is not about spending your eternity in heaven but about receiving your reward or inheritance in accordance to your ability to overcome.

Finally, the answer to who did we truly love and who did we live our lives for will be revealed.

Matthew 10:34-39 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man’s enemies will be the members of his household. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.”

Matthew is referring to all people, and all people are followers and non-followers. There will be no excuses or the ability to justify oneself out of what His fire reveals as truth.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will

become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Romans 14:10-12 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God." So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

There are no second chances on this day. There are no special favours given. The consequences of our disobedience will be our known reality and there will be no changing this, no matter how much we may want to.

If, while on earth, we do not take full advantage of His love, which is covering us and empowering our transformation, then we will miss the mark of faith. We will not lay hold of all that Christ laid hold of us for and we will have no reference for all that Paul testified of.

Philippians 3:12-16 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

For those who do lay hold of all Christ laid hold of them for, which will be the few, this day will be a day of reward for all those who overcame by faith.

1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

The few will be those who overcame the world, the flesh, and the enemy by the blood of the Lamb. It is the power of the blood of the

Lamb which births and forms the word of their testimony, due to the work of transformation in and through them by the Spirit of truth.

These followers have pursued works as their primary objective but they have not pursued Christ Himself for the inner transformation of their entire being through the work of the Spirit.

Because of this living testimony of transformation within these followers, they can live lives of complete obedience to Christ, the way of Christ and do not love their lives even when faced with death.

Revelation 12:11 “And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.”

The eating and drinking of Jesus’ body and blood, which is true food and true drink, has produced His life within them, that when faced with immense opposition, these followers overcame and received their inheritance by faith.

John 6:53-56 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.”

There is no way around this day. All those who profess Christ as their Lord and Saviour will stand before Jesus on this day for their reward, and either receive it or suffer loss. Those of obedience will reap reward and those of disobedience will reap loss, no matter how much their disobedience may appear as obedience. God’s fire will differentiate between the two.

Paul was absolutely convinced he was going to receive the crown of righteousness because of the obedient faith filled life he lived unto Christ.

What is fascinating is that he also makes this secondary absolute statement after speaking about himself. He says, “but also to all who have loved His appearing”.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown

of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Those, who love Him and cannot wait for His appearing, do so, because they know they have lived lives of obedience. They know there is nothing to fear and that His perfect love has cast out any fear of not being ready.

They are not afraid of His second coming, but they are praying it in because they know after His coming comes *that day* of judgement for reward.

This is the context for “perfect love casts out all fear”. It is in context to His second coming. All those who have lived out the wisdom of God and proven themselves disciples of Jesus know that they will receive their reward for living lives of obedience. They laid their lives down for His sake, bearing the fruit of His life within them, accomplishing the righteous acts of the saints and secured the assurance of receiving their inheritance.

1 John 4:17-18 *By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.*

Now is the perfect time to transition to verse 23, which we touched on earlier.

Matthew 7:23 *“And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.”*

Who is them?

The first question we must ask ourselves is to whom is Matthew referring when he says “them”?

Jesus will declare to ‘them’, “I never knew you”. When we hear the word “them” we instantly assume it is referring to others, and when you couple this with Jesus saying, “I never knew you” it is easy to presume that Jesus is speaking to non-followers. Those who have not received Him as Lord and Saviour.

This would be a natural assumption; however, this interaction

needs a closer look if we are to find the truth. How many non-followers call Jesus Lord? How many non-followers of Christ are using His name to perform miracles, prophesy, cast out demons and operate in spiritual gifts?

Jesus is addressing those who profess to be His followers. Those who are to be living through obedience by faith and accomplishing His Will in His name, but instead are living by their flesh, using His name to accomplish their own will for their own sake.

Practising lawlessness

What does it mean to practice lawlessness? To practise means to be actively living out a reality we believe is true. We live out what we believe even if what we believe is a lie.

1 John 3:4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

In other words, practicing lawlessness is a follower living as a law unto themselves and this is sin.

Romans 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

The significance of this verse isn't just about what one eats, the more important takeaway here is "WHATEVER is not from faith is sin." Whatever being the key word here. Whatever doesn't mean some, or part, it means anything that is not accomplished by and through faith is sin. Sin is to miss the mark, or come short of God's standard. This is the standard of the new covenant that believers are called to live out, the standard of faith.

When we are the lord of our own lives, making decisions from our own initiatives or good intentions we are sinning. We are missing the mark of faith. All righteous acts of the saints or good works, must be accomplished by faith, not from man's initiatives or good intentions. It's not about creative ideas but obedience to God and His ways.

To miss this mark or the standard called faith is to be in a form of disobedience to the Father and His design. We tend to believe that sin is just doing wrong or immoral things, so we reject this reality and remain in our unbelief and rebellion.

This will have us living in accordance to our own thoughts, beliefs and ways of being as opposed to God's conclusions and design. We operate from our view in the moment instead of operating in accordance to God's plans, which were established before the foundations of the earth.

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

It is abundantly clear that the "them" can be you and me as His followers.

I never knew you, depart from Me

As a follower of Jesus, who wants to hear these words due to our disobedience to His will?

If we are serious about our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, I am certain none of us want to hear these words. The sad truth is that many will. The Scriptures tell us that many will hear these words because they do not have the intimacy with the Lord they believe themselves to have. They are not walking in accordance with the Truth, even though they wholeheartedly believe they are.

Paul went out of his way to make this a known reality for all followers so we wouldn't be led astray by our vain imagination and what we perceive is true in our minds.

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

Paul is addressing the Corinthian church here. He is not talking to non-followers. In his previous letter to the Corinthians Paul addressed their immaturity in the Lord and his inability to speak to them as spiritual men due to the fleshly state of their hearts.

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 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? For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another,

"I am of Apollos," are you not mere men?

Let's be honest, this same condition still exists in the church today. Followers live from flesh and not faith. There is jealousy of others and strife with other followers fighting over positions and roles, needing to be heard, seen and acknowledged. They demand platforms for their ministries while manifesting the spirit of "I", utterly devoid of the most essential fruit of the Spirit – Love.

The consumeristic culture that pervades the modern-day follower is the evidence of this spiritual immaturity.

