

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **SEVEN STEPS TO THE LIFE OF FAITH**

#### **EVERY BELIEVER NEEDS TO HAVE A DEEP HEART-DESIRE TO LIVE THE LIFE OF FAITH**

..."For we walk by faith not by sight" ....

2 Corinthians 5:7

..."So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God"....

Romans 10:17 KJV

At this particular time in the history of the church "faith" needs to become once again a key word in the lives of all who have been born again. Christians should know what faith is and they should know what is expected of them by their Heavenly Father. Believers also need to have a deep heart-desire to live the life of faith. Romans 14: 23 states that, "whatever is not from faith is sin" and Hebrews 11:6 states that, "without faith it is impossible to please Him". Through these two scriptures alone we realize that if we are truly going to serve God then we must do it on the terms that He has set out for us in His Word.

#### **1. PUT GOD'S WORD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE AND MINISTRY**

The first step to the life of faith is for us to put God's Word first in our lives. Until we make the quality decision to put the Word of God first in our lives we will not be able to put into practice the following six steps with any degree of proficiency.

It is written in Luke 10:27:

..."You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself"....

In this command that the Father set out we see that He demands total consecration from each and every one of us. It does not matter what denomination we have "attached" ourselves to, or what their doctrines might say, the Father commands His children to consecrate themselves wholly unto Him, and pursue holiness with all diligence. Let it be clearly understood by every true believer that this most certainly involves every aspect of our lives. It must be understood clearly that there is not one provision made anywhere in the Bible for a life which is not "wholly given" to God. In every respect we, as believers, from the moment we are "re-born", must give ourselves to the One Who called us - spirit, soul and body - in order that we might fulfil His perfect purpose for our lives in the time we have remaining on this earth. At times theology, tradition and the doctrines of men, have made the life of consecration and holiness seem as if it were only some "idealistic unreality" for our lives rather than the very real and direct command of our Heavenly Father to "love Him with all our heart". Satan's plot is to convince us that we are surely less than perfect until we step out of "this life" and into eternity - and, therefore, we might as well continue on being "conformed" to this world. It is a "lie" that has kept many believers from walking in the life of joy and blessing the Father has in store for them, and if believed to ANY degree will most certainly cause one to walk in a manner which continually finds them "relying" on their five physical senses rather than on the Word of God. Because of this lack of a pure consecration they walk by "sight" and not by faith and, therefore, are not able to say with Paul, "we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

In John 1:1-5 the Word states:

..."In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by 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. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend (overpower) it"....

In this passage we see that Jesus is called the Word and we realize from this that God's Word must be the sole and final authority in each of our lives. As we are faithful to do this – day in and day out - we will see clearly that we are giving Jesus His proper place in all things. For is it not true that the written Word of God is nothing less than the inspired "revelation" of our Lord, Jesus Christ? Because of this "fact" we are now able to see the pieces fitting together. Many children of God

have "attempted" - through their own "good intentions" - to put Jesus in His rightful place as Lord in their lives, but have, for the most part, neglected to live by the Word of God. Because they have "mentally ascended" to God's Word, they remain in a position of leaning upon their own darkened understanding. This, in turn, "allows" the Evil One to keep them in a state of confusion and darkness when it comes to living the life of consecration and holiness that they are called to. The spontaneous by-product of this is that it most certainly prevents them from walking in the Father's "best" for them in every area of their lives. All believers need to have "revealed knowledge" of what and Who the Word of God truly is! Some believe that the Bible is just a guidebook, and while in a sense it is, it certainly is a great deal more than that!

In Hebrews 4:12 the Word states:

..."For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart"....

and again in 2 Timothy 3:16-17:

..."All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work"....

The Word of God is not just a group of words placed in a book; it is the living Word of God and thus, each word or statement found within the Bible has the "supernatural power" within it to bring itself to pass. When we make the "heart decision" to put the Word of God first in our lives, we need to realize what the Word of God truly is; we need to know that the Word of God is a Person and not just a group of words thrown together for no purpose. We must realize that the Bible we are carrying around is a copy of our Heavenly Father's "love letter" to us - for it is only when we have had these things revealed to us by the Spirit of God that we shall come to the "full realization" of the tremendous importance of placing the Word of God first and foremost in our lives.

**ONE "MUST" MAKE A "QUALITY DECISION" TO LIVE BY FAITH**

Hebrews 1:1-3 states:

..."God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers by the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, Whom He appointed heir of all things, through Whom also He made the world. 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" ....

In verse 3 the Word states that Jesus was the exact representation of God's nature, and the Word also says in that verse that He upholds all things by the word of His power. In putting God's Word first in our lives, we need to make the heart decision to serve God above all else; to hand over our lives wholly to the One Who gave His own life for us and, in doing these things, to truly make Jesus Christ the Lord of our lives. In studying the Word of God we must realize that this is what is expected of us, and that as we make this "quality decision" by faith - as an act of our wills - we can assuredly expect the Father, by the Holy Spirit, to empower us to be all, in Christ, that we were called to be - thus fulfilling the Father's perfect will for our lives in every way. We must truly believe the portion of God's Word which states:

..."he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him" ....

Hebrews 11:6

As we step out in faith and begin to put the Word of God in our hearts we will experience two things. First, we will begin to experience "first hand" the lovingkindness and faithfulness of our dear Heavenly Father and we will clearly begin to see that ALL He commands He empowers, and we shall begin to experience for ourselves the power of His Word and the fact that He will never fail us nor forsake us. As we grow in the faith, our lives will become the exciting adventure they were meant to be rather than lives motivated by fear (bondage to Satan), for the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the Law of sin and death (Romans 8:2). Secondly, we will experience that faith comes by "hearing" - and hearing, by the Word of God (Romans 10:17) and we shall also find that in meditating on the Word day and night (Joshua 1:8) that that Word shall become our very joy and sustenance.

Matthew 4:4 states:

...."man shall not live on bread alone, but on every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God".... As we seek to live and walk in faith in EVERY area of our lives, it is absolutely necessary to put God's Word first in our lives! As we continually "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness", all of the things we need to both live and fulfil the life of faith will be added unto us. As we continue on to discuss the next six steps we will be able to see clearly the necessity of acting fully on this first step. I will say once again that without placing God's Word in it's proper spot in our lives we will not be able to walk in all that the Father has for us. We must again remember that the Heavenly Father has made no provision for the "part-time" Christian and we must take seriously what the Word of God calls us to be in Christ! The lateness of the hour and the clarity with which the Word of God calls us to the life of consecration and holiness must preclude any attempt by the children of God to remain in a state of carnality! We must go before the Lord and settle this issue once and for all - firm in the conviction that the Father has nothing but good in store for all those who love Him.

