

CHAPTER 2

ABIDING: THE PLACE OF AUTHORITY

...."Then God said, "Let Us make Man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth"....

Genesis 1:26-18

...."And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth"....

Matthew 28:18

AT NO TIME DID GOD EVER DISMISS THE FACT THAT ADAM WAS TO BE IN TOTAL AND COMPLETE OBEDIENCE TO HIM - AND TO HIS WORDS

In gaining a revelation of true spiritual authority, one of the foremost things which we need to learn is that only the one who has first subjected themselves to the authority of God can be a "delegated authority" of God. The first example that we see of this from the Word of God is Adam, who was given the whole of creation (the earth) as his "domain" and yet at no time did God ever dismiss the fact that Adam was to be in total and complete obedience to Him and to His words. In Genesis 1:28 we see that Adam was given complete and absolute authority over the earth and this is a very important point to remember for, as we look back to the state of man before the Fall, we can gain some clear insight into the fulness of the Father's intentions for mankind. We know that after "man" had been given authority in the earth, Satan came and man allowed "themselves" to be deceived, and Adam handed the keys to the authority which he had been blessed with, to Satan. Moving rapidly through the history of fallen mankind, we know that the Word became flesh and through the Cross, God's plan of redemption was

able to restore us to the place where we are once again the "crown of Creation". When we look at what we are going to study in light of what has just been said, it puts an even greater realization in one's heart that the church of Jesus Christ is not operating at anywhere near the capacity at which it is called to operate, that is, operating in the fulness of the inheritance that has been provided for us in Christ, and taking hold of the authority which belongs to "all" those who have made Jesus Christ their Lord.

THE WHOLE WORK OF REDEMPTION IS TO BRING US BACK TO THE PLACE WHERE WE WILL FIND OUR "RIGHT AND WRONG" ENTIRELY THROUGH THE REVEALED WORD OF GOD - IN TOTAL DEPENDENCE UPON IT

It is very important for us to understand that the authority which was given to Adam was God's authority. It was not something which God gave to Adam and then turned around and went about some other business. The basis of all authority given by God to Adam was dependent upon him being obedient to the Word of God.

...."Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die"....

Genesis 2:15-17

A believer's action should never be governed by the knowledge of good or evil (the mind of the flesh). It should be "motivated" only by a sense of obedience - unto the Father and His Word! The whole work of redemption is to bring us back to the place where we will find our "right and wrong" entirely through the revealed Word of God in total dependence upon it. In the "unrenewed" mind one bases their estimation of "morality" upon what they "feel" or "think" is right or wrong - good or evil. In this way, two people could look upon the same situation; one saying that the situation was morally acceptable, while the other might say that it is morally unacceptable. Such is the foolishness of any attempt to understand or discern what is good or evil, right or wrong, through the eyes of "darkened wisdom". It is only as God's light is shed abroad within us that we are empowered

to discern all things through the eyes of the Father, to truly know what the deepest thoughts and intentions of His heart are - and how all things around us relate to Him.

IT IS ONLY THROUGH THE REVEALED KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD THAT WE CAN DISCERN THAT WHICH IS RIGHTEOUS AND THAT WHICH IS UNRIGHTEOUS

It is only in this way that we can truly discern what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is evil! The knowledge of good and evil has its origin in the old nature. In the church there are many who consider certain things morally right and certain things morally wrong. They have come to these conclusions by their own understanding but, in reality, there is only one way that we are able to discern what truly is right and what is wrong (and indeed there is only one right and one wrong - in any given situation. What is of God is right(eous) and what is not of God is wrong (unrighteous) - no matter how "good" it may appear outwardly. Therefore, it is only through the revealed knowledge of God's Word - that knowledge revealed to us through the life of God within us (the Holy Spirit) - a knowledge which is both absolute and pure - that we can discern that which is righteous and that which is unrighteous. Our entire lives as Christians are to be motivated by one thing - and one thing alone - and that is the desire to obey and please the One we serve. All of us must come to the clear realization that within the old nature (that is the fallen nature of man) there is nothing but the capacity for darkness and therefore we must cast ourselves wholly upon the Father and His Word - for He and He alone is the absolute authority of this universe and He has set the standards "by which we are to live in this earth". One of Satan's greatest deceptions is to "coerce" people into leaning upon their own understanding - while thinking all along that what they are saying and doing is glorifying God. They are deceived into thinking that because of the apparent "goodness" of their "outward" actions that they are doing those things which are pleasing to God. But the ONLY assurance that one has that they are in alignment with the thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart - and are conforming perfectly to His standard in ALL that they do - is the assurance that comes only through "perfect fellowship" with Him, both in the "inner chamber and throughout the day.

ONE SHALL BE LIKE THE ONE THEY FELLOWSHIP WITH THE MOST

It is only as one keeps the Father in an exalted position ABOVE ALL ELSE, ministering unto Him and keeping His Word in the forefront of their thinking that allows them to "know" that which is of God and that which is not of God. It is through this close and intimate fellowship with the Father, that allows the believer to not only discern that which is of God, but also to continually carry out His will in the "absolute authority" that is given to them in Christ. How many there are in the church who have forsaken this intimate fellowship at such a great cost to both the church and to themselves. Quite simply put, one shall be like the one they fellowship with the most. If the child of God chooses continually to lean upon their own understanding - thus failing to bring every thought captive to the "revealed" Word of God - then the pride and the selfishness and the rebellion which they manifest shall paint a clear picture of the one they truly serve (Satan). On the other hand, as one gives their heart wholly to God, and chooses diligently to bring every thought captive to obedience (to His Word) THEN the living Christ shall be manifested clearly in "every detail" of their life.

MANY CHILDREN OF GOD NEED A REVELATION OF THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD

To take hold of what we have been blessed with in Christ is very important! If one does not take hold of that which has been provided for them by Almighty God, then that one will most certainly settle for that which Satan has provided (death for life, darkness for light, fear for faith, etc.). It is my fervent prayer that God's children will somehow be shaken to their senses and realize the eternal importance of all that the Father has said and done - that they might take hold of that which they were laid hold of for: to no longer live for themselves, but to live entirely for the One who redeemed them. Many children of God need a revelation of the power of the Word of God - and the esteem that the Father puts on His Word. They need a revelation that Jesus is the Word and that the Word is God. In other words, they need a revelation that the Word of God is the supreme authority in this universe. Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me, in heaven and in earth", and what that means to us spiritually is that the Word is the supreme authority in the earth.