When we find ourselves only able to drink milk due to not being in the spirit and having spiritual teeth to eat real food, this is ongoing evidence of our state of immaturity.

Hebrews 5:13-14 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

There is no better example of this consumeristic, self-absorbed spirit of 'I' operating than in John 9 and the culprits might surprise us.

Luke 9:54-56 When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." And they went on to another village."

The spirit of "I" is alive and well at the core of their beings. This is John, the disciple who described himself, as the one Jesus loved the most. Yes, Jesus loved John, but John was incapable of loving Him the way Jesus commanded His disciples to love. John was still consumed by his flesh and was unable to recognise the spirit he was operating from. Instead of manifesting the love of Christ into the world James and John are manifesting something quite different.

We were chosen and created to live a life in Christ before the foundations of the earth. The spirit of "I" living within us prevents us from receiving the life we were created for, just as we see with the

woman at the well. If this spiritual intruder, the spirit of "I", is not crucified, even though we are covered by Love, we will hear "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness. You who were disobedient."

2 Timothy 3:1-4 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

If we chose self over our Lord, edifying ourselves first as Paul states, creating division and separation in His body, we are mere men as opposed to being brand new creatures in Christ, who are a kind of first fruits.

James 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

When we read "I never knew you", we need to know that God is not saying He does not know us or that He has never known us. God knows all people, and He knows all things.

What Jesus is saying is this. God knows those who love Him.

1 Corinthians 8:3 but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

Someone who truly loves God the way God instructs will never hear "I never knew you" or "I don't know you".

Not only does God know the followers who love Him, He also knows those who love their neighbours, the way of His commandment.

Mark 12: 29-30 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'"

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."

He also knows those who are living for Him and His will and no longer living for self.

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."

Those who hear the words away from Me, will have fallen short of the standard of love above, due to being unwilling to lose their life for His and the gospel's sake. They will be living in an image of God, but it will be a counterfeit image. They will have fallen short of living by faith in Jesus and so in turn, although justified by His blood, will face the loss of inheritance at the judgment seat of Christ.

In other words, those who are immature followers, unwise virgins, who bring no kingdom fruit to maturity and who are not given the fine linen bridal garment will hear these words.

Revelation 2:4-5 "But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent."

Revelation 3:1-3 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.'"

Revelation 3:15-19 "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,' and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent."

These are all letters to God's churches, God's followers. The follower who brings no kingdom fruit to maturity will unfortunately be the ones to hear these words. Once again, this is not about entering into heaven but reigning with Christ in the kingdom of heaven due to receiving your inheritance for the life of obedience lived by faith in Jesus Christ.

We must realise right now that our disobedience to God and His word has eternal consequences no matter what. Disobedience to God and His will, will keep us out of our inheritance in Christ.



11

**FOOD THAT YOU DO
NOT KNOW ABOUT**



John 4:31-34 Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” But He said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples were saying to one another, “No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?” “Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.”

To understand what is taking place in these verses, I want to take us right back to the introduction of this book. In the introduction, we looked at Jesus being the man from heaven. The man from above, who speaks of things above and lives in accordance with things above, while people of earth speak of earth and live in accordance with the earth.

John 3:31-34 “He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. What He has seen and heard, of that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. He who has received His testimony has set his seal to this, that God is true. For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure.”

The disciples are of earth, just like the woman at the well is and they have no ability to grasp what Jesus is saying to them when He

says, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."

The disciples hear through the lens or filter system of earth and instantly think Jesus is talking about earthly food and their response to Him is the evidence of this. They hear the word food and go to the only reference they have for this word. The woman at the well did the same thing when Jesus talked about Living Water and I wonder how often we do it as well.

Those of the natural only have a reference for the natural. What Jesus was declaring to the disciples and the woman at the well was concealed from them. The time had not yet come for them to grasp the magnitude of the Truth he uttered. We find the same reality out-working itself in Luke 9, only in a different context.

Luke 9:43-45 And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. But while everyone was marvelling at all that He was doing, He said to His disciples, "Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men." But they did not understand this statement, and it was concealed from them so that they would not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this statement.

Jesus is speaking from above while His disciples are hearing and speaking from earth. This is the very reason we must be born again of the Spirit and learn what it means to live our lives from the Spirit. Many followers may be born again of the Spirit and be able to speak in tongues but are we able to live our lives in and of the Spirit? This is an entirely different question.

This is something we are to learn from the Spirit being our Teacher. **Ephesians 4:20-24** But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

If we do not learn in this manner, the manner of Christ, we too can find ourselves exactly like the disciples, asking questions and

speaking a language that makes no spiritual logic. We will speak the ways of earth, when we are to hear, understand and speak the ways of heaven. We will wander aimlessly going through Christian activity, ceremony and traditions but be void of the life He came to bring us into within us.

It does not get any clearer than this when it comes to the difference between heaven and earth, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world. Jesus was constantly speaking about things from above as He was from above, while His disciples were constantly trying to understand what He was saying from an earthly paradigm or perspective, because they were of the earth.

If we, like the disciples, try to grasp what is being said through the carnal, or the natural, operating systems, we will miss the magnitude of what is being released and fail to come into the life we were created for. We will more than likely believe something entirely different from His truth and end up walking in a completely different direction to the Christ and never know it.

For the purpose of this book, I am going to break this spiritual food dynamic into two parts. In this chapter we will look at Jesus Himself as our food source and in the next chapter we will look at the accomplishment of God's will as our food, just as Jesus declared.

Here are some of the questions we will look to unpack in this chapter:

- Who is our food?
- Who gives us this eternal food?
- How does one eat and drink of it?
- Why is it vital one eats of this food?

Let's unpack the first question.

Who is our food?

Jesus refers to Himself throughout the Scriptures as being the bread of life. He said unless we eat His flesh and drink His blood, which is real food and real drink (eternal), then we will have no life in us.

John 6:53-58 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has

eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.”

Jesus is referring to an eternal life, a forever life in us now. When we eat His flesh and drink His blood the Scripture says we abide in Him and if we abide in Him then an eternal life is being formed, built and established within us. This eternal life is to come forth from us and fill the earth.

How can we expect to have an all-encompassing and all-consuming forever eternal life being formed in us, if in fact we are not partaking of Him.