## **2. SEPARATION FROM THE "WORLD"**

...."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".... James 4:4 Nasb

The second step to the life of faith is separation from the world. This is one of the most misunderstood areas we come across in the Christian walk, and there are two main reasons for this. They "combine" to do great harm to the Christian who does not understand them "fully". First, there is the failure to understand that the "whole world lies in the power of the evil one" (1 John 5:19) and, secondly, there is little or no understanding in the midst of many of God's children of the statement in Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world". The combination of Satan's attempt to keep us in the "world" - and therefore under his "influence" - and the fact that some children of God continue to follow after their own self-desire, causes great harm to the church as a whole and presents the world with a "perverted and distorted" view of both the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. From these statements we can easily gather the seriousness of this matter before the eyes

of our Heavenly Father, Who looks down upon the church and sees the "spirit of harlotry" still prevalent in many areas. A close study of the "prophets" shows clearly what an abomination fellowship with the world is to God and, therefore, as we deal with this second step to the life of faith we seek to establish with "great clarity" what God's Word has to say about separation from the world and "nail down" what this means to us individually, as well as corporately, in the Body of Christ. Many Christians hold to different ideas of what "do not be conformed to this world" means. It is only as we seek God with our whole heart that we will develop an attitude within us which seeks only to find what God's Word says in light of the "deepest" thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart, and thus we shall come to see ALL things through His eyes. In other words, the child of God must come to that place wherein they seek to have the Word revealed to them by the Holy Spirit alone, for it is ONLY THEN that they will no longer be tossed to and fro by doctrines, theories, speculations and such, but rather they will be found "abiding" in that pure knowledge, that exact knowledge, that revealed knowledge which witnesses with their spirit that it is "the" truth.

### **THE FIRM FOUNDATION OF REVELATION KNOWLEDGE**

When our lives are built on the firm foundation of revelation knowledge there is no demon in Hell who can move us away from the truths that have been revealed to us (Matthew 16:15-19). The word "conformed" as found in Romans 12:2 is defined, "to bring oneself into harmony with, or agreement with, compliant, willingly ready to bend to its ways, obedient or submissive. Therefore, from this definition we can see clearly that if we are "conformed" to the things and ways of the world we have placed ourselves in an area of "submission" to those things and ways and because we have "allowed" this to happen - by an act of our own will - we have, whether through the deception of the Evil One or not, stated by our actions and thoughts, that we are in "agreement" with the world and its ways. From this we can see the EXTREME DANGER the children of God put themselves into when they "consciously" plant their feet firmly (establish themselves in the things of the world) in Satan's territory through "holding to" a "certain" element of "self- desire". They leave themselves open for all aspects of the law of sin and death to be manifested in their lives - failing utterly to comprehend that they are "joint-heirs with Jesus" (Romans 8:17), and that they have been redeemed from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13). We MUST realize that we, as children of God, are called to separation from this world and its ways,

yet Satan through his deception has diverted the attention of some believers away from the things of God directly onto the things of this world, and this deception is so complete in some areas of the church that those Christians believe that they are serving God in the way that He desires to be served (in Spirit and in Truth), yet, as we observe certain "methods" and practices within the church, we see that they are rooted in and based upon worldly and human understanding rather than the pure and unadulterated Word of God. How it grieves the heart of the Father to see His children fellowship with the world - a "system" which is perishing more rapidly with each passing day. How it grieves the heart of the Father to see His children in fellowship with Satan by partaking of things which are only manifestations of the evil which infests this world; a world which seeks only to "exalt self", and which, with its "every" action, denies the precious Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Indeed, "fellowship" with the world in any way, shape or form is an abomination to God, and the Spirit of God states this quite clearly in James 4:4 ...."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"....

### **"SEPARATION" IS A COMMAND!**

We need to teach the fact that we are "commanded" to separation, but as we do, we must compliment it by teaching that it is a separation FROM the world and UNTO the Word of God and that within that holy Word is found the answer to EVERY PROBLEM OR POTENTIAL PROBLEM - every facet of human existence is covered and the provision made for victorious and prosperous living - REGARDLESS OF "CIRCUMSTANCES". As the children of God get into the Bible to a greater degree they will soon see that God's way is the only way to go, for with obedience to God's Word they will discover how to live abundantly in all things and will wonder why they even for a moment sought comfort and fellowship in the world. As they abide in the Word of God and, of course, the Word of God abides in them, they will no longer seek their answers from the world, but from the Word of God. When believers seek to live the life of faith, they find it difficult at first to comprehend that EVERY area of life is covered in the Word of God, but perseverance to the task at hand will soon have them hearing the still, small, "inaudible" voice of the Holy Spirit from deep within. As the days pass, believers will begin to hear those more "precise" instructions they need to receive in order to carry out in "detail" the things which they have been called to do, and as they continually fellowship with the Father and literally "saturate" their

hearts with the Word of God, they shall begin to understand to a greater degree with each passing day, that the ways of God are not at all like the ways of the world and they shall come to realize that the ways of the world (the mind of the flesh) and the ways of God are direct opposites with nothing in common! As this process continues, instead of being conformed to this world, they are then transformed by the renewing of their mind, that they might prove what the will of God is; that which is good, and acceptable and perfect. As God's children seek the Living Christ they will indeed find Him in all His glory and majesty, and the world which once "appeared" so attractive will be seen for what it really is an "illusion and deception", and they will keep their eyes fixed on the Word of God (Hebrews 1:22).

### **MEDITATING ON THE WORD OF GOD SHALL CAUSE ONE TO "RISE ABOVE" THE DISTRACTIONS OF THE "WORLD" AND HEAR "CLEARLY" THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Summarizing then what has just been written, time spent meditating on the Word of God will enable believers to "rise above" the distractions of this world and it will also enable them to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. As believers continually feed on spiritual food they will develop a "hardy" appetite for the Word of God and as this process of renewal continues, their minds and thoughts will be brought captive to perfect obedience, and speculations raised up against the knowledge (or Word) of God will be destroyed (cast aside) (2 Corinthians 10:5)! God gives us the steps to this life of faith and consecration and they are found in His Word, but we must always be found ACTING on what we have heard from the Word of God, "knowing" that "He is watching over His Word to perform it" (Jeremiah 1:12). If Christians allow Satan to hinder or prevent them from building a firm foundation, then when natural circumstances attempt to come against them (persecution for the Word's sake, afflictions, worries of the world, desires for other things, deceitfulness of riches), they will indeed be like the man Jesus described in Matthew 7:26-27 and all that they have attempted to build on a shaky foundation will be ruined. We must be as the wise man who built his foundation on the rock, and despite the fact that the floods came and the winds blew and came against his house, it did not fall. Why? Because it was founded on the "rock" (the Word of God). We can see clearly from this illustration that one man succeeded and one man failed, the only difference being the "foundation".



## **MANY ARE "PERISHING" DUE TO A "DISTINCT" LACK OF REVEALED KNOWLEDGE**

Today we see many brothers and sisters who are perishing because they have a "distinct" lack of the "revealed knowledge" (Hosea 4 :6) of God's Word. They have, to this point, failed to build their "foundation" upon the Word of God and, because of this, they have "allowed" themselves to slip out into Satan's territory - having become strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world (Ephesians 2:12). Some children of God have become so firmly rooted in the things of the world that when the aforementioned storms come, they are left without hope because all their hope was in the world rather than in the Word of God. All who fall into this category need only to repent in their hearts and immediately begin to seek God with sincerity and diligence, for it is never too late for those who will love the Lord with all of their heart; but the church will have to UTTERLY forsake her worldliness and her human understanding, for the hour is late and it is the decree of the Lord!

## **SATAN'S ONLY OPPORTUNITY TO "MAINTAIN" A STRONGHOLD IS PREDICATED ON KEEPING THE CHILD OF GOD APART FROM AN "INTIMATE" RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER AND HIS WORD**

If Satan can keep believers away from the Word, he will keep them from using the weapons of their warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18), and it is also written:

...."the Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil"....