WE ARE CALLED TO EXERCISE AN ABSOLUTE FAITH (TRUST) IN THE WORD OF GOD

Every last one of Satan's attacks is geared to bring the children of God into an area wherein they are apart from a pure dependence upon God's Word and thus, in not having their eyes fixed on the things that are "not seen", they will surely be found to be discerning all things through the eyes of their own understanding. If the child of God pushes the Word of God aside then they are pushing the authority of God (in their life) aside and, therefore, they prevent themselves from experiencing the "fulness" of their salvation. Although they do so "unconsciously", they come to a place wherein they are not able to recognize (discern) the delegated authorities of God (the five-fold ministry). Because of these things they will always be found to be surrounding themselves with those who are of a "like mind" (that is, those who have been irresponsible in their handling of, and their relation to, God's Word). The whole work of redemption is to bring us back to the place where we will find our "right and wrong" entirely through the Word of God - in total dependence upon it. We are called to exercise an absolute faith upon the Word of God in all things and this should not be too surprising, as it is written that it is only faith which pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). Through a continual faith and dependence upon the Word of God, the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (the Holy Spirit) shall reveal to us all things through the eyes of God. Through the renewing of our minds and through "continually" ministering to the Lord we shall become conformed to the deepest thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart. If one does not know the love of God experientially (if the love of God has not been shed abroad in their hearts to any great degree) they will not understand the power of God and they will not understand the mind of Christ; and, at best, they will have that "form of godliness" without the power thereof (2 Timothy 3:5).

LET US NOT TAKE LIGHTLY ANY ASPECT OF THE FATHER'S REQUIREMENT FOR OUR SERVICE TO HIM

As our obedience to God's Word increases, any actions which have their origin in the "flesh", decrease. As we diligently pursue obedience, then, automatically, those things which proceed forth from the "flesh" will diminish. The Word of God clearly states that as we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh. It does not say, "Do not fulfil the lusts of the flesh and then you

will be able to walk by the Spirit". Many believers read this passage in a distorted way and, thus, continually strive in their own power to obey the commandments of God - until they either settle for that which is far less than God's best, or they come to a deep realization of their futility. In coming to a deep realization of their futility, they gain a deep revelation of the fact that they can do nothing apart from God's power - for the flesh indeed profits nothing (John 6:63). Any action on our part which lacks in "perfect" obedience, (perfect obedience being the revealed knowledge of God's will, accompanied by the unction of the Holy Spirit, to enact our part in that will, in perfect conformity to the thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart) is a "replay" of the original fall of man. "Any" act of disobedience to the Word of God "potentially" constitutes outright rebellion - if in light of the revealed knowledge of the Word (Will) of God one "continues" on in their "presumption". If we in any way attempt to enact the will of God presumptuously, or fail to carry it out through passivity (fear and ignorance), then we shall surely be found to be in a form of disobedience. Let us not take lightly any aspect of the Father's requirement for our service to Him, for to do so would allow Satan to keep us apart from His absolute best for our lives.

LET US SEEK DILIGENTLY WITH "ALL" OF OUR HEART TO DO "ONLY" THOSE THINGS WE "KNOW" TO BE OF GOD

The Father desired perfect obedience from Adam in the garden and gave him every opportunity to do so. Through Satan's deception and Adam's own rebellion, man fell. In the same way, if we are willfully disobedient to the Word of God, then we are enacting that very same act of treason which Adam committed in the Garden. There are not many who would draw their own disobedience back to the time of man's first disobedience, but nonetheless, such is the relationship the old nature has to Adam. Therefore, we must seek diligently to be transformed by the renewing of our minds that we might be conformed in every way to Jesus Christ, and that we might operate fully in the "mind of Christ". Let us not be those who take lightly their obedience to God, but let us seek diligently with "all" of our heart to do "only" those things we "know" to be of God - and which are therefore, in perfect accord with His overall plan. It is certain that to step apart from a perfect obedience would be to set ourselves "against" the wisdom of God.

THE FATHER IS NOT IN THE HABIT OF "THREATENING" HIS CHILDREN IN ORDER TO CAUSE THEM TO SUBMIT THEMSELVES TO HIS WILL

As we begin to see and comprehend all things through the Father's eyes, we shall grasp those things which He reveals to us in light of His overall plan. This will cause us to continually exercise faith and pray without ceasing - in order that moment to moment we might have the "assurance" that we are walking in perfect obedience. In the true Christian life our "every" assurance must be a product of an absolute faith in God's Word. Indeed, those things which are discerned by the five physical senses may be used against us as Satan attempts to separate us from the center of God's will for our lives. In fully realizing that any and every act of disobedience to the Word of God potentially constitutes outright rebellion, we must always view seriously and take heed of God's Holy Word (both spoken and written), and we must also come to the realization that the Father is not in the habit of "threatening" His children in order to cause them to submit themselves to His will. There comes an appointed time when - His Word having been both proclaimed and revealed to His church - His righteous judgement shall surely fall! Wherever one is standing in the "fulness of time" will decide on whether they shall experience the fullness of God's blessing or the "reward" which is the product of one's alignment with Satan and his hosts of darkness.

THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT FAILURE ON THE PART OF MANY IN THE CHURCH TO COMPLY WITH THE WORD OF GOD - IN SIMPLE TRUST AND ACTION

We are without doubt the most blessed generation of God's people to walk this earth. We have leather-bound Bibles laying in our laps. We have had everything placed before us which is needful to carry out our portion of the Father's will in the earth. All that is needed is for us to go before the Father daily with a willing heart in order to receive the needed revelation and wisdom and power to carry out that which we are called to. We have no excuse for slothfulness in this last hour! In the last thirty years the church has experienced the greatest teaching revival since Pentecost. This revival has brought forth many revelations that have revealed God in His "absoluteness" - and yet there has been a great failure on the part of many in the church to comply with the Word of God - in simple trust and action on the Word given. They have failed to place themselves in

the position wherein they are enabled to be led by the voice of the Holy Spirit and without His "unction" - and through a determined reliance upon the darkened wisdom of their unrenewed minds - they are found walking in the "highs" of presumption and the "depths" of passivity! If one does not have a desire to serve God in the absoluteness of His Divine requirement then they shall become clear signs of the futility of "attempted" service to God in the flesh. On the other hand all those who truly love God and desire to do nothing apart from Him shall, in their steadfast perseverance and endurance, win the crown set before them - and in their obedience, influence the nations for Christ by the power which abides within them.

IT TAKES AN INTENSE DEDICATION AND DEVOTION AND DESIRE FOR ONE TO COME TO THAT PLACE OF ABIDING IN PERFECT OBEDIENCE

We have spoken previously of the fact that there is no authority except from God - and that His Word of command is the ultimate authority in the universe. It is only as one fellowships with the Father and His Word - through a continual focusing of their entire being upon that holy Word - taking "Him" as their sole and final authority in all that they do, that shall enable one to "abide" in the authority of God. These things which I have just spoken of are the innermost working of the life of abiding; a life which every one of us, as children of God, are called to. Up until this time the "heart wholly given" has, for the most part, been "put aside" as being the first and foremost requirement of the Father for one to walk out the true Christian life of holiness. It takes an intense dedication and devotion and desire for one to come to that place of "abiding" in perfect obedience - and thus be found doing only the things which are pleasing to the Father. It is in this place wherein they shall have revealed to their hearts the deepest thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart - and thus they shall come into a deep and abiding understanding of His authority, His plan and His will - not only for the Church of Jesus Christ as a whole - but also their own part in that plan (John 14:21,23).

RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT SHALL MANIFEST ITSELF AND BRING TO LIGHT THAT WHICH IS FOR HIM AND THAT WHICH IS AGAINST HIM

There is a time when the "now" of God enters the temporal realm (this

physical existence we yet walk in). It is at this point (in the fullness of time) in any given situation, that God's righteous judgement shall manifest itself, and bring to light that which is for Him and that which is against Him. It is always with an overall view to bring His people into the "fulness" of their salvation (the fulness of their inheritance in Christ), that they might become the spotless and unblemished Church - and, in being such a blessed people, become the "ultimate blessing" in this earth to the lost, the discouraged and those in captivity. As the believer stays close to the Father in prayer and fellowship with His Word, they are able to sense the urgency upon His heart and are able to discern the area in which He is working in the midst of His people.

IF WE DO NOT COME TO THE PLACE WHEREIN WE TRUST HIM FOR "ALL THINGS" THEN WE CAN NEVER WALK IN THE FULNESS OF ALL THAT HE HAS CREATED US TO WALK IN

...."It is time for judgement to being with the household of God"....

1 Peter 4:17

The Father's desire is for His children to get the sin out of their lives. He wants them to be filled with His Word. He desires them to be in a position to hear the voice of His Holy Spirit so that they can fulfil perfectly the ministry that they are called to. It is only through a deep submission to (absolute trust in) the Father and His Word that these things shall become a reality in the lives of God's children. Up to this time there has been a great - and even mass - excursion into the "world" by many children of God and this has been caused by them, somewhere along the line, making a "quality decision" to stop seeking God and His wisdom in order to "maintain" their own agenda. It is certain that the moment one stops "seeking" the wisdom of God they will find themselves in the position to hear and to act upon only the darkened wisdom of the world. The Father once showed me, through an analogy, the tragedy of His children seeking "anything" apart from Him. He likened it to an earthly father who loved his children and provided everything for them to be successful, and yet with the element of free will that child has the right and the choice of choosing the wisdom of the one who loves them - and seeks only for their greatest benefit - or, through selfishness and misunderstanding, they will choose the way which is apart from that wisdom. If we, as children of God, do not place ourselves under the mighty hand of God then

how will we ever come to the position wherein our relationship with Him is developed to the point that we might come to trust Him for all things? The answer is, we will not! If we do not come to the place wherein we trust Him for "all things", then we can never walk in the fulness of all that He has created us to walk in.

THE MISREPRESENTATION OF JESUS AND THE DISTORTION OF THE TRUE IMAGE OF THE FATHER

Hebrews 11:6 states:

...."And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him"....

Unless we diligently seek God with all of our hearts then we shall never come into the fulness of the experience which the Father desires us to have in Christ - and "tragically", we shall never know Him as "He is". To know the Father as He is, is to know and to understand all things in light of His wisdom and His love; a love which encompasses not only our own lives and our own families, but every living thing. Is it any wonder that the family structure has broken down so severely in the past three decades, when parents who are God's delegated authority to the children, have forsaken their trust in God? Because of this, they have become objects of "mistrust" to their children rather than objects by which God (who is the ultimate authority) is perfectly represented. Is it not the same principle within the church that has caused such a severe breakdown of order and true authority? To the degree that the "delegated authorities" of God (not to mention the false authorities who have taken things upon themselves which have not been ordained by God) have placed their faith and their trust and their dependence upon the lies of Satan, rather than the Word of God (this trust and false dependence being a direct result of a heart that has strayed from the will of God to seek its fellowship and security in the approval of men) it is to that degree that they shall misrepresent Jesus Christ and distort the true image of God the Father.

ONE CANNOT "BELIEVE" IN AND "WALK" IN THE LIES OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS AND BE COUNTED BEFORE THE FATHER - IN THAT MOMENT - AS WALKING IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Any word spoken and any action taken in this "wrong spirit" (of adultery and idolatry) shall always deviate from the true and perfect plan of God for mankind. The seriousness of this issue has not, up until this time, become evident to the "multitudes" who, through a definite lack of consecration, presumptuously attend to what they believe are the actions which will please God, but in reality, those actions are an abomination to Him! There are many believers who are under the impression that once they are born-again they have "got it made", and that nothing can happen to them, but I am here to tell you that there are going to be many things "happening" to those who have "refused" - THROUGH THE DECEPTIVE PRACTICES OF THE EVIL ONE and the root of their own rebellion and failure - to submit to God's Word entirely. Because they do not have a revelation of what it means to be "the righteousness of God in Christ" - and thus do not understand the "Covenant relationship" that the Father has with His people in the earth - they shall be an "easy target" for Satan and his forces. In the Word of God the "Covenant" is set before each of us and is continually activated by our faith and our obedience in what God has said and continues to say through His holy messengers. If one is not believing and basing their dependence entirely upon what God has said THEN they are believing the lie which Satan has set before them! One cannot "believe" in and "walk" in the lies of unrighteousness and be counted before the Father - in that moment - as walking in the paths of righteousness!

THERE HAS, BEEN UP UNTIL THIS TIME, AN ELEMENT IN THE CHURCH WHICH SATAN HAS USED TO BOLDLY PROCLAIM THAT "SOME" SIN IS ACCEPTABLE

John 15:5 states that:

...."apart from Me you can do nothing"....

and to therefore do something presumptuously apart from the revealed knowledge of God's Word AND the unction of His Spirit, is to be found committing unrighteousness in the eyes of God. Yet, if one truly desires to walk in righteousness - and thus "maintains" the desire to walk above error in order that they might truly represent the Father and His Word accurately; THEN, as they present themselves continually before God (seeking only His wisdom and His empowerment), they shall be cleansed continually by the Blood of Jesus Christ

and continually edified and empowered to carry out the will of God for their lives - on every front. There has been, UP UNTIL THIS TIME, an element in the church which Satan has used to boldly proclaim that "some" sin is acceptable, that "some" defeat is acceptable, that "some" failure is acceptable, that some "self" is acceptable, but these are only clear examples of what will come about when one's heart is not "wholly given" to God - and when one has stopped seeking to fulfil "all" the will of God for their lives.

THE FALSE DOCTRINE OF "IMPERFECTION"

Let it be understood clearly that any element of the heart which speaks or accepts any defeat or failure (that is anything less than the perfect desire and will of the Father) is a product of a "sin-consciousness". As the children of God gain a deeper revelation of the power of the Blood of Jesus, they will see clearly that the provision has already been made for them to walk in a perfect state of heart continually before God the Father. Out of that perfect state of heart shall come the words which will put into motion (and cause to come to pass) those things which are in perfect accordance with the thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart. In this last hour all traces of "sin-consciousness" shall be removed from the hearts of all those who "truly" love God. No more will the false doctrine of "imperfection" - promoted by those who would serve Him "outwardly", but not inwardly, stand before the consuming fire of His Spirit. For it is certain that if one would deny their "ability" which God has given them, to walk in perfect obedience before Him, they then deny His ability to carry out His Word - for God has said in Leviticus 11:44: "You shall be holy as I am holy" - and He is indeed watching over His Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12).