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”

This is the forever eternal life outworking itself in all those who live in accordance with the words of Christ and the impact it makes in and upon us is nothing short of transcending this earthly life.

Do we know the living reality of these promises, which are concealed in these statements of truth in John 6:35 and 53-58? Jesus does not lie and what He speaks is His Father’s truth and His Father’s truth makes us free and brings us into the reality of the truth declared.

We will only know of this reality if we are eating His flesh and drinking His blood, which is an eternal substance as He Himself is eternal life. This is the food we are to be eating.

The reality is we will not hunger and never thirst for the things of earth and everything of earth if we consistently and continuously eat and drink of Christ. We will no longer look to earth and everything of earth as our source of life, including natural food. This means we no longer look to earthly relationships with others, animals, possessions, finances, works, property, careers, goals, and dreams as our source of life or inspiration. We look to Jesus alone as He is more than enough, for He is life eternal.

He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. None of these things listed

above make this claim, but Christ alone does.

When we continually come to Him, believing in Him in the way of the Spirit we discover a brand new life in Him. Jesus, Himself speaks of this, describing how the things of earth will fade away, becoming a distant memory as the things of the eternal become our new reality. This is what it is to know a first fruits life.

I am not saying we no longer need natural food to keep our bodies energised and strong. Of course, we do, but Jesus is addressing much more than natural food. He is addressing who is our source of life. Is it Him or is it us?

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

Jesus can be in our lives and the Holy Spirit can walk with us, but is He our life? There is a massive difference between Jesus being in my life and Jesus being my life. He desires to be the very source of our lives and not just be in our lives. One can only know of this reality if one has experienced the supernatural power of God working in the deepest parts of one's inner most being place, which David called the hidden place.

Psalms 51:6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

1 Corinthians 1:24 teaches us that Jesus is the wisdom of God. David says you God will make me know wisdom in that innermost place, that hidden part. In other words, when the Spirit does this powerful work in us, we come to know what it is to have Christ, the Wisdom of God, the power of God as our source of life, no longer just our resource.

This reality is one that lies behind the veil, in the holy of holies place and is available to all but that very few find. This is why it is Jesus, and Jesus, alone who gives us this eternal food, which leads us into the next question for us to ask.

Who gives us this eternal food?

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 17:2 “even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.”

John 3:27 John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.”

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you Living Water.”

These are just four examples to which there are many more of a very clear kingdom pattern, which exists in God.

The Father, the Son or the Holy Spirit are the givers of this eternal food, to which we are the receivers. Apart from them, we can do nothing in and of ourselves to acquire this eternal food. No amount of human study, striving, effort, hard work, and learning can see us receive what only He can give and do.

If we could, there would be no need for the Holy Spirit to have come and disclosed to us all, that which Jesus spoke.

John 16:12-15 “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. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.”

Our role is to be quick to hear, slow to speak and in humility receive the word, this eternal food that the Spirit desires to implant within our hearts.

James 1:18-21 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures. This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

We find another great Scripture to testify of this reality in 1

Thessalonians 2.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

The key words from this verse are receiving, hearing, accepting and believing in the word, the eternal food, which was spoken. This word, the eternal food then performed a work of transformation within the hearers who were then able to be imitators of the churches at Judea.

1 Thessalonians 2:14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews.

Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 4:16 and 11:1 to be imitators of him as He was of Christ. This is not something we can do if we are not receivers and recipients of His eternal food, which only the Spirit can give.

How does one eat and drink this eternal food?

Eating and drinking comes naturally to us. When a baby is born they innately know how to eat. They're not provided with an instruction manual straight from the womb, they're not sent on a course, they know the how and go seeking the who. The baby knows exactly how to eat because they have been eating since before they were born. They are of the earth so they know how to seek food of the earth.

Food is presented to them by their parents and they consume what is given to them. This aligns with what we have just looked at when unpacking the last question.

Who gives us this eternal food?

It is no different in the Spirit. When a baby is born, they innately know how to eat. When we are born again of the Spirit, receiving the fire and power of the Spirit, we instinctively know how to eat and drink spiritual food.

John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born

of the Spirit is spirit.”

John 6:63 “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”

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

When we are born again of the Spirit we are grafted into the True Vine, Jesus Christ Himself. As a branch abiding or remaining in the Vine, fruit or Eternal Life is produced within us. The outcome of our oneness with the Vine is that fruit is produced in and through us. There is no work or effort on our part, it is our abiding in the Vine that allows the True Vine to produce His fruit in and through us.

This way of the Spirit is an “IS” dimension just as we looked at previously when we said God is Spirit. It does not say God does Spirit or that He’s about the Spirit. It says God IS Spirit so when we are of God we innately flow in the way of the Spirit which is an IS dimension.

It is living from this IS dimension called abiding in Him that innately causes the formation of the fruit of the Spirit within us. There is no striving or work required from us, we simply live from this reality where eternal life is formed within us.

This is all part of our new spiritual identity in Him. God IS Spirit. Spirit IS of Spirit. Flesh is of flesh. Spirit gives birth to spirit while flesh gives birth to flesh.

If this is a foreign concept to you and you continue to ask but “how” do I abide and “how” do I remain and “how” do I partake and eat and drink of Him, then you may want to seek the Father on what it is in Him to be born again of Spirit and power.

Acts 1:8 “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

The disciples had no idea what it meant to eat and drink of Him as the bread of life while they were walking with Jesus. The best thing the disciples did when Jesus spoke of this truth was to stay with Him when many disciples left Him and followed Him no more, due to not having any reference for what He was saying.

John 6:66-69 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and

were not walking with Him anymore. So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

Those who believe and know Him as Lord do not walk away from Him when they do not understand the things He says, or the things that happen to them, they walk towards Him.

Has this been you and I at times in our lives? Saying we believe Him and know Him as Lord and in the very next breath walk away from Him when we do not understand what He says or what is happening to us.

Perhaps this is your response right now while reading this book. As I testify to this IS dimension, and how easy and natural it is to eat and drink of Him.

Can I encourage you to stay, wait and walk towards this reality as opposed to away from it. Can I encourage you to let the Holy Spirit reveal what I am speaking about rather than seeking out other teachings that feed our flesh while declaring they are of Christ.