1 John 3:8

From this last statement we can see quite clearly why Satan continually attempts to lure us away from the Word of God and into the world. When Christians walk in, and fellowship with, the "world" they can then be used by the Evil One to cause strife and disunity within the church. Satan will use these children of God, in their ignorance, and attempt to carry out schemes against those walking in faith, or try to "mislead" those who are seeking to live a life of faith based on the Word of God. It is time for all believers to wake up to the schemes of Satan and discover the fact that our battle is "not" against flesh and blood. We will then begin to take, to a much greater degree and with much greater proficiency,

the authority we have been given in Christ (Luke 10:19) to free those who are under bondage to this world and the ruler of it. Satan's first and foremost plan has always been to keep God's people apart from the Word of God and through the centuries, since Pentecost, he has released poisonous doses of his "insidious" lies to get men and women to operate on the premise of what "they understood" the Word of God to be saying rather than what was really being said by the Spirit of God. This whole plan brought forth the "monster" of a carnal Christianity, which serves only to present our Lord Jesus Christ as an inactive, story-book character who may have healed in the past, or He may in the future, but never right "now". The "carnal" life always - and in every way - distracts from the living and active relationship God so eagerly desires to have with each one of His children. In this last hour, the prophecy found in Malachi 3:18 will come to pass, and indeed "we will again be able to distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him". With our whole heart we must forsake all in our lives which is of this world and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us into "all" (absolute) truth so that to an even greater degree we might shine as lights to a world engulfed in darkness, and exalt the name of Jesus in ALL that we do. We must always remember that it pleases the Father when His children come to Him first when they need to know something, and it is also important to come to a "full realization" of the fact that He has given us the Holy Spirit, Who resides within us, to teach us and guide us into all Truth.

### **THE "WORLD" DEFINED**

I was seeking the Lord for a clear and concise definition of the "world" referred to in Romans 1:22 and He said this to me ...."The world is anywhere, and anything, in this planet where the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus is not in force (effect)"....

### **THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS VS. THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH**

In Romans 8:2 we see that there are two laws the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus and the Law of sin and death. We, as believers, need to have a deep revelation of what is included in these two laws.

#### **1. Law of the Spirit of Life (in Christ Jesus)**

- Salvation (Romans 10:9-10)
- Healing (1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:4-5)
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11; Luke 11:13)
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12)
- Joint-heirs with Jesus Christ (Romans 8:17)
- The care of the Father (1 Peter 5:7; Matthew 6:25-34)
- The Prayer Life (Principles) (1 John 5:14; Matthew 18:18-19; 1 Thessalonians 5:17;
- All that pertains to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3-4)

## **2. Law of Sin and Death**

- Sin and all its consequences (death and darkness and the corruption thereof)
- Sickness and Disease
- Poverty and Lack - Physical death (before the appointed time)
- Mental Illness (spirit of fear - 2 Timothy 1:7)
- The Curse (Deuteronomy 28:15-68)

We, as believers, have a distinct choice to make, and in making that choice we will decide which one of these two laws we will put into "motion" in our lives. We can either choose God's best which is found in His Word or we can choose the world and it's ways. One thing is certain, we are going to place our faith in the world (natural hope) or in the Word of God (the hope of the Gospel). Healing is an excellent illustration of what is being related here. God gave us His best in this area at Calvary when Jesus Himself bore our sickness and carried our diseases (Matthew 8:17). And by His stripes we "were" healed (1 Peter 2:24)! We know by

God's Word that healing and divine health are a reality to those who will believe. Many believe in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord, and yet they still remain in ill health, simply because they have not accepted (received) the truth of what God has done and said in His Word. (I do not in any way refer here to those saints who are holding to a steadfast faith for the physical manifestation of their healing and obeying the Father concerning their "proper use" of doctors in the place where they are in their walk. Reach out in an absolute faith and you shall surely gain the victory in this hour!) The two main reasons for sickness still remaining in the church are ignorance of God's Word and a continued "hard-heartedness" towards it. Consequently, these children of God will then place "all" their faith in doctors and their diagnoses rather than the Word of God. All their hope is then dependent on the ability of the physician to administer healing to the best of his ability. At this point, let me make one thing very clear when it comes down to choosing between the world's best and God's best (Jesus), how foolish it would be to choose the world when everything in it has, in some way, been distorted and perverted from the Father's original creation before the Fall.

I remember hearing a teaching and during it I heard this said, "Thank God for the doctors and nurses, for without them most of the Christians would be dead", and he also went on to talk about the fact that for the most part, doctors and nurses are putting up a stronger fight against disease and sickness than are believers. When I first heard these statements I thought they were humorous but then it hit me that they were true. A lot of people I have known throughout my life have exercised a great deal of faith in what their doctors have told them to do. Their doctor would direct them to take a certain prescription three times daily and they would adhere to those instructions with great determination - even to the point of making it first and foremost in their lives, overriding all else to be "obedient". How much better it would be for them to exercise this much determination in fixing their will on the scriptures concerning healing in the Word of God, and casting their lives wholly upon the Lord, seeking continually to live in "God's best". Let there be no confusion about the fact that God gave His best to us through Jesus Christ, and therefore it is our "obligation" to find out who we are in Christ and base our whole lives on the fact that we are joint-heirs with Him (Matthew 8:17). When we place our hope and faith in the world and its ways, we are truly "conforming" to this world. How it grieves the heart of the Father when His children continually seek their needs outside of Him! We must realize that if, as children of God, we persist in "pursuing" the world rather than the Word, we

will reap what we have sown to, and "great" will be our fall, for this world has already been judged, but we know that we have been resurrected with Christ and seated with Him in heavenly places (Ephesians 1:20). There is, therefore, no need to be conformed in any way to this world.

## **THE COMMAND TO SEPARATE IS NOT SOME FORM OF "PUNISHMENT" BUT RATHER THE CATALYST TO LIFE ETERNAL**

Once the believer's heart and mind are firmly established in God's Word, they will no longer, in any way, seek to be conformed to the world, but they will desire only to be transformed by the renewing of their minds and again, they will develop an "appetite" which can only be filled by God's Word. God did not give us the command to separate ourselves from the world as a punishment, but rather for our own well-being. Some believers, as this Word goes forth, will feel that they are being attacked to a certain degree because they have become "comfortable" with various areas which are distinctly of the world. These areas are not considered sin by these believers, yet the Bible says, "Whatever is not from faith is sin" (Romans 14:23b). This means that whatever is not the "result" of an exercising of faith in God's Word on the part of His children is sin! Therefore, as "believers", we need to remove all those things in our lives which cause us to "depend" on our five physical senses and our "own understanding", rather than the Word of God.

In Romans 6:16 the Word of God states:

...."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?"....

The Lord said to me one day that:

...."any believer who acts on their own, immediately leaves the authority of the Word and comes directly under Satan's control"....