Is it not also written in Matthew 5:48:

...."Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect"?

ALL THOSE WHO REFUSE TO COME TO THAT PLACE OF ABIDING IN THE LOVE OF GOD SHALL DWELL IN DARKNESS

Through diligence, faith, love, and obedience, those who truly seek the Father's face will gain the revelation of His absolute authority - which they need to accomplish all that they were created for. Those who would "justify" their

"imperfection" and their incapability of walking for more than a short time without sinning, are fools and they openly betray their heart-desire to walk in rebellion - in order that they might fulfil the lusts of their own desire. It is only the forsaking of all that which has its origin apart from God that will allow His children to walk perfectly before Him. Is it not written that God judges not as man judges but that He judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart (1 Samuel 16:7)? It is as the children of God begin to see with the Father's eyes that they will understand His ways; for if they continue to view all things through their own darkened understanding, they will surely be caught in a snare, and thus, confusion and darkness shall encompass them on every side. All those who refuse to come to that place of abiding in the love of God shall dwell in darkness, and fear shall become their master, for they have submitted themselves in their rebellion to the false and counterfeit authority of Satan and his lies rather than the absolute authority of Almighty God. The day has come to an end wherein one shall walk in "unrighteousness" claiming that that which they do is of Christ - for God's judgement is indeed upon His household and all the righteous and unrighteous acts of His children shall become evident, as His perfect and all-powerful light shines upon every work, great and small (1 Corinthians 3:13). How dare one say - in their rebellion - that they are representing Jesus Christ and are walking in the perfect will of God, when in fact they commit acts of unrighteousness before Him. God cannot and will not have sin in His Church for anybody who has an overall revelation of God's plan, past, present and future, has a revelation of the fact that sin is an element foreign to Him! We praise God upon every remembrance of the precious Blood of Jesus and that He has made the provision for us to walk sinless before Him.

EVERY PERSON WHO CROSSES OUR PATH HAS THE RIGHT TO HEAR THE UNCOMPROMISED WORD OF GOD AND SEE THE LIVING CHRIST WITHIN US

There are those who "say" they are in the will of God, but in reality they have "allowed" themselves to be deceived in this most critical hour. Through the hardness of heart - and the ignorance which comes through giving preeminence to anyone or anything apart from Christ - they go forth as purveyors of unrighteousness! As earlier defined an unrighteous word or act is word or an act that one commits apart from the righteousness (love) of God. If one allows "compromise" in their walk to any degree, that is, they do those things which are

apart from the Head, Who is Christ, then they commit an unrighteous act. Every person who crosses our path has the right to hear the uncompromised Word of God and see the living Christ within us. We must have the heart-attitude that says constantly - as we diligently seek God's Word - "I want to hear only from the Father and have it revealed to me through His Spirit"! Until that attitude is found in our hearts, and until we have a revelation of God's desire for our perfect obedience, we shall continually allow ourselves to be led into an area of presumptuous sin.

THE PREREQUISITE TO RECEIVING MORE LIGHT IS FOR US TO WALK IN "ALL" THE LIGHT WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN BLESSED WITH

Every child of God must understand that it is only a deep abiding in the Word of God which can "continually" separate our soul and our spirit - and thus reveal to us at ALL times those things which proceed forth from the flesh and those which are of the Spirit of God. As one allows God to feed them with the food which is needful for them, they shall have revealed to them perfectly, the portion of God's Word which applies to every situation they find themselves in. The prerequisite to receiving more light is for us to walk in "all" the light that we have already been blessed with. We must keep our hearts sensitive before God and actively walk in obedience to all that has been revealed to us; for it is very easy for one to fall into the snare of the Evil One - without even realizing that they have departed from the center of God's will if the Word of God is not given preeminence in one's life and ministry. The worst kind of deception that can befall a child of God is for them to be deceived into thinking that they are walking on the narrow path of perfect obedience when, in reality, they have clearly departed from it. It is certain that the only thing that will persuade such a one as this that they are "off course" is the faithful intercession of their brothers and sisters in the Lord. One of the great dangers of this situation is that in believing that they are correct, they will be found fighting against those who truly serve God. They will reject them and pass them off as those that have diverted from the will of God, when, in reality, it is they themselves who are deluded.

MANY CHILDREN OF GOD ARE IN THE HABIT OF BLAMING SATAN FOR ALL OF THEIR TROUBLES AND PROBLEMS

In this last hour many of God's children are literally slipping into darkness, but it must be understood that this problem - and its root cause - rests with the people. Satan is not able to do anything in the church of Jesus Christ except that which has been "agreed to" - through "submission to his lies". When one sees a manifestation of Satan (pride, arrogance, self-will) in the church - either corporately or individually - then there has most certainly been a departing from the truth of God, and a submission to the false authority of the Evil One and his forces. Many children of God are in the habit of blaming Satan for all of their troubles and problems when, in reality, it has been their refusal, through passivity, to actively seek God with all of their heart! Unless they soon come to the realization that they themselves alone are to blame for their "predicaments" through their unfaithfulness and disobedience, then they shall surely begin to perish to some degree because of a lack of revealed knowledge of God's Word. It must be understood clearly by every child of God that the only reason for any failure, any "sustained" or recurring trouble, and any suffering for "unrighteousness' sake", is due to a position which has been taken by them in a place which is "apart from the will of God".

THE MAIN THRUST OF THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST IS TO KEEP PEOPLE IN THE PLACE WHERE THEY ARE SEPARATED FROM THE WORD OF GOD

All those children of God who truly have humbled and submitted themselves before Him shall ultimately have - as the chief characteristic of their earthly walk - tremendous "prosperity" (spirit, soul, body and financially) and they shall not in any way remain in bondage to the law of sin and death. The only thing which separates a believer, or a non-believer for that matter, from their sin is the pure and unadulterated Word of God. From this truth we can understand why the main thrust of the spirit of antichrist is to keep people in the place where they are separated from the Word of God. If one "allows" themselves to be separated from the Word of God THEN they shall slip progressively into a "darkened state" until they repent and do the necessary things required of them by God (faith and obedience).

TO THE DEGREE THAT ONE FAILS TO SUBMIT THEMSELVES TO THE AUTHORITY OF GOD (THE WORD OF GOD) IT IS TO THAT DEGREE THAT THEY ARE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNTERFEIT AUTHORITY OF SATAN

To the degree that one fails to submit themselves to the authority of God (the Word of God) it is to that degree that they are submitted to the counterfeit authority of Satan. Since the fall of Adam "disorder" (chaos) has been prevalent in the earth. Even though the provision has been made through Jesus Christ and the pouring out of God's Spirit in the earth, the failure of the Body of Christ to consistently meet the Divine requirement of God through their perfect obedience has fallen short - and this is why disorder and disharmony are still prevailing characteristics in the church. Through the church's failure to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord in "all" of her activities, she, in many cases, has continued - both corporately and individually, to exalt herself above the Word of God, and the absolute authority of that Word. It is certain that disharmony (the failure to be in one accord - one heart and one mind), strife and all other manifestations of a prideful dependence upon anything which is apart from God, shall remain until all the members of the Body are truly submitted under God's authority - and thus have absolutely rejected the counterfeit authority of Satan.