It was not until He left and sent the Holy Spirit to live in them, living from the Spirit's power within, that they had any reference for this eating and drinking of Christ, called abiding in the True Vine.

Praying a prayer of salvation does not mean we are born again and know how to eat and drink Christ. The disciples walked with Jesus for approximately three and a half years, but they were not born again until after Jesus left and sent the Holy Spirit. This is why, all the while they were walking with Him they were unable to understand what He was releasing about Himself and kingdom matters.

John 14:16-17 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you."

Just because you have received the spirit and speak in tongues does not mean you are baptised in the power or fire of the Spirit, so abiding becomes your new innate way of living.

Only when we start tasting and seeing that the Lord is good do

we start living this abiding life of the Spirit, where His eternal life is produced within us and we find ourselves truly living in the fullness of the life of the Spirit.

Psalm 34:8 O taste and see that the Lord is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Far too many followers have just settled for what they can do for Christ as opposed to who they are to become in Christ as well. We have settled for only one side of the coin. Preaching, healing the sick, operating in gifts, helping the poor, singing songs, going to other countries to share Jesus. All the things we CAN do in our own strength.

We have left the other side of the coin untouched because it is the side we cannot do, so we inherently walk lop-sided and run the risk of hearing “I don’t know you”. It was the unwise virgins who heard this, not non-believers.

We must come to Jesus if we do not currently know what it is to eat the food, which He gives and allow Him to show us the way of the Spirit, otherwise we will not be able to live out the life we were created for now, or in the future.

Why is it vital one eats of this food?

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”

Job 23:12 “I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

Three words, which hold so much power, prestige, and significance for us. The words ‘it is written’ are to get our immediate attention, bringing us into a state of awareness for what is to proceed.

To ignore these words and the words that follow, or to not value and appreciate the enormity of what God is saying, is to leave us none the wiser to the life giving dimension God is desperately trying to make us aware of.

I God am writing to you and have written My condition down in My Son’s blood of My way of living so you cannot miss it, misunderstand it, or misinterpret it. As Your Creator, I am making you fully

aware of My truth.

Matthew 4:4 ... "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."

If man is not eating this eternal food that comes from the mouth of God, man will have no life in himself, just as Jesus said.

John 6:53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves."

If man has no eternal life in him, how can he live out the life he was created for? The simple answer is he will not. Man cannot live out what he does not have. You cannot give away something you do not own or have as your possession. You might be able to speak about it, but you cannot give it.

Man will manifest what is truly within him. He will speak and live from what truly lies within his heart.

James and John manifested what was within them when the Samaritans would not receive Jesus because He was going to Jerusalem.

Peter manifested what was within him when he was confronted by those in the temple as to whether he was with Jesus.

Simon the sorcerer manifested what was in him when he saw the Holy Spirit being poured out on others through the laying on of hands.

Flesh, flesh, flesh. When we are not eating and drinking Him, the eternal food, then what comes out of us is the evidence of the tree we are eating and drinking from. You may manifest knowledge through persuasive words but do you have His life manifesting through you because of experiencing His power.

1 Corinthians 4:18-20 Now some have become arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power. For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.

In essence, we can't live out what Truth calls us to unless we are eating the right food source. No matter how right or good the food looks and tastes if it is not producing the Life of Christ within us, it

is not from Him. No matter how much time, effort and cost we put into acquiring this food, if it does not produce His Life within us, it is counterfeit.

The challenge for every follower is being able to discern the difference. Are you and I eating the manna from above which is eternal and does not perish? It proves true to what it is and enables and empowers us to stand, be strong in Him and live the way we have been created to live.

Matthew 7:24-25 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.”



12

GOD'S WILL



I want to start by saying this. The “will of God” is a manifold dimension but it must be laid hold of through the spiritual lens of oneness. **John 17:11** “I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.”

I am going to describe the “will of God” to us through this lens of oneness and it is imperative we do not start breaking it down into individual parts in the hope that we can come to understand it. This will only lead to confusion, disappointment, disillusionment, frustration, and spiritual death.

I am going to lay some groundwork first that I hope we will find extremely helpful when coming to grasp what the will of God is. This groundwork will lay a solid foundation which when built upon will give us a clear view of the whole picture.

The first element of the groundwork.

The “Will of God” has two sides and many parts but it is one reality

What do you notice first about the statement “the will of God?”

A couple of observations for myself is that I am looking at a singular absolute statement and not a plural one. It is not the wills of God but the will of God.

The second element of the groundwork.

It is God's will, not my will

One of the most common questions in the body of Christ is "What is God's will for my life?" but this is not the right question.

When this is our reality, this places us at the centre of everything and not God. We become the main character in the story and God takes a back seat, even though God is the creator and we are the creation.

It becomes all about us even when we say, "it's all about Him" and "we are doing it for Him" when we are truly doing it from and for our own sake.

We subtly become the creator trying to build and accomplish our own will using His name in the process. We ask the question "What is God's will for my life" but what we are really asking is "How does God fit into my will for my life?" On the surface it sounds right, it sounds like we are really interested in what He wants, but as you begin to dig beneath the surface you find the true intent is not to submit to God's will but to find a way to have God fit into our will.

We are the creation and as the creation, we do not need to build anything. We are invited to live out what has already been finished, all from a heart posture of Sabbath Rest.

Many in the body of Christ are experts, professionals at knowing how to cover over this true self-centred position by being and looking active in what they call 'their faith'. These followers have no reality for Sabbath Rest and have as their number one motivational driver the accomplishment of their works using His name.

Doing what they say is "the will of God" for their life, when in fact it is just their own will being done, painted up as God's will.

The consequences of living this way as a child of God are threefold.

Firstly, it leads us away from the inner life of rivers of Living Water which Jesus promised to all those who believe and abide in Him. Secondly, it leads us away from living a life of righteousness or right standing under God and thirdly it leads us away from our inheritance in Christ, which is now and future now.

We will have to give an account for the works He calls us to and

not the works we have necessarily done.

Jesus came to do the will of His Father. As His disciples, we too are only to be concerned about doing the will of our Heavenly Father.

John 6:38 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

It is in doing the will of the Father that we get to know whether what Jesus said is the truth.