When the children of God go out into the "world" and partake of those things which are "of" it, they leave the things of God by an act of their own will

and make the Word of God of "no effect" in their lives in that time. They ignore the provision He has made for them to live in the earth and walk in His perfect will all the days of their lives, being blessed in all that they set their hand to in Christ, and ultimately, to fulfil the Great Commission of the Church (Mark 16:15-20), and to become the spotless and unblemished Bride of Christ. In understanding God's plan for the "total redemption" of mankind and for our own individual lives, we will never "allow" ourselves to be conformed to the world in any way. We must realize that we are either being directed and controlled by God's Word or by Satan - through disobedience to that Word in any given moment or circumstance. In this last hour God's plan for His Church is being revealed with an ever-increasing clarity, to those who are seeking Him whole-heartedly, and, quite simply, when the clouds of confusion are cleared away, it comes down to a "final confrontation" between Jesus Christ and His arch-enemy Satan. We need to decide who we are going to obey from this point on Jesus or Satan, God's Word or the world, the Holy Spirit or the spirit of Antichrist, because God is ready to pull the ground out from under carnal Christianity, and His judgement will begin with the household of God, and the leaders thereof (1 Peter 4:17)! Christians need to humble themselves under the Almighty hand of God, and become wholly dependent on Him to meet all of their needs (Philippians 4:19).

### **THE "FULNESS" OF THE FATHER'S BLESSING - THE DIRECT RESULT OF A PERFECT SEPARATION UNTO HIM**

In 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 the Word of God states:

..."Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the Temple of the living God; just as God said "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God and they shall be My people. Therefore come out from among them - and I will welcome you and I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me saith the Lord Almighty. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God"....

We must realize that we have nothing in common as children of God, with

the children of this world. We are, of course, called to go and preach the Gospel to the unsaved, but this in no way means that we are to "conform" ourselves to their ways. Some children of God will put forth any argument they can come up with in order to "justify" the fact that they wish to remain in some form of fellowship with the world. They will go to a lot of trouble and effort to "justify" their carnal actions as being acceptable before God, but in reality the only thing that matters is the will of God and this is precisely why we must look at this area of "separation from the world" directly in the light of God's Word and what it says. If the God calls us to come out and be separate then that is what we need to do! As we act in obedience to the Word, God THEN is ENABLED to be that tender, loving Father which is mentioned in verse 18, and He is able to bless us in the way a loving Father desires to bless His children. Many Christians wonder why they have not experienced this relationship of Father-child to a greater degree and the reason is that they have not yet "fully" separated themselves from the world unto the Word of God. They need to obey God's commands and then they will see ALL the blessings the Father has for them - for it is only faith that pleases God - and He will open the windows of Heaven to pour forth blessings upon those of His children who will hearken to His Word. The world says "see and believe". God says "believe and then you will see". We have spent a great deal of time on this second step. This is due to the fact that this topic of separation from the world has been very troublesome to many in the church. This is because people have formed their "own opinions" of what is meant by "the world", in order to fit their own definition comfortably into their "Christian" lifestyle - thereby justifying the life "they" desire to live rather than being in the perfect will of God for their lives according to His Word. This is not acceptable in the eyes of our Heavenly Father! We need to remove our feet from the "sand" and plant them firmly upon the rock and begin to build our firm foundation, because the storm is coming and is even already here.

### **A PASSIONATE PLEA FOR REPENTANCE AND A CALL TO PRAYER FOR ALL THOSE WHO NEED TO REPENT OF THEIR "HEART-CONFORMITY" TO THE "WORLD"**

Now is the time to begin to build, making certain we are obedient to God's Word in every way, abiding in it, and finding out what it TRULY says. If we are looking to - or discerning things through - any other source besides the Word of God, then immediately we enter into a form of deception! No matter how right it

"appears" or how good it "feels", there is deception there. We need to take God's Word seriously and come to the full realization that when God says that those who conform themselves to the world are his "enemies" then it is so. We must desire with our whole hearts not to be standing on that side, because when the curtain falls on His enemies, those people who are standing there, by an act of their own will, are going to perish to the degree that they are conformed to the world. Although this fact may sound ominous, people will reap only that which they have sown to (Galatians 6:7), and in the final tally all will be where they have chosen to be, so that when the "day of judgement" comes they will not be able to look back and say "but Lord!". God is a God of justice and righteousness and He does not forsake those who seek Him. If a child of God chooses to go and "play" on the other side of the tracks by an act of their own will, then they literally choose to reap a manifestation of the Law of sin and death in their life "somewhere", and that is a fact! For God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble, and if they decide to walk in an area of pride, in other words, they choose to do what they want to do rather than what God would have them do, then God is opposed to them (James 4:4-6); despite the fact that they are "born-again", and perhaps, even filled with the mighty Spirit of God! Satan, because of that rebellious one's desire to do what they want to do, is then able to lay all manner of the "curse" upon them. But why, as children of God, when we are offered health and healing do we choose sickness and disease? Why do some choose a life controlled by the Law of sin and death when they have been set free by the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus? Why do some fall captive to things which are under the curse when Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law? It is because of disobedience to God's Word, either through lack of knowledge or hard-heartedness, and it continually allows Satan to ravage the church and rob it of its true position of authority in the earth. If believers choose obedience to God's Word then they will experience the superabundant blessings of God. If they choose to conform to the world and the things of it, then they will find themselves "under the curse" to the exact degree they have allowed themselves to be conformed. They will be without God and without hope in that area, for they have made themselves strangers to the covenants of promise (Ephesians 2:12). Let each and every one of us be found diligently pursuing the "lifestyle" of faith in this most critical hour for it is the sure and perfect catalyst to the manifestation of the Glory - both individually and corporately - in the earth.



### **3. FORSAKE "ALL" TO FOLLOW GOD**

The third step to the life of faith is to forsake "all" to follow God.

In Genesis 12:1-4 the Word states:

..."Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your country and from your relatives and from your father's house to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless those who bless you and the one who curses you I will curse and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"....

In studying the life of Abraham as portrayed in the Bible we will see the life of faith set out clearly in all of its different stages. I would advise whole-heartedly those seeking to walk the faith-walk to meditate the life of Abraham and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal its significance to them. There is a great deal to be found in the lives of these old saints of God and as we study we must keep in mind that the same "spiritual principles" which were in effect then are still in effect today. Therefore, we can derive much from them and "apply" what we have learned to our lives today (Hebrews 13:8).

In Genesis 12:4-5 the Word states:

..."So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy\_five years old when he departed from Haran and Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan"....

In Hebrews 11:8-9 the Word states:

..."by faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance, and he went out not knowing where he was going. 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"....

As we meditate on these portions of God's Word we shall begin to form an

"inner image" (in and by the Holy Spirit) concerning the life and call of Abr(ah)am and we shall begin to see clearly all that was involved in these passages. In the first passage we see that Abram was seventy-five years old when he pulled up his roots and gathered together all that he owned and proceeded forth for no other reason than the fact that God called him. In Abram we see the type of heart-attitude we, as believers, need to have we must "act" on God's Word for no other reason than the simple fact that God said it! When Abram originally left Ur (Genesis 11:31) he left along with Terah, his father. Jewish tradition has it that Terah was an idol-worshipper and this has been substantiated by archaeological excavations found at the site of Ur dating back to the time of Abraham. From this we can see that Abraham's circumstances, as he was growing up, were not conducive to walking with the God of Heaven and earth and it was precisely for this reason that God called Abram to go from his father's house, and thus, from ANY influence which would have an adverse effect on their relationship. From this we can see clearly the necessity for the removal of any obstructions which we might have in our lives that would hinder our obedience to our Heavenly Father. We can see from the moment Abraham made the decision to do as God had commanded, that included in that decision was the forsaking of all to follow God at any cost. In looking back on our own lives to the time when we were born\_again, we can see clearly the work of the Holy Spirit within us, revealing to us (and leading us away from) those things and "influences", in our lives that needed to be removed.