IS NOT THE SPIRIT OF THE CROSS TO DO NOTHING ON OUR OWN INITIATIVE, BUT TO DO ALL THINGS THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD AND THE POWER OF HIS SPIRIT?

We, as children of God, must have a clear revelation of spiritual authority, for if we do not have a clear revelation of true authority then we shall surely be found, unknowingly, to be subjected and submitted to that which is apart from God. We shall be found to be serving God's enemy! Each time such absolute statements are made concerning spiritual realities many become offended at these absolute and uncompromised truths, but a "rampant emotionalism" does not change in any way the wisdom of God and so let us have open hearts to receive all that is needful for us to rise above the error and darkness which is found on the broad path of "liberality". If a child of God is in any way operating apart from the anointing which abides within them, that is, they place their dependence upon themselves and their own darkened wisdom, then they shall "think" that they can discern good from evil and judge between what is right or what is wrong and, in

presumptuously operating in this matter of "false" judgement, they exalt themselves above God. If we believe that we are able, apart from the Word of God and obedience to that Word alone, to serve God and carry out His will, then we are deceived. Is not the Spirit of the Cross to do nothing on our own initiative, but to do all things through the Word of God and the power of His Spirit? If we have been deceived into believing that we can somehow "help" God by something that proceeds from the "old nature" then we are in rebellion against Almighty God and a deep deliverance is surely needed; for it is written, "the flesh profits nothing" and that "we can do nothing apart from Him", (Romans 7:18, John 6:63).

WILL THE BELIEVER STEP ASIDE IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO OPERATE OR WILL THEY NOT?

...."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".....

John 15:5

The question which is dominant in this last hour is, "Will the believer step aside in order to allow the Holy Spirit to operate or will they not?" This is the question that shall be raised before every believer. Countless numbers in the church are living in rebellion and sin because they have not "heard" or learned the first lesson in the life of obedience and that is total submission to the Father and His Word! "Submission" taught by the Bible deals with being submitted to the authority or the "authorities" established by God - and I might add, by God alone. If we are truly submitted to God then we shall find ourselves hanging on His every Word, written or spoken, and we shall "cling to" (spiritually speaking) those delegated authorities which the Father has blessed us with. Not that we are in any way to become "emotionally attached" to the anointed men and women which God has raised up, but rather we are to harken unto those things which God speaks and does through them.

WE ARE TO IMITATE THE SPIRIT OF THE CROSS WHICH ABIDES IN THEM AND UPON THEM

In being called to "imitate" those who are the true servants of God, the Father does not expect us to imitate "their" actions of obedience, but rather we are

to imitate "the Spirit of the Cross" which abides in them and upon them; that is, one is not called to follow after the "particular" actions of the delegated authority necessarily, but rather they are to be obedient as that delegated authority has been obedient. As we then carry out the leadings which we receive from God we may find them totally different than what other servants have been called to do. We, as children of God, have been called not to deviate from our "own" path, that path consisting continually of the sum total of God's direction in our lives for the carrying out of His will (our portion of Jesus' ministry).

EVERY PERSON IN THIS EARTH IS WALKING IN A FORM OF OBEDIENCE

It is written in Romans 6:16:

...."Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?"....

Every person in this earth is walking in a form of obedience. If one has not submitted themselves wholly to the authority of God and thus given His Word pre-eminence in their life, then it is most certain that they are slaves to sin and fear to some degree. On the other hand, one who has submitted themselves entirely, day in and day out, to the absolute authority of the Father and His Word, shall be found to be "slaves" unto righteousness. If one, through a spirit of idolatry, allows themselves to be deceived into making "fellowship" with the world and its ways their priority, then, in the deepest fibre of their being, there remains an element of rebellion and unless there is a deep and abiding repentance forthcoming then God shall not be able to use that one in the building up of His Glorious Church. If one continually puts themselves in the position to hear the fear-filled lies of Satan, then through the fear that shall be nurtured in them they shall come, not to the place of an absolute submission to God, but rather to the place of an absolute dependence upon themselves - building their security upon the "sand" and preventing the Father and His Word from being their all in all.

EVERY CHILD OF GOD MUST BE "WILLING" TO HEAR THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THIS LAST HOUR

A bondservant or handmaiden of the Lord can be defined as one who seeks and hears the Word of God at all times and measures that Word "fully" through distinct acts of obedience, led and ordered by the unction of the Holy Spirit. Let there be no misunderstanding as to what the Father requires, and let us remember with reverential fear what Jesus has said:

...."Apart from Me you can do nothing"....!

Every child of God must be willing, and therefore able, to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit in this last hour for two reasons:

1. so that they might walk in perfect obedience before God, doing nothing apart from Him.
2. to walk in the fulness of their inheritance in Christ and thus experience the "fulness" of God's salvation (His all encompassing provision for deliverance from anything that has its origin in the law of sin and death and the curse - thus enabling them to walk "above" all the schemes of Satan which shall surely be formed against them).

For it is written in 2 Timothy 3:12:

...."All those who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus, shall be persecuted"....

ANY ACTION OR WORD WHICH IS NOT IN PERFECT ALIGNMENT AND AGREEMENT WITH THE REVEALED WORD OF GOD AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS A MISREPRESENTATION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND OF GOD THE FATHER

Let me again repeat, that any action or word which is not in perfect alignment and agreement with the revealed Word of God and the Spirit of God, is a misrepresentation of the Lord Jesus Christ and of God the Father. Somewhere along the line, no matter how good it looks, that action will come back to distort

the image of God the Father and God the Son and it shall deceive all who will believe the "lie" into carrying out a "plan" which is apart from the true purposes and plans of God. So we must never discount even the smallest acts of disobedience as unimportant before the Father, but rather let us humble ourselves and submit ourselves before God and His authority - and thus allow Him to do the deepest work of the Cross in us continually. It is the Father's deep heart-desire to bring each one of us to the place wherein us there is no ground for fear. As the Father's love is continually shed abroad in our hearts, THEN any ground for rebellion, for selfishness or any desire to do anything apart from Him, Whom we serve, shall be consumed and our every word and our every deed - and even our very presence - shall boldly proclaim the reality: "it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me"!