John 7:16-17 So Jesus answered them and said, “My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.”

One of the key reasons, if not THE reason, we as followers don't know the “will of God” is because we do not know God. We may know about Him, we may know all of the bible stories and how to do all the things Christians do, but do we know God? Are we in life and life abundantly because of the true revealed knowledge we have received? If not, then we have the false knowledge that Paul speaks of. This false knowledge is about gaining knowledge for knowledge's sake instead of receiving a knowledge that births and forms Life within us.

This may sound harsh and judgemental, but I believe it is the absolute truth. If it is the truth, then it is not being judgemental but discerning the reason why many are still in the dark when it comes to knowing His Will and living in accordance with it.

My heart is to help us as opposed to hinder us. I want to see His truth propel us forward as opposed to holding us back or trying to stop us. This truth would point us in the right direction and not lead us down another path. This truth is to release us and reposition us from our operating system to His, so we know His will and start living our lives in accordance with it.

The third element of the groundwork.

God's Will is written down

We can see in black and white that God has written down in words what His will is. The words are exact so we can know what His will is.

He does this so we do not miss it or create our own version of it.

Here are some examples of this from the Scriptures.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honour, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

John 6:40 "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

The fourth element of the groundwork.

God's will is not a mystery

God's will is not a mystery, but it is concealed and in need of being revealed by the Spirit. This is why many still do not see what God's will is even though it is directly in front of them and written down.

How can one miss God's will when it has been written down for us to know? How can something be hidden while being written down in plain sight? This is part of the mystery of God.

Ephesians 1:9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

Who made known to Paul the mystery of His will? God did and it must be God who makes the mystery of His will known to us as well, otherwise as mentioned we will create our own version through our own understanding and call it His.

Everything in and of God must be revealed in us if we are to hold a living knowledge of His will, which is shaping and defining our lives.

Now that the groundwork for God's will has been laid, lets take an in depth look at what it is.

So, what is the “will of God”?

For me one of the best ways to explain the Will of God is to use the analogy of a coin. As we know a coin has two sides, there is heads on one side and tails on the other. Two sides but one coin. Where the two sides meet we find the edge of the coin which is a couple of millimetres in width. This is what we call the narrow edge of the coin.



The coin moves best when we roll it on its narrow edge. If we lay the coin flat and try to push it along the ground we won't get a very good result. It doesn't matter which side of the coin we use, it still won't travel far. We get the best result when we stand the coin on its edge and roll it. We will get the maximum distance and the coin will operate to its fullest potential.

This is a great analogy although not perfect to explain the will of God.

The will of God predominantly has two sides to it but within those two sides as we have described, there are other working parts.

This can be confusing for us, as the many parts of His will must be viewed through the spiritual lens of oneness, which is the narrow edge of the coin. Our inability to see the will of God through the lens of oneness will have us not embracing every aspect of His will, which is essential if we wish to receive all He has for us now and in the future.

One side of God's will is formational, and we will call this side heads, while the other side of God's will is functional. We will call this side tails. Let's start with the formational side (heads) as this is God's first placed position.

Formational side – heads

Let's start by unpacking some scriptures that speak to God's will being formational.

There are three specific passages of Scripture I want us to look at.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honour, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

1 Thessalonians 4 clearly lays it out for us. God's will is our sanctification. In other words, God has called and chosen us for the purpose of spiritual transformation, where our spirit, soul and body are completely saved or transformed back into original design before the fall of man, through the power of Spirit and Truth.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

Acts 3:20-21 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

Notice who brings this transformational work of the Spirit to pass. He does. We cannot do this work, but this work can be done in us. Do we have an appetite and a thirst for a work we cannot do but only He can? If not, then we will have no interest in the will of God. We will only think and believe we do.

Philippians 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

This of course is all connected to the marriage union between Christ and His church and how He is returning for a mature, spotless,

and blameless bride. This bride becomes the Groom's wife, and she will reign with Him in the kingdom of Heaven, raising the eternal family of God.

Jesus patterned this very sanctification for us as an example for us to follow.

John 17:19 "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth."

Those who enter into this sanctification will become the wife of Christ. Those who choose not to will not become the wife of Christ.

John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."

1 Thessalonians 4:7-8 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

Yes, it is fully possible as His followers to reject the will of God for our lives, the sanctification process, all the while being justified by His blood, running round doing a whole lot of works, which He has not ordained. This is what the parables of the virgins and the talents are all about.

Our choices will decide all of this. We are to be followers who allow God's will – sanctification, to shape, build and define our lives bringing us to spiritual maturity. This transformation occurs through the Spirit and faith in the truth as we see in 2 Thessalonians 2.

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.

Look at these words. Can it be any clearer than this?

God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. This is the first part of His will.

'It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of Christ!' We lost so much more than our spot in

Heaven when humanity fell. We lost everything starting with glory.

God did not choose us to change the world. God did not choose us to live for ourselves and build a life for ourselves. God did not choose us to get married and have kids. God did not choose us for ministry or vocational work.

God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

The key word in this sentence is 'BEGINNING'. God's first, His beginning, not ours. What is our beginning position? Is our beginning position His beginning position? Is His first our first? It says seek first the kingdom of God, not the kingdom of Greg.

The Scripture says from the BEGINNING He chose us for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. Are we truly in this spiritual process as His followers or not? If not, then we are not in His will. It is that simple.

This is not a work of the flesh but a work of the Spirit, so if it is not taking place by the Spirit then it is not taking place. While there may be an abundance of Christian activity taking place there will be no transformation happening within us. We will be unchanged and will remain outside of His will being accomplished within our hearts and minds.

Glory is related to image, and it is this glory, which we lost at the fall. We were born into a fallen image, the image of Adam, as opposed to the image of Christ and the purpose of sanctification, God's will, is to return us back to original order, making us ready for His return.

Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.

We did not just lose our place in Heaven, but we lost something far more critical as mentioned. We lost the image we were created in, but thanks be to Christ, who became the firstborn for us, so we could be reconciled back into His image, His kind, His glory, a first fruits creation and be called His brethren.

This all takes place as His will is worked out in our lives through the receiving of the word of truth being implanted within a heart of humility.