## **A "NEW CREATION"**

As we continue to pursue the life of holiness, we begin to realize that what is written in 2 Corinthians 5:17

...."Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away, behold, new things have come"....

has become a reality in our lives and all those things which WERE firmly entrenched in our lives; those things which were the "foundation" of our walk in the "flesh", are now gone, and we immediately began to come into a deeper understanding of the glorious work that the Word and the Holy Spirit have done (and still continue to do) in our lives. From our deepest heart of hearts (through the exercising of our will to carry out ALL of the Father's will) we are "enabled"

to forsake anything old or new which would hinder us in any way from being obedient and pleasing children of God. This, in itself, is a miracle of astounding proportions for this takes place within us while the body and soul are still "potentially" subject to the world and its ways! but as we CONTINUALLY act on the Word of God our hearts become established and strong and our "spirit man" takes - and keeps - its proper position of dominance over the soul and the body.

## **THE COVENANT OF FAITH**

When God first formed a covenant with Abram, He explained to him what He Himself would do and also explained what He expected from Abram. Immediately Abram was placed in the position of choosing to believe or not believe. In OBEYING what God had called him to do he EXERCISED faith in God and His ability to carry out that which He had spoken and thus, from this, we can see clearly the fact that the whole plan of Redemption plan was put into motion by "faith". It is no different for the children of God today. It is only faith which activates God on our behalf, but it is certain that as we walk by faith in His Word, that He is watching over that Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12). The Father is continually seeking to and fro throughout the earth that He might show Himself strong in behalf of those whose heart is completely His" (2 Chronicles 16:9). Therefore, from these passages, we can clearly see that a heart which is wholly given to God - having forsaken all to follow Him - is a heart which will continually be exercising an absolute faith and those with such a heart will live a life which is pleasing to the Father in EVERY way.

## **THE FATHER DESIRES A PEOPLE WHO WILL WALK IN A PLACE "ABOVE" THE "SENSE-REALM"**

As we look closely at the life of Abraham we can see clearly that he had the heart desire to follow God no matter what He said and no matter what he was called to do. From the standpoint of the five physical senses Abram did not appear to have much going for him as he headed out into the desert, but it was obvious that he was not moved by what he thought or saw, but rather only the words that God had spoken to him. It is exactly the same for us today. When we take the Word of God as our sole authority, placing what has been said by our Heavenly Father, above all else, in every circumstance of our lives, then we will truly have "forsaken all to follow God", and with every breath we breathe and every word we

speaking, faith will be released. As we study the great men and women of faith Abraham, Moses, David, and many more who are mentioned in Hebrews 11, we see that they continually relied on God's Word above all else, and in doing so, God was then able to take their lives and fulfil His purposes through them. If we desire to live the true life of faith also, we must then look very closely at the spiritual principles which governed their lives and put them into practice in our own lives. In doing this we too shall be used greatly by God to fulfil His purposes here on earth.

### **HE WILL "NEVER" FAIL US NOR FORSAKE US!**

It is extremely important to keep in mind, as we enter into the life of faith, that we are entering into covenant with a God Who will "never" fail us or forsake us (Joshua 1:5-8). Believers who desire to enter into the FULNESS of the life of faith need to have a revelation of this fact firmly established in their hearts for without it they will, in times of duress, tend to lean back upon their own understanding and seek their solutions apart from the Word of God in order just to "get by". Satan will always attempt to get those who seek to live the life of faith, apart from the Word of God in order to hinder their spiritual growth and to prevent them from using the authority they have been given in Christ Jesus (Luke 10:19) to "control" him. So we MUST be found "faithful" to continually guard our hearts with ALL diligence that we might not be ignorant of his schemes.

### **GIVING THE WORD OF GOD "PREEMINENCE" AND "FORSAKING ALL" ARE INSEPARABLE!**

In Joshua 1:8 the Word states:

...."This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night"....

When believers truly make the decision to put God's Word first and foremost in their lives, it most certainly involves "forsaking all", in order to do it "properly" (in reality, AT ALL!). Throughout our lives we have surrounded ourselves with many things which serve only to gratify our souls (television, secular music, movies), but there comes a time when - once a "quality decision" has been made - that we need to seek "only" those things which are in line with the

Word of God, and which proceed in some form from the Spirit of God. As our lives are "conditioned" to the intake of spiritual things, we shall begin to experience a deep desire for ONLY those things which are of God, and, from this, we can see the need to forsake "all" that does not serve to edify us and bring us nearer to God. Every child of God must come to the "full realization" that the Father shall supply ALL of their needs according to His riches in Glory by Christ Jesus as they diligently seek to carry out His will. As each one of us continually pursue - and thus progress in - the life of faith, our spiritual needs will be met perfectly by the Holy Spirit Who keeps us on the narrow path of the Father's perfect will by His "sustaining" power - and all those things which previously sustained and gratified our souls will be cast aside for the pure Word (Life) of God. We need to realize beyond "a shadow of a doubt" that, as we forsake all that we once put our hope and faith in, we are then entering into full service with a God Who will not fail us or forsake us and Who is with us wherever we go (Joshua 1:5,9). As this portion of God's Word becomes real (revelation) to us we will grow spiritually in leaps and bounds and we will no longer be held in bondage by a spirit of fear but, instead, we will come to KNOW that despite "appearances", our God will never fail nor forsake us, and will be with us always (Matthew 28:20).

### **PREPARATION FOR "TRUE" SERVICE**

In summarizing this third step in living the life of faith:

Christians, having made the decision to pursue the life of faith, need to go before the Father in prayer trusting and believing that, through the Holy Spirit, they will be shown those areas of dependence which are not of God and that they will be dealt with accordingly - in order that they might experience their Heavenly Father's greatest eternal benefit in all things and thus allow themselves to be perfectly prepared for "true" service. We must realize that the Father deals gently with us when our hearts desire to flow with Him. It is when we harden our hearts to His Word and desire to do what "we" want to do that we cause ourselves distress for the way of the "transgressor" (of God's Word) is hard (difficult) while the way of the righteous is level and smooth and overflowing with superabundant life and light.

#### **4. DO NOT "TURN BACK" UNDER PRESSURE!**

The fourth step to the life of faith is: Do not turn back under pressure!

In Genesis 12:9 the Word tells us that:

..."Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev. Now there was a famine in the land, so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land"....

As we recall Hebrews 11:8 we see that Abram "went out not knowing where he was going", and we see that he continued to "journey on" in Genesis 12:9. From these scriptures we are able to draw a picture of this man of faith heading out - not knowing exactly where he was going - and then we see that the first circumstance he encountered was "famine"! We can imagine some of the thoughts which crossed his mind. Satan had already begun to use "tactics" to get the "father of our faith" off the covenant he had with God, his plan was clearly to get him to "turn back" to where he had come from. Satan immediately came to take the Word out (Mark 4:15) which God had given to Abram and from this we are able to learn a most valuable lesson from this in our lives. We know that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. As we grow in the faith-life, and the Word of God begins to come alive in our hearts, the Evil One will always try to come "immediately" and snatch away the "seed of the Word" before it takes root in our hearts, but if we will learn to guard our hearts diligently, spiritual growth will abound as the seed of the Word grows in the "fertile soil" of a heart given wholly to God.