TO THE DEGREE ONE HAS NOT SUBMITTED TO GOD (THAT IS, GIVING THEM THEIR WHOLE HEART AND HOLDING NOTHING BACK) IT IS TO THAT DEGREE THAT THEY WILL REFUSE AND REJECT THOSE SENT BY HIM

A delegated authority is quite simply, one who is chosen as a vessel of God's authority, that is, one who is chosen to represent "perfectly", and be a purveyor of, the deepest thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart. The main job of the true delegated authority is to proclaim - in accuracy - the uncompromised will (Word) of God. It is not in any way one's own "personality" which puts them in a place of leadership. It is just quite simply God's power and anointing flowing through the empty vessel (empty of sin and self), thereby allowing them to be vessels of God's Word which is, as previously stated, the absolute authority of God. From this we can come to understand clearly why there are many who refuse to recognize the anointed vessels which God has sent. To the degree one has not submitted to God (that is, giving Him their whole heart and holding nothing back) it is to that degree that they will refuse and reject those sent by Him. Is this principle not evident in the ministry of Jesus as He walked among the religious men of His day? And yet not every Pharisee's heart was hardened towards God. Even though the fear of man prevented them from openly following Jesus there were many who knew in their deepest heart of hearts that He was from God.

THE "SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE" THAT CAUSES ONE TO SEEK THE APPROVAL OF MEN BEFORE THE APPROVAL OF GOD IS A VERY DANGEROUS THING!

The "spirit of compromise" that causes one to seek the approval of men before the approval of God is a very dangerous thing spiritually speaking! Was it not this same abominable spirit which caused our Lord to be crucified? And even today in the midst of many congregations of so-called believing Christians, this same spirit compels those whose hearts are not wholly given to God to revile and reject the very voice of God in their midst. As we continue our study we will deal with the "five-fold ministry", and as we cover the various elements of spiritual authority we shall have a vivid picture painted in our spirits of what true authority is and how to be subject to it. We will come to understand clearly what a "delegated authority" is, and we shall see what kind of vessel the Father desires to use as His delegated authority.

"AUTHORITIES"

...."Let every soul put himself habitually in subjection to authorities who hold position over them, for there is not an authority except that ordained by God. Moreover, the existing authorities stand permanently ordained by God. So that the one who sets himself in array against the authority, against the ordinance of God has set himself, with the result that he is in a permanent position of antagonism against the ordinance. And those who resist shall receive for themselves judgement. For the rulers are not a terror to the good work but to the evil. Now, do you desire not to be afraid of the authority? Keep on doing good, and you will have commendation from him, for he is God's servant to you for good. But if you are habitually doing that which is evil, be fearing, for not in vain is he wearing the sword, for he is God's servant, and executor of wrath upon the one who practices the evil. On which account there is a necessity for putting one's self in subjection, not only because of wrath. but also because of conscience, for because of this you pay taxes; for God's public servants they are, continually giving their attention to this very thing. Deliver to all the debts due them to the one collecting the tax, the tax; to the one collecting the customs, the custom; to the one to whom the fear is due, the fear; to the one to whom the honour is due, the honour"....

Romans 13:1-7 (Kenneth S. Wuest Translation)

This portion of Scripture deals with "authorities" and as one looks at this passage in other translations they sometimes get the idea that Paul is talking exclusively of governmental authorities (that is civil authorities). Now certainly, as we go on in our study, we are going to see that civil or governmental authority is a key part in the Father's plan to institute His order in the earth. I believe that as one meditates on the above passage they will gain an immediate and a deeper understanding of spiritual authority. If we, as believers, do not submit ourselves entirely to the "inherent" authority of God, then we shall not be able to discern correctly those "delegated authorities which are of God and those which are not! If it is God's authority being put forth and we align ourselves in any way against that authority - delegated or otherwise - judgement shall come and it shall come swiftly!

WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO KNOW BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT WHICH IS OF GOD AND THAT WHICH IS NOT OF GOD

In this last hour it is certain that all those found to be fighting against God will receive judgement upon their "unrighteous acts". Jesus said "Whoever is not for Me, is against Me". It shall never be a matter of one just "thinking" whether one is from God or whether one is not from God. We are going to have to "know" beyond a shadow of a doubt in our hearts that which is of God and that which is not of God. It is certain that any "continued" reliance upon the darkened understanding of the flesh shall place one in the position of fighting against God. There are many who, up until this time, have been used as vessels of persecution against the "sent ones" of God and this is must certainly not a pleasing thing to the Father for He counts the rejection of those whom He has sent as a rejection of Himself (Act 9:4)! Therefore, all the people of God must come to the full realization that those whom God has sent to them as "gifts" are there for their blessing and their edification. As they continually place themselves in one accord with the thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart - and thus fulfil their portion of His plan - then they shall surely experience the fullness of His blessing.

THE TRUE DELEGATED AUTHORITIES OF GOD SHALL BE A "STUMBLING BLOCK" AND A "CONVICTING PRESENCE" TO EACH ONE OF THEIR EVIL WORDS AND ACTIONS

On the other hand, those who choose to deviate from the path of God's will

and, thus, presumptuously take it upon themselves to "work for God", shall find that the true delegated authorities of God (handmaidens and bondservants) shall be a "stumbling block" and a "convicting presence" to each one of their evil words and actions. The anointing which is upon the true servants of God in this last hour shall powerfully convict men and women of their sin and at the same time show them the perfect way back to the Father - and His tender love and forgiveness. If one chooses not to submit themselves "wholly" to the Father and His Word then they will be incapable (non-desirous) of submitting themselves to His delegated authorities - for these authorities are nothing more and nothing less than "messengers" of the deepest thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart. The words that they speak shall ALWAYS point the hearer to the Word of God and to a deeper consecration; the end-all desire of the Father in this being that they walk in the fulness of their "ministries" in the time that they have remaining in the earth.

IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY THAT EVERY ONE WHO ANSWERS THE CALL TO BE A TRUE DELEGATED AUTHORITY MUST HAVE THIS ONE THING ENGRAVED UPON THEIR HEARTS AND THAT IS, THAT THEY NO LONGER LIVE FOR THEMSELVES, BUT FOR GOD - TO DO HIS WILL ALONE!

The Wuest translation of the Bible describes clearly that those whom God sends are sent for the good of the people (keep on doing the good, and you will have commendation from him, for he is God's servant to you for good.) This portion of Scripture goes on to say, "but if you are habitually doing that which is evil, be fearing, for not in vain is he wearing the sword, for he is God's servant, and executor of wrath upon the one who practices the evil." In many cases there has been much abuse by those in a position of "authority" because they have taken it upon themselves to judge falsely and unrighteously - apart from the love of God - the people they were attempting to lead. It must be understood clearly that every one who answers the call to be a true delegated authority must have this one thing engraved upon their hearts and that is, that they no longer live for themselves but for God, to do His will alone. Based on this revelation the delegated authority can then be a pure vessel of what the Father has to say and, thus, they become His "mouthpiece". If the Father is pleased in a situation then they shall be vessels of His "commendation" and if He is displeased then they shall become vessels of His righteous indignation and wrath - which are of course still manifestations of His perfect love towards them.

THEIR WORDS AND ACTIONS ARE ALWAYS FOR THE GREATEST ETERNAL BENEFIT OF THE HEARER

Sometimes when one is called to speak the truth in love, and through their words God's judgement is poured out upon both the sin and the sinner, they are mistakenly accused of exalting themselves above the one being judged. Even though it may "appear" as though these things are so, the fact that they have committed themselves solely to do the will of God and the fact that they "remain" willing to do all His will - at all times - means that their words and actions are always for the greatest eternal benefit of the hearer. This shall be clarified as I share a word that the Father blessed me with as I questioned Him on this very subject.