James 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

Where there is no heart of humility to receive this kind of word, performing this deep spiritual work within us, then, there will be no living reality for what it is to be a first fruits creature or follower.

Time to transition and look at another verse in relation to the will of God.

John 6:40 "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

John says the will of God is beholding the Son and believing in Him. This sounds contradictory to what we have just read and you may be asking which is it? This is exactly what I was talking about at the beginning of this chapter. The 'will of God' is a manifold dimension but it must be laid hold of through the spiritual lens of oneness. It isn't one or the other it is both and more, but we will only understand this truth when we view it through the lens of oneness. All of these verses are leading us to the same truth, which ultimately leads us to life in Christ.

This gives understanding as to why the writer of Hebrews taught us to 'fix our eyes on Him'. It also gives us insight into why Jesus said in John 6:29 that the work of God was to believe in Him, whom He has sent.

Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

We then need to ask ourselves two questions:

1. What does it mean to behold the Son?
2. What does it mean to believe in Him?

Beholding the Son

To behold: to see or observe (someone or something, especially remarkable or impressive nature).

Where are our eyes fixed? What or who beholds their attention? When I mention eyes, I mean the eyes of our hearts. Matthew 6:21 says “for where your treasure is there our heart will be also.”

In other words, whom or what we genuinely love, will be what we behold. The will of God is that we would behold Him and nothing else.

To believe in the Son

Believing in who He is and in what He says is the key to kingdom life in Christ, which is eternal, because to believe is the work of God. This, as we have looked at, is the will of God for us.

A scriptural definition of believing goes far beyond a mental agreement. It is much more than verbally agreeing with the Scriptures and far more than an intellectual knowledge or understanding of the text.

Believing only comes by a revelation of the Spirit. It is this kind of believing which creates a living conviction within us, empowering us to be able to live in accordance with what we say we believe. Our lives become a living demonstration of our belief in Him.

1 Thessalonians 1:5-7 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

This is why the bible says anything not done from this posture of faith is sin. Belief and faith are interconnected. They work together to bring us into the reality, the actuality of eternal life in Christ, empowering us to live out what truth calls us to.

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

Anything less than a living conviction received through a revelation of the Spirit is not His version of believe. At best we can offer an intellectual and verbal agreement with the Truth.

The final verse I want to look at regarding what God's will is in 1 Thessalonians 5.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

As I have already described, all of these scriptures show different facets of one reality. If we are not being sanctified by receiving revelations of Truth through the Holy Spirit, it is impossible to give thanks in everything. The life testified of in each of these verses needs to be revealed within us to empower us to live out the life described in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, enabling us to give thanks in everything.

To give thanks in everything, means exactly that. We give thanks in every circumstance, every situation. Whether in the good times or the bad, life or death, calm or chaos, when I feel like it or when I don't. It is easy to give thanks when life is good and everything is going our way, but the true test is when everything is turned upside down and your world is caving in on you. Can you give thanks then?

This reminds me of the Mercy Me song "Even If" where the lyric of the song goes, "It's easy to sing when there's nothing to bring me down, but what will I sing when I'm held to the flame, like I am right now."

Our giving thanks in all things is not to be motivated or have its life found in whether life is good or bad but in Christ Himself. This way of thanksgiving comes from who He is and who we are in Him, not what happens or does not happen to us. It's not based on circumstance or situation or an event but on who He is and what He says.

This kind of thanksgiving is only possible when we know and are living from God's will. Our fleshly will has no desire to give thanks when things are tough, it has no capacity to give thanks as it doesn't see beyond itself and its circumstances. It does not contain the eternal life required to live out an eternal wisdom, it is unable to live from Eternal Life.

Only those who have a Wisdom within them, who are being perfected by this Wisdom, will be able to demonstrate and prove right this Wisdom when required.

Matthew 11:18-19 "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon!' The Son of Man came eating and drinking,

and they say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

So, we can see from these passages of Scripture that the will of God firstly is the complete salvation of our spirit, soul and body, making us blameless and ready for the return of our Groom for His bride. It is about becoming a pure virgin bringing much spiritual fruit to maturity and finishing this race by faith. It is about living out a Christlike existence and not just saying we are a Christian.

2 Corinthians 11:1-2 I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.

Functional side – tails

This is the other side of the coin, tails, which is God's second placed position. When it comes to living out the functional reality of God's truth, it is essential we start at what is the most important to Him.

Keeping His Commandments

This means we begin with being able to keep the two Great Commandments.

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 first functional work in relation to God's will is our ability to keep the two Great Commandments the way God has instructed. This is our new way of being, our new way of living. It is important to note that this is not something we work at or try to perform, but something that just IS and will BE, if we are living from the first part of God's will.

It is the first part of God's will, the sanctification of our spirit, soul, and body, which empowers the second part of His will.

The Great Commandment lived out is an expression of the reflection of His image which is being formed within us.

Galatians 4:19 My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you—

The Commandment to love is not work. It is not burdensome as the Scripture teaches. It is not something that is so far away that it cannot be carried out. It is not something we muster up. It is not something we put on and then try our best from our own strength to live out.

Due to being sanctified by truth, we find ourselves having love being perfected within us all the time, and this love flows forth from us, as and when needed, making the keeping of the Commandment an effortless way of being.

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:

It is a love that just IS and a love, which only knows how to be what it IS.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 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. Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.

This is such an innate reality and one that only exists in the One who is love. This cannot be discovered outside of the One who is love and it has absolutely nothing to do with what we do or do not do for Him, but our true knowing of Him through the Spirit.

The ability to keep the Love Commandments is the evidence of His love being perfected within us, through the true knowing of Him, which the scriptures describe as eternal life. We can only love like Christ to the measure we have received His Love within us. This is

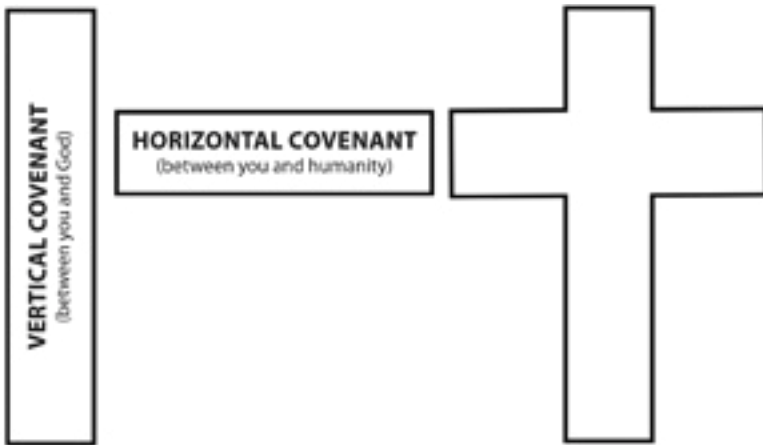
why it is essential for every follower to be continuously perfected in love by keeping the word of God.