#### **"WE ARE NOT IGNORANT OF HIS SCHEMES"**

2 Corinthians 2:11 states that:

..."we are not ignorant of his schemes"....

Believers who are seeking to fill their heart continually with God's Word must realize that Satan is going to "attempt" to remove those seeds which are being sown, before they take root and are watered and spring forth into "revelation knowledge". The Evil One's attack must come in the early stages and, in knowing

this, we must combat this scheme by continually feeding on, and referring to, the Word of God in every circumstance. Once the seed has become "revelation knowledge" Satan cannot remove it (although it must be watered and nurtured daily or it can most certainly "wither" and become "inactive), thus we can clearly see that "progression" (from faith to faith) in the life of faith, along with exercising the "fulness" of the authority we have in this earth in Christ Jesus over Satan, run hand in hand. Quite simply put, to the degree we apply ourselves to the necessary steps, it is to that degree we will prosper in the Kingdom of God and walk in all the fullness of the glorious inheritance we have in Christ. As we learn the weapons of our warfare and begin to accumulate revelation knowledge in the area of spiritual warfare, we will be able to say boldly, with Paul, that "we are not ignorant of his schemes" and, even though we must be on guard against Satan's attempts to get us off the Word of God, we will then be able to put pressure on both Satan and his schemes continually (Luke 20:19, 1 John 3:8, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

### **A MATTER OF "POSITION"**

We must remember that we have been raised up to sit in heavenly places with Christ Jesus and that Satan is confined to "carnal weapons". As one draws near to the Word of God, they shall come to the realization that their weapons are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of Satanic fortresses, and they will no longer fall prey to, or be moved by, Satan's attempts to cause them to turn back under pressure. In being raised up to "sit with Christ in heavenly places" we begin to discern all things in the world in the light of God's Word and His Spirit, and in doing so, we can THEN see clearly - in advance - the plans of the Evil One. This is just another one of the many benefits which will manifest itself in the life of those believers whose hearts are established in God's Word.

Psalm 34:19 states:

...."many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all"....

## **THE FATHER HAS "ALREADY MADE" TOTAL PROVISION IN HIS WORD**

We must come to the realization that whatever affliction or persecution for the Word's sake Satan attempts to stop us with, God has already made the provision in His Word for our complete and total deliverance. It matters not how intense the pressure may seem, the answer is found in the Word of God! We must never forsake the weapons of our warfare and lay them aside, but rather, we must continually "fight the good fight of faith", using freely against Satan, the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. No matter what kind of "pressure" is applied we can do all things through Christ Who strengthens us, but the key is to keep our eyes "fixed" on Jesus, the author and developer of our faith, rather than on the circumstances which Satan attempts to surround us with. As we gain experience in this area we will no longer succumb to the wiles of the Evil One, but rather, we will view any and every adverse circumstance as another glorious opportunity to exercise faith and exalt the name of Jesus -thus bringing glory to the Father in all that we do (Philippians 2: 9-11).

### **5. ONE STEP AT A TIME**

The fifth step to the life of faith is to walk in faith one step at a time.

Hebrews 10:23 states:

...."Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He Who promised is faithful"....

We, as children of God, need to approach our lives, in service to the Lord Jesus Christ, one step at a time. We have been redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb, we have been forgiven our past sins and iniquities, and we know that ...."there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit".... Romans 2:1 So we can see from this that, unless we "allow" him to, Satan cannot attack us through our past in any way and to any degree, for even if we do sin we know that if we confess and acknowledge through repentance, our transgression, that God is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and to cleanse us immediately from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9) through the precious Blood of His dear Son. Since the door has been shut to the



Evil One in this area he has only one more avenue of attack and that is the future. In prodding and pushing believers into taking thought for the future and tempting them to dwell on those things which are at the time unknown to them, a spirit of fear will then "rest upon" those who have "allowed" themselves to be deceived into mistrusting the Word of God! From this evil seed (lying thought) will come worry, unbelief, anxiety, depression and fear - the end result being severe bondage to a spirit of fear and, if allowed to continue, it will surely manifest itself in heavy demonic "influence" in their lives, causing them to be held captive by Satan to do his will! We must in no way look down on, or condemn, any children of God who have allowed themselves to reach this "fallen state", but rather we must speak the truth (Word of God) in love, correcting and teaching with gentleness that they might be led into all truth - thus enabling them to "turn the tables" on Satan and live their lives in "God's best". It becomes a most serious problem in the church when Satan is allowed any foothold at all in the life of child of God! In this last hour, as the children of God pursue the life of consecration and faith, the Glorious Church will rise up and take the authority given Her nearly two thousand years ago and will win millions to Jesus, tearing down the strongholds of the Evil One in the process!

### **BRINGING "EVERY" THOUGHT CAPTIVE**

In 2 Corinthians 10:5 the Word of God states:

...."we are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God (Word of God) and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ"....

It is certain that we are only able to have, or entertain, within our minds, one thought at a time. As we are transformed by the renewing of our minds and as we "desire" (decide) to bring "every thought" captive to the Word of God, we are then able to be in control of what thoughts we wish to allow to remain there and, instead of a multitude of thoughts continually bombarding and confusing our thinking process, we are then able to isolate those thoughts which Satan has attempted to deceive us with. As believers continually feed on the Word of God and exclude all worldly influences from their lives, an amazing transformation will take place within the soul (mind, will, emotions) and they will experience the reality of being a "new creation in Christ Jesus" in its totality. When Christians

persevere in the pursuit of holiness and continually renew their mind - through a constant giving of themselves "wholly" to the Word of God - they will reap a host of benefits, but perhaps the most important is the reality of the fact that they have "full control" over Satan. With the mind renewed and "programmed" to God's Word alone, Satan will no longer be able to control them in ANY way, for all that they do will be based solely on God's Word. Satan's only avenue of attack is the body and soul of God's children, but through the process of sanctification, the faithful and obedient believer will come to a place where even the body and soul will be able to discern good and evil (Hebrews 5:14). We must continue to hold fast our "confession" of faith without wavering when Satan attempts an onslaught of thoughts which, of course, regardless of how "subtle" they might be, are contrary to the Word of God! As we diligently practice the exercising of faith, we will experience the beauty of a mind which sees "clearly" the schemes of the Evil One, and every thought shall be continually brought captive to the Word of God. It is when believers experience this reality in their lives that they will begin to walk in God's "rest", and they will be "mighty warriors" for the Kingdom of God with their feet firmly planted on the "throat" of the Evil One.

### **EACH ENSUING STEP TO THE LIFE OF FAITH IS DEPENDENT UPON PUTTING THE WORD OF GOD "FIRST" IN OUR LIVES**

As I mentioned earlier, each ensuing step to the life of faith is dependent upon putting the Word of God first in our lives, in order that, through the established heart and the renewed - or "reprogrammed" - mind, we might walk in the fulness of God's best, and do all the tasks which we have been called to in this life on earth, glorifying the Father, and strengthened in ALL things by the Word of God! We must realize that a very important springboard to spiritual growth and the life of faith is to hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering; in other words, as we discern all that comes across our path by the Word of God, we will be living in God's sphere of time, which is "now" (moment by moment). Because of this "unwavering attitude of hope" and "active faith" in our Father's Word, Satan will be left on the outside looking in, with no means of delivering those "fiery darts" of his, because our "shield of faith" shall cover us fully at all times. What a glorious and magnificent life we have in Christ, but again, we must "make the decision" to receive, believe, and act on the Word of God, in order that step by step, moment by moment, we might experience the development of our faith. We have the faith, for it is the gift of God (Ephesians 28), but we must learn to use it

properly and effectually in all that we do.