Let us hear the words of the Father:

Only I know what is needed to minister in any given set of circumstances. Therefore, only the one who abides in My Word and fellowships with Me will truly be a fit vessel to minister My indignation. For to those who walk with Me I have revealed the depths of My heart, and yet to those who allow their soul to have preeminence over their spirit, they cannot and will not be given any authority to put forth My Word. For in giving the Evil One "ground" they shall enable him to twist the word which is put forth and thus lead many of My flock astray.

Amen

The key point here is that as one abides in God's Word, out of the "superabundance" in their heart their mouth shall speak in accordance with the deepest thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart. If one has not placed themselves in a position to have their minds continually renewed then the Father can never place them in the position of being His delegated authority. Quite simply put, God is only able to use us affectively to the degree we abide (dwell) in His Word and continually guard our hearts with all diligence - NEVER allowing the Evil One to steal the seeds which have been implanted there.

THREE AREAS OF "DELEGATED AUTHORITY"

As we continue our study we are going to see clearly that there are three main areas of delegated authority in this earth:

1. THE CHURCH;
2. THE FAMILY;
3. GOVERNMENT;

Each one of these categories of delegated authority have one thing in common and that is: the Father has ordained that they all be submitted to His Word - and having been submitted to His Word they shall be both successful and prosperous in all their activities. The Church will be successful in Her task of representing the Living Christ. The family will be successful as a vessel and incubator of raising up young ones to serve Christ with ALL of their heart, and the government, to function in a manner which shall promote order and cooperate with the Church in spreading the Gospel throughout the earth.

SATAN HAS LAUNCHED A MASSIVE ATTACK IN ORDER TO HINDER AND DESTROY ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING IN THIS EARTH THAT GIVES THE WORD OF GOD PREEMINENCE!

It is very clear that in these three areas Satan has launched a massive attack in order to hinder and destroy anything and everything in this earth that gives the Word of God preeminence! Many people have deemed it proper to submit themselves to the "authority" of government, but it must be said that to the degree a government - both individually and corporately - has departed from the revealed knowledge of God's Word (and thus cut themselves off with any living contact with Almighty God) it is to that degree that their activities shall be "antichrist". This is why we see all manner of evil being proclaimed from the highest offices of many nations, and it is why the Church must become strong in the Word and in the power of God's might to ensure that godly laws are set as the standard for order. In the midst of a "crooked and perverse generation" we, as Christians, must become so Word-centered and so "narrow-minded", (for have we not been given the mind of Christ?) that we will be in a position continually to freely be able to discern that

which is truly of God - and that which is not!

THE ABSOLUTENESS OF GOD'S WORD

The Lord spoke to me one day on this matter and He said:

...."The law of any land, the enactments of any parliament, do not in any way affect or nullify the Word of God in even the slightest degree"....

We must realize that one is only a vessel of "true authority" to the degree that they are in perfect accordance with the Word of God (will of God). Let it be clearly understood that it is only the lack of a personal relationship and intimate fellowship with the Father and His Word which shall cause one to be deceived into submitting themselves to a false authority! All divisions and disruptions (strife) within the church have their root in rebellion against God. In order to remove ALL rebellion from the church and thus establish true authority in every area, "perfect obedience" must be established fully in the individual lives of believers.

THE LIFE OF THE CROSS - THE ESSENCE OF ALL TRUE AUTHORITY

Many attempt to lead the children of God, but they themselves do not know the life of the Cross - which alone will produce obedience in the believer. To the degree that one is obedient to the Father in the carrying out of His will, it is to that degree that they shall wield His authority. If we are not operating entirely in the revelation God's Word then we are not operating in His authority. If we are not operating in God's authority then everything that we "touch" shall lead to death and corruption and darkness. Until the root of rebellion is removed, and until one's complete dependence is upon the Word of God, having wholly submitted themselves to that Word, then the power of God shall be absent from their "ministry".

THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF GOD IS TO REMAIN STEADFAST AND IMMOVABLE IN LIVING INTERCESSION AND MINISTRY TO HIS PEOPLE

As the Christian enters into the place of "abiding" in the Word of God THEN the various elements of the Kingdom of Heaven shall become more real to them than the temporal world around them - and this is precisely what the Father desires for each one of His children to have a deep revelation of. Even though He has raised up apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to lead and guide His people into the fulness of their inheritance in Christ, it must be clearly understood that they, as delegated authorities of God, are not "superior" to the rest of the Body. As shown in the type and symbol in Joshua chapter 3 in the story of the people of Israel crossing the Jordan, the delegated authority of God is to remain steadfast and immovable in living intercession and ministry to His people until they have laid hold upon all that which has been revealed to them through the apostles and prophets and other delegated authorities. The true delegated authority is first responsible for all that has been revealed to them before God. The fact of whether they walk in true or false ministry, in true or counterfeit authority, is based solely upon their own personal obedience to the Father's will for their life and ministry.

**FAITH IS THE PRINCIPLE BY WHICH WE OBTAIN LIFE -
OBEDIENCE IS THE PRINCIPLE BY WHICH THAT LIFE WE HAVE
OBTAINED IN CHRIST IS LIVED OUT**

...."The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly"....

John 10:10

...."It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profit nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life"....

John 6:63

As faith is the principle by which we obtain life - so obedience is the principle by which that life we have obtained in Christ is lived out. When one is seeking the Word with their whole heart, THEN faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17). Why? Because the words that the Father has spoken to us by His Spirit are spirit and are life, and thus they enter into the "open heart" of the believer and become embedded there! As these "incorruptible seeds" are nurtured and watered, an "absolute faith" rises up and is spoken through the mouth of that child of God. It is only to the degree that "faith has come" that we shall obtain the precious life

(Zoe) that the Father desires each one of His children to have superabundantly. As we obtain the life of God to a continually greater degree, the Spirit of obedience shall rest upon us heavily and, as we continue to guard our hearts with ALL diligence we shall come to the place of abiding. It is in this place of abiding that we shall live out - and walk in - the fulness of the authority (ministry) that we were created to walk in. It is only in this place of abiding that we can be "pure vessels" of God's authority and truth and love and wisdom - for if we remain in ANY position apart from constant communion with the Father and His Word THEN we shall in some way be "purveyors of darkness".