Without this, it is impossible to live out the Commandments.

We cannot, and should never try to, separate knowing Him from Love, the Commandments and Eternal Life. These four parts of God work together to produce His reality within us, enabling us to walk in the manner in which Christ walked – Love.

To fulfil the law of Christ, which is to love your neighbour as yourself, is to keep the Commandments, so one must be intimately acquainted and have their being in Him, if they are to flow in these four parts which operate as one reality.

Only when we have truly received His incorruptible love in us by the Spirit from the vertical arm of the cross, can we flow in the horizontal arm of the cross. The vertical enables and empowers the horizontal. This is the covenant of love for which we were created and given life for. We were created to love, not for love or to need love, because God created Adam and Eve perfect.



It is in the formational aspect of God's will being outworked in our lives, transforming us back into original design, that we get to just love and be the reflection and expression of God upon the earth.

To be unable to keep the Commandments is to be unable to live out the will of God and unfortunately, there are consequences for followers who find themselves in this state of being.

Matthew 25:11-13 "Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open up for us.' But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour."

Keeping His Commission

This is the second part of the functional side (tails) of God's will.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The commission is just as important as the commandment and sanctification, as all of them are of God. However, the commission is ranked third in the order of God's will. This doesn't make it less important but it's not the first place that God starts from.

Why is this important? Because if we get the order all jumbled up and out of sequence to God's design, then we will not be the recipients of the life He promises us or be able to live the kind of life He is calling us to live by faith.

We will have this broken down, dysfunctional and divisive way of living, where self will still be our god and living at the centre of our lives, defining what is and is not God.

Unfortunately, for many of us as God's followers we have made the great Commission the number one aspect of Gods will. We have made it greater than the transformation (sanctification) of our inner life and greater than the two Commandments (loving the Father and Son with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, loving our neighbour as He loves us).

We have side stepped the first two, essential parts of God's will to get to the third part. Why do we do this? Because this is the only part of His will that flesh can be active and find some measure of control. Flesh has no part to play in the first or second part so it seeks out the part it can participate in while keeping itself safe from the chopping block.

The flesh is put to death when we enter into and allow the first part of God's will to take place in our lives.

Romans 8:13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

The flesh has no appetite or thirst for what it cannot do and what it does not know, and as the Scripture says, the Spirit and flesh are in opposition to one another. Is it any surprise that when presented with God's version of the truth, many pick and choose the bits they like and love the most and are not interested in the whole truth.

We take a third of His will and make it into a whole and even then, the third we live from might be our version of it all.

Of course, very few of us will ever admit to this but our lives are the very evidence of this truth.

When we have only given the sanctification process and the great Commandments lip service, and our reference for God is bound up in traditions learnt by rote, as opposed to yielding our lives to God's will, we will be empty vessels. We will still be living as the lord of our own lives, void of fruit within us, still controlling our own lives, unable to lay our lives down, and unable to prove the Wisdom of heaven.

We will still be at the centre of it all and the source of it all.

When we live like this, not only will we be void of Life, but we will create our own reality shaped, defined and moulded in our own image. We create our own narrative, keeping the bits we like and excluding those we don't. We will create our own version of the commission and call it His. This is where questions like "What is God's will for my life?" come from, steeped in flesh and ego and void of the Spirit.

What do you notice about the great commission? God's version of the great Commission has disciples leading others back to everything He has commanded and in the order in which he says things are. It does not lead people to the lost, outreach programs, missions, prayer, spiritual gifts, giving, serving, works or even to the Scriptures. It points everyone back to all He has commanded, and this starts at His first placed priority – Sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Notice it's not sanctification by the scriptures but by the Spirit

and faith in the truth.

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.

Why do we miss this when it is right there in black and white for all to see? Why do we miss these very specific words from the commission?

“Teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.”

The first port of call for every disciple of Jesus Christ is an inner working not an outward one. We are to be led by the Spirit into the ongoing process of Sanctification, where our spirit, soul and body are being transformed by the Spirit and faith in the truth. We must start by being conformed into the image of Christ not by doing works or ministry for Him.

Is this where you were led when you made a commitment to become a disciple of Christ? If not, why not and could this be the very reason you have struggled to come into the life He promises you and to walk in the manner in which He walked?

There is a precise order to how Heaven operates and it most certainly does not start with external ministry for Jesus, or any of the other things I have mentioned. It does not start where we believe it does.

This teaching has been robbing millions of followers of the Life and Promises of God for years and it will continue to do so. Let's take a look at what the Scriptures actually say and how Christ laid out the great commission in accordance with His Father's ways. This is one of the most important truths we can look at and we must allow the Teacher to reveal the Father's way if we are to walk in alignment to His will.

The great Commission, which is the discipling of people groups and nations, starts at the baptising of these people in the nature of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This baptism is of Power and Fire, not water.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

We know from the Scriptures that there is the baptism of water and the baptism into His name, and it is here, the baptism into His name, where the making of disciples begins by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Matthew 3:11 "As for me, I baptise you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

The word baptise is the word baptiso, which means full immersion. There is a massive difference between being fully immersed into water and having the Holy Spirit being fully immersed into us. One is external and the other is internal, and Jesus received both before He went into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan or start ministering on behalf of His Father.

Matthew 3:13-17 Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptised by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptised by You, and do You come to me?" But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him. After being baptised, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

The baptism in water for the repentance of iniquity and sins and the baptism in the Holy Spirit for the fire and power of Christ, are two key ingredients in the discipleship making process. One can be baptised in water and not be baptised in the power and fire of Christ. One can be baptised in the fire and power of Christ but not yet be baptised in water.