## **THE CONTINUAL EXERCISING OF A STEADFAST FAITH AND PATIENCE WILL "SURELY" INHERIT THE PROMISES**

In Hebrews 6:11-12 the Word states:

..."and we desire that each one of you do show the same diligence, so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises"....

We need to realize that what the Word of God says is true. Whether it comes to pass immediately, or a little further on down the road, we know "above all else" that it will come to pass as we continually exercise faith. We need to believe that we have "already received" that which we have asked of the Father according to His Word, and we need to continually call or speak things that have not yet manifested themselves in the physical realm as though they had already come to pass! We must base our "every" approach to life according to what the Word of God has already said. As believers begin to put this to work through the feeding on, and obeying of, the Word, their hearts will be filled with faith not fear, hope not despair, love not hate, and because of these things, their "consciousness" will be one of faith and righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21), rather than that old "sin-consciousness" which has caused them to be a "mere shadow" of what they have been called and empowered to be!

### **SATAN - A DEFEATED AND VANQUISHED FOE!**

In this last hour, as the children of God consecrate themselves and pursue the life of holiness with all diligence, Satan is being removed from the ground he once occupied, and he is being seen for what he really is - a defeated and vanquished foe (Isaiah 14:16-17)! As we study the life of Abraham we will see clearly the fact that he walked through a great many years with his only hope being the words which God had spoken to him (Romans 4:18-21), and we will also see that he "did not waver in unbelief". The true life of faith is one of absolute dependence on what God has said, always walking in the "full assurance" that what He has promised He is also able to perform. As Abraham's life progressed and Isaac was born we are then given the portrayal of what a life of dependence on

God's word can bring about. In Genesis chapter 22 we see God test Abraham (vs.1) and command him to sacrifice Isaac on the altar as an offering. Abraham, as he had done throughout his life, immediately set himself to obey God's Word. It is at this point that we must, once and for all, clear up a strong misconception within the church! As Isaac is laid upon the altar as a sacrifice, Abraham is often depicted as a man who stood about wringing his hands, filled with fear and uncertainty, when, in reality, his heart was filled with faith in the Words God had spoken to him, and he believed with his whole heart, that God would provide the deliverance by the power of His might. If people would only read vs.5 they would see that, as Abraham gave his final instructions to his servants travelling with him, he said ... "stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go yonder, and we will worship and return to you".... Despite his full intention to carry out God's will, Abraham's confession of faith stated that they both would return. Through his continual fellowship with God we see a heart so established in the knowledge of God's ways and the never-failing integrity of His Word, that Abraham could speak those words of faith believing, in his heart, that even if Isaac was sacrificed, he knew, by faith, that God would have to raise him from the dead; for Abraham was "fully persuaded" that what God had said concerning him being "the father of many nations", rested on his beloved Isaac continuing the line through his seed. Therefore, because of his "established" heart, Abraham was able to obey God's command with the full assurance that God could not break His Word, knowing also that whatever it took to bring His Word to pass, God was also able to perform it. This is precisely the same heart-attitude that our Heavenly Father desires of us today. As we establish our hearts in His Word we will not be "moved" by anything but that Word, and in all that we do, our faith will be continually exercised and expanded. Indeed we, as His children, can pay Him no higher honour than to believe (trust) that what He has said He will do, and in "believing", we thus esteem His Word and His integrity above ALL else. In this last hour, Christians who put their "priorities" straight will prosper as Abraham did, and all shall see clearly that God's hand is upon them. Our Heavenly Father in His infinite patience is only waiting for those who will give their hearts entirely to Him and walk uprightly before Him for it is written in 2 Chronicles 16:9:

... "He will show Himself strong on their behalf" ....

Summarizing the fifth step of walking moment by moment with God in faith, we see that in "continually" bringing every thought captive to the Word of

God our lives will be simplified. It will enable us to hear and discern clearly the voice of God because we have "learned" to slow down and operate at His pace rather than "allowing" ourselves to be constantly moved by those thoughts and impulses Satan attempts to bewilder us with - and which, when acted upon, take us outside the Father's perfect will and into the Evil One's territory. Satan thrives in an environment of noise and hurried activity, yet believers who have filled their heart with an abundance of God's Word will still be able to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit despite any attempts by the Evil One to get them off course, because their soul is "anchored" firmly in God's Word and they will not allow themselves to be moved by anything other than that Word!

## **6. RECOGNIZE GOD AS YOUR "ABSOLUTE SOURCE OF SUPPLY"**

The sixth step to the life of faith is to recognize God as your "absolute source of supply".

In Genesis 14:17-23 it is written:

..."then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the King of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's valley) and Melchizedek, King of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God most High; and he blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram of God most High, possessor of Heaven and earth; and blessed be God most High Who has delivered your enemies into your hand. And he gave him a tenth of all. And the King of Sodom said to Abram, give the people to me and take the goods for yourself. And Abram said to the King of Sodom, "I have sworn to the Lord God most High, possessor of Heaven and earth, that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong anything that is yours, lest you should say, I have made Abram rich."....

From this short story we once again see the heart-attitude of Abram. We can see that Abram had become so dependent on God for all things that he looked to Him as the "absolute" source of supply for all his needs, and, because of this, he was able to say what he said to the King of Sodom. God had already promised Abram that he would prosper him greatly and he took Him at His Word, and thus, even when untold wealth was offered to him by the King of Sodom, his "spontaneous reaction" was to speak the Word of faith in his Lord's ability - and as

his covenant partner - to meet his needs, refusing, even for a moment, to conform to the world and thus "receive something that was not from God. As we continue to read on about Abram's life we see that God prospered him greatly in every way. As God honours the faith of His children, He is certainly able and willing to prosper us, exceeding abundantly beyond all we can ask or think!

## **"JUST WHAT ARE OUR REAL NEEDS AND WHAT ARE OUR OWN SELFISH DESIRES? (LUSTS)"**

In Philippians 4:19 the Word states:

... "My God shall supply your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus"....