TO WALK IN THE FULNESS OF THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS TO GO FROM FAITH TO FAITH AND GLORY TO GLORY CONTINUALLY - ALWAYS TAKING THE POSITION OF A SMALL CHILD WHO TRUSTS "IMPLICITLY" IN THEIR PARENTS

There are many who attempt to obtain life and blessing without first exercising a faith and trust in God. There are also some who began to walk by faith, but that which began in and by the power of the Holy Spirit has now come to the place of a "comfortable dependence" upon their own understanding! It MUST be understood that at the point one stops seeking to hear and see the revealed Word of God in their hearts - having failed to put themselves (in obedience to God) in a position to obtain the life needed to carry out the fulness of His will - it is at that point that they shall become complacent and content to rely upon their own understanding. To walk in the fulness of the true Christian life is to go from faith to faith and glory to glory continually - ALWAYS taking the position of a small child who trusts "implicitly" in their parents. It is certain that the deeper one proceeds into the life of consecration and obedience, the deeper the realization they shall have that they can do NOTHING apart from Christ! The failure to exercise faith in God's Word does not begin with an abrupt halt or change of direction, but rather with the child of God somewhere making the decision inwardly to stop seeking the Word of God with their whole heart, and thus their ability to hear the needed revelation is seriously impaired - and then eventually blocked. Let us be those who are seeking first and foremost the revelation of the Father's holy Word for our entire lives, and thus we shall be trained to continually "reject" the opportunity to depend upon that which is discerned through our five physical senses - and come to the place of an absolute trust and dependence upon the Father and His Word.

LET IT BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE IS NO GREATER SECURITY TO BE FOUND IN THIS EARTH THAN TO "KNOW" THAT WE ARE IN THE CENTER OF GOD'S WILL

Those who "practice" obedience and are trained by it NEVER feel bound or restricted regardless of where they are placed - or NOT placed - by God. If we take any "preconceived notions" at all of what "we" want to do or what "we" would like to do - apart from that which has been revealed to us by the Spirit of God - THEN we are going to rely upon our "own" understanding to get us to the place where we desire to be. On the other hand, if one is wholly given to God and willing to do ALL of His will at ALL times, then they shall not "feel" out of place or "slighted" in any way, for they shall have the deep assurance in their hearts that they are in the center of the Father's will. Let it be clearly understood that there is no greater security to be found in this earth than to "know" that we are in the center of God's will. As we abide in the center of the Father's will we are THEN continually in a position to experience the "fulness" of our salvation (inheritance) in Christ and the Father's wondrous and magnificent Provision become ever more real than ANY circumstance or affliction that Satan attempts to destroy us with (Psalm 103:1-8). As we CONTINUALLY acknowledge God by "praying without ceasing" (communicating with Him at all times in every situation), then perfect obedience shall become our way of life, and as we walk by the Spirit of God the "bleating" of the flesh shall be paralyzed and no longer maintain a deadly influence over us - as long as God's Word has preeminence in our heart (Galatians 5:16)!

THE SOLE MOTIVATION OF THE TRUE DELEGATED AUTHORITY IS THE PERFECTING AND THE FULL EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS TO DO THE WORK REQUIRED OF THEM BY GOD

...."And His gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us,] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, travelling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers. His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church), [that it might develop] until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the full and accurate knowledge of the Son of God; the [we

might arrive] at really mature manhood - the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection -the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ, and the completeness found in Him. So then, we may no longer be children, tossed [like ships] to and fro between chance gusts of teaching, and wavering with every changing wind of doctrine, [the prey of] the cunning and cleverness of unscrupulous men, (gamblers engaged) in every shifting form of trickery in inventing errors to mislead"....

Ephesians 4:11-14 (Amplified Translation)

As we go on to study this passage in depth we shall come to understand clearly that the "sole motivation" of the true delegated authority is the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints to do the work required of them by God, in order that the Body of Christ might be built up and that all believers attain "oneness" in the faith and in the comprehension of the full and accurate knowledge of the Son of God. In other words, that the people might walk in the fulness of their inheritance in Christ and the fulness of the "salvation" provided therein. If there is any other motivation for one attaining to, or desiring, a position of authority then they are operating in a false authority - their deepest motivation: to seek after the Glory that belongs only to the Father and His Word!

THE FATHER HAS MADE THE PROVISION FOR ALL THOSE HE HAS CALLED TO WALK ABOVE ERROR AND SELFISHNESS - AND THE POWER WHICH CORRUPTS

As we go on to study some of the examples in the Word of God concerning the "motivations" of the true delegated authority we shall come to see clearly that the Father has made the provision in Christ, for all those He has called, to walk above error and selfishness and the power which corrupts - to be motivated solely by the love of God which has been shed abroad in their heart. From this place of abiding love their entire lives shall be the sum total of obedience after obedience to the command to love their God with ALL of their heart and to love one another (Luke 10:27; 1 John 3:23). There are those that have believed the lie that "certain" offices in the five-fold ministry have passed away. But have we all attained oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the full and accurate knowledge of the Son of God? No! but we shall. We shall cover this more extensively in future teachings.

THE EXTREME IMPORTANCE OF PROPER POSITIONING IN RELATION TO THE "TRUE" DELEGATED AUTHORITIES OF THE FATHER

As we continue to study the subject of spiritual authority we shall see also the importance of the fact that every born-again child of God needs to know who are the delegated authorities which have been placed over them by God for their edification - for it is only as one has this revealed to them by the Holy Spirit that they shall find their "true place" in the Body of Christ. There are many children of God who have refused to submit themselves to God's inherent authority, that is, they have not given the Word of God a constant pre-eminence in their life and - in refusing to submit themselves to God - they have blocked themselves from partaking of the blessings which the Father has sought to sent to them in the form of anointed men and women - "messengers" of the revelations needed for them to be victorious and overcome in all things! Their very "survival" (the ability to rise above present circumstances) in the earth, as servants of God, depends upon their receiving God's delegated authorities - for it is ONLY the revealed knowledge of God's Word that shall enable any child of God to defeat Satan's schemes against them.

IT IS ONLY AS THE "DELEGATED AUTHORITY" LIVES AND MOVES AND HAS THEIR BEING IN CHRIST THAT WE ARE TO PARTAKE OF THEIR MINISTRY AND IT IS ONLY AS WE ARE WILLING TO DO ALL OF GOD'S WILL THAT WE SHALL "KNOW" OF THE TEACHING - WHETHER IT IS OF GOD OR WHETHER THEY SPEAK FROM THEMSELVES

Even though "outwardly" many have submitted themselves to a false authority (flesh and blood, not walking in an absolute dependence upon God or in the light of the revelation of His Word) let it be understood this very moment that one is not called to submit themselves to "flesh and blood", but rather to the anointing of God that "abides within" the vessel. This is of the utmost importance! If the child of God truly seeks to live the life of consecration and obedience then the Father shall surely reveal to them those whom He has raised up on their behalf. Even at that point we are NEVER to be submitted to the "people", but rather the anointing within - and upon - those people. How dangerous is the fear of what others think and the desire to have their approval! Let it be clearly understood that

it is only as the "delegated authority" lives and moves and has their being in Christ that we are to partake of their ministry and it is only as we are willing to do all of God's will that we shall "know" of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether they speak from themselves (John 7:17-18). Let us rejoice that God has raised up faithful men and women who do not seek their own glory, but who seek only the glorifying of God to the greatest degree in any given situation - and thus their very lives are a sign and a wonder and a tremendous source of edification and spiritual strength to all those who love God - and a "severe stumbling block" to the path of all those who have chosen their own way.

Amen