Both are essential parts in the discipleship making process called

the great Commission, while one holds a greater weightiness than the other does, hence Jesus warned His disciples not to leave the upper room and start anything until they had received power, fire, from on high.

Acts 1:4-8 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." **Luke 24:48-49** "You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

If the pattern is Jesus did not overcome the enemy's lies and temptation without the power of the Spirit and did not start ministering on behalf of the Father without the power of the Spirit, then certainly this must become our pattern.

Jesus knew the disciples were incapable of entering into the sanctification process, or fulfilling His commandment and commission without His power operating within them. This is why He instructed them to wait in the city until they had received it. He knew they needed it then and He knows we need it today.

Why is it today in many churches when people make a decision to follow Christ, they are led into spiritual gift assessments and thrust into some form of service or ministry, instead of being led into the will of God, the sanctification or transformation of their entire being, being baptised in water and spirit.

The second part of this Commission is to teach disciples all that the Father has commanded as previously stated.

Leaders will be accountable for this at their judgement seat of Christ for how they have led God's people. Have we led people to Him

or into works for Him? Have we inadvertently led people to leave their first love for works and have we led people to ourselves?

Jesus teaches us in John 14:12 that there are greater works for us to do, but how these works are achieved and outworked is the key to experiencing our reward. We will only be rewarded for righteous acts, there are no rewards for acts of the flesh. Anyone can perform “good works” led by their own good intentions but the Father only values righteous works. Righteous works are birthed and enabled by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Unless we are in the way of God – the Spirit, we will never be able to live out the works He has prepared for us. If we are not being conformed into the image of Christ by the Spirit and faith in truth we will be incapable of accomplishing the righteous works He has prepared for us. Without this inner work, our external works will be works of the flesh. Birthed in our own perception of good and right. These kinds of works will be burnt up at the judgement seat of Christ for the futility of what they were – good but not God.

Just because we see people making decisions for Christ through our good works, our labour and efforts, does not mean these works are of God. Just because we lay hands on the sick and see healings and see the dead raised, performing signs and wonders, does not mean this outworking is of God.

The only deeds which get rewarded in God are those that have been accomplished by faith. We can accomplish these works above without faith, but what we can never do are the true works of the Spirit without faith.

James 2:17-18 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

James 2:17-18 can become one of the most confusing passages of Scripture if not viewed through the lens or the eyes of the Spirit. If we approach these verses from the flesh, the carnal mind and

understanding, we will miss the mark, sin, and believe we have something we in fact do not.

Predominately followers read this and race off, accumulating works, which they call works of the Spirit, and then say, “see my faith operating through the works I have achieved”. They then say, “where are your works through your faith?”

They believe these works are of faith and they may be, but works of faith are works that come from the unseen. If our works do not come from the unseen realm then they are works of the seen and works of the seen are not of God but us, the flesh.

The works of God, which are accomplished by faith all come from the unseen as Hebrews 11 declares.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

For us to grasp this we must have God’s version of faith and not what we have told ourselves faith is. Once again, our reference for faith must come from the living Scriptures, which are Spirit and life, and not our carnal understanding of the Scriptures.

2 Corinthians 4:13 But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, therefore I spoke,” we also believe, therefore we also speak,

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

2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight—

2 Corinthians 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

In simple terms, the spirit of faith sees what is in the unseen and lives in accordance with this unseen realm. The unseen realm is where all works of the Spirit are conceived, birthed, empowered and accomplished from, through and by faith.

These are what the Scriptures describe as the “righteous acts of the saints”, not just any acts, and it is these works which Paul spoke

of in James 2:18 when he said, *“You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”*

If there was one man who had a faith that was evidenced by the works of the Spirit, it was Paul. Is it any wonder then that we are to imitate him the way He imitated the Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

My hope and prayer is that after reading about the will of God in this context, you are now able to clearly see the patterns of Heaven as opposed to the patterns of Earth. I hope you will begin to align your life to His patterns, not only for the purpose of receiving more and more of His life but also so that you will manifest His life through you more and more.

2 Corinthians 4:7-11 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 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.

Here is a comprehensive list of Scriptures, which testify of the will of God that we as sons of God are to do, just as the Son did.

John 6:38 *“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”*

1 Peter 4:1-2 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

1 Peter 4:19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Ephesians 5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Psalms 40:8 *“I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.”*

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be

transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 John 2:17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Matthew 12:50 "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

John 7:17 "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself."

Hebrews 13:21 equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

I wanted to finish the book on this verse in relation to the will of God and leave us all with the thought that there is a reward promised for all those who do the will of God.

The reward is not our position in heaven, this is the gift of God towards all those who believe and confess Him as Lord and Saviour. Our reward is something entirely different and is broken into two parts.

The first part is a now-now reality

This is the promise of a life complete in Christ, where the fullness of His eternal life is formed within us, empowering us to be overcomers and making us ready for His return. All this to be our now-now reality.

Colossians 1:28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Ephesians 3:19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

1 John 5:4-5 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Matthew 25:10 "And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut."

The second part of the reward is a future-now reality

This is where we get to receive the promise of the future inheritance now in Spirit and have the life of the promise empower our lives now, knowing that we won't fully possess the whole promise until the age to come.

An example of this is Abraham seeing the new city being built by Jesus Himself while he was on earth and how seeing and receiving this future promise now empowered him to walk faithfully according to God's will.

Another example of this future-now reward is sitting next to Jesus on His throne and reigning with Him in the future kingdom.

Hebrews 11:9-10 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Revelation 3:21 "He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Paul lived his life in accordance with all of this and he testified to it throughout the books he wrote. The following passages are especially clear regarding his confidence in receiving his reward.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and

make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

Philippians 3:12-16 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

All this life changing reality was on offer to the woman at the well if she would do the one thing she was instructed to do which was go and get her husband. The timing was right, the invitation was there and the guarantee of the promise of Living Water to be had.

The exact same offer is available to us today, just as it was for the woman at the well. His Word is Spirit and Life and the same promise of Living Water exists for us all.

I can hear the voice of Jesus now saying, "Hey Greg if you want the Living Water that only I can give go and get your...!"

The End!