It is important to establish the fact clearly that our Heavenly Father is "willing" and "able" to meet all our needs, spirit, soul and body, in order that we should lead prosperous lives "equipped fully" for every good work in Christ Jesus. Once believers reach the point where they "truly" believe that God is both able and willing to care for their every need, then immediately they become faced with the question "just what are our real needs and what are our own selfish desires (lusts)?" This question has caused a great deal of confusion in the church - UP UNTIL THIS TIME. It must be stated that those who have not yet "allowed" the Lord to be their "all-sufficiency" will always, in some form, and to some degree, seek to meet their OWN needs by our own understanding. If we refuse to allow God to bless us with His "best" in our lives, we are saying two things: one, we do not trust Him and, two, we still seek in some area to be in a position of "control" over our own lives - with selfishness (self-desire) being the root cause. It takes a direct act of the will by a child of God to forsake the abundant provision made for them in God's Word and partake of the "deception" (lie) Satan has set out for them - causing them to live in FAR LESS than God's best for them. It is certain that if they exercise "any" mistrust in the Word of God they allow themselves to be "neutralized" by the Evil One through that fear. It can be said that if believers take a step away from the Word of God then they are taking a step toward the "world" and its ways. At this late hour God's children must repent and begin to make each one of their steps deliberate, and aimed directly at the Word of God, in order that there be only one authority upon the throne of their heart, that "one authority" being Jesus Christ. As we feed upon the Word of God and our minds are

transformed and renewed supernaturally, we will begin to be able to distinguish between what are "needs" and what are "selfish desires". A selfish desire can be defined as a need which is based solely on the five physical senses without any consideration given to God's Word or His perfect will for our lives - with its overall aim being the gratification of the flesh as opposed to obedience to the Word of God and the voice of the Holy Spirit. We must realize that each action we take is either for ourselves or for the Lord. It is when believers' hearts are established in God's Word that each action they take will be for the Lord, and this, in turn, will serve to fulfil them (true gratification and true satisfaction) in every way - spirit, soul and body. Once again we are not able to escape the fact that our hearts must be filled to overflowing with an abundance of God's Word for the blessings which flow forth from us - as our hearts are established on the Rock of revelation knowledge - are countless and innumerable. Indeed, they are not meant to be "counted", but rather experienced and shared continually with all those who cross our path.

### **OUR TRUE "NEEDS" ALWAYS PERTAIN TO THE CARRYING OUT OF THE FATHER'S WILL**

What is meant by the word "need" in Philippians 4:19? "Needs" are only those things which the Father knows we need to accomplish His perfect will for us here on earth. As our hearts become one with the Father, our prayers will be in "perfect conformity" with His perfect will and every need and want (unselfish desire in our physical lives) will be fulfilled perfectly, in order that we might walk in the fulness of our inheritance in Christ and accomplish all that is set out for us to do in this earth - both individually and corporately - as the Body of Christ. Too often believers have "allowed" themselves to be lured off the narrow path of God's perfect will by their own selfish desires. It is for this reason that we must forsake ALL that is of the flesh and pursue, with ardent diligence, all that the Father has for us in Christ. We must believe that He, and He alone, is our "all-sufficiency", and that anything less is a futile exercise in unbelief. We must also realize that whatever does not proceed from our faith in God and His Word is sin! May we all be enlightened to a greater degree in the seriousness of this matter. For the God that we serve commands our trust and respect by His very nature and to trust in our own understanding in anything, when we have the mind of Christ and the fulness of the mighty Holy Spirit residing within us, is sheer folly! Quite simply, when we seek continually the Kingdom of Heaven and also to be in right-standing

with the Father at all times, "then" and only then, we will not "seek" to gratify our flesh, but rather we will have entrusted our souls to our faithful Creator, and because of this continual seeking after God, our relationship with Him shall be refined to a greater degree with each passing day. We all need to reach the point in our walk of faith wherein we only desire, or want or need, those things which are necessary to fulfil our ministry here on earth - looking at all else as only a hindrance to the "proficiency" of our work in serving the Lord. It is only when believers reach this point that they will "allow" the Father to meet all their needs. It is this absolute trust that the Father desires of His children, for His Father-heart longs to bless us abundantly in all things and it pleases Him greatly to do so. For too long the church has been, for the most part, a stranger to the absolute life of faith she has been called to but this shall change dramatically in this last hour!

### **"ABIDING" IN THE WORD - THE KEY TO THE LIFE OF FAITH**

In John 15:7 the Word states:

...."If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you"....

From these words of Jesus we see that the key to the life of faith is to allow God's Word to make His home in our heart. We cannot proceed into the fulness of the life of faith until we realize that God's Word is living and active and has the supernatural capacity within it to bring itself to pass in our lives if we will only believe. When we finally realize this, we will not seek our "sustenance" from any foreign source and, from that time on, we will grow increasingly stronger in the Lord with each passing day, deriving experience and understanding (spiritual) from each circumstance we enter into, in order that we might bless, and perfectly meet, the "deepest need" of everyone who crosses our path. For the Father seeks those whom He can "trust" when He calls upon them, that He might use them to meet the needs of His people. It is for this reason that we prosper that we might prosper others through whatever means it takes to establish their heart in the fulness of their precious inheritance in Christ! Another benefit of the life of dependency on the Father for the supplying of all our needs is that, in receiving and experiencing to a greater degree the nature of God, we will find ourselves in a "continual state" of giving ourselves and all that is entrusted to us, and thus, we begin to experience the blessedness of the life of giving. We will not truly rely on



the Father to meet all our needs until we are receptive to the fact that "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35), for in giving it shall be given unto us. As our needs are met according to the Word of God we will seek only to share the abundance of that which we have received from on high, KNOWING that He is able to replenish our supply and that, always having all sufficiency in everything, we have an abundance for every good deed (2 Corinthians 9:8).

## **WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE GOD AS OUR ABSOLUTE SOURCE OF SUPPLY IN ALL THINGS**

The very selfishness and unbelief which will cause the children of God to seek to meet their own needs will also prevent them from receiving the blessings which God has the desire to bestow upon them, and, because they have sown to the flesh, Satan will, in some way, steal or destroy that which they have accumulated. How foolish it is to step out from the covenants of promise to rely on our own darkened understanding! God is calling out in this last hour with an urgency for His children to trust Him in every detail of their lives and many are responding to His call. To truly live the life of faith means to trust God in all things and to accomplish this we must "return" to Him with our hearts "wholly given" to Him. If believers continue to base their "needs" on their "five physical senses", they leave the Evil One a wide open path to come in and plunder them, for they will continually be moved only by what will keep them "happy" and because of this they will certainly be led off the "narrow path" and out into the world where they will be ensnared by the Evil One. God calls us not to be conformed to this world and its ways, and while it is most certainly true that it is an abomination to Him for us to "fellowship" with the world, because of His great love for us and His infinite patience, He has endured, in His great mercy, the folly of "carnality" within the church, but "now" the time has come for the judgement to begin in the body of Christ, the sole intent being to "raise up a "spotless and unblemished" Church. For the church to reach this point, all those things which proceed from the flesh will have to be removed in order that the Glorious Church might be manifested in the earth. The "consecration message", which for so long has been ignored within the church, has now been placed front and centre by the Spirit of God and many are coming, and will come, to the realization that holiness is a command and not a request! Summarizing this sixth step to the life of faith, we need to recognize God as our absolute source of supply in all things and as we act diligently upon this - believing fully that He is both willing and able to accomplish

this fact in our lives, we will put into "effect" our trust in Him alone, thus enabling us to be in a continual state of walking by faith in all things, pleasing the Father, and growing into the fulness of our relationship with the Most High God, joint-heirs with Jesus. Every step to the life of faith, that we take, enables us to develop a closer relationship with the Father and it is from this place of a close and intimate fellowship with Him that we are "enabled" (empowered) to walk in the "fulness" of our inheritance in Christ Jesus.

## **7. FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS - THE AUTHOR AND DEVELOPER OF YOUR FAITH**

The seventh step to the life of faith is to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and developer of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

This is the step which "cements" all the other steps together. When the Word tells us to "fix our eyes on Jesus" it means to NEVER remove Him from our "sight" (thinking). One of the large roadblocks to the life of faith manifests itself when we get our eyes off of the Word of God and onto ourselves and our circumstances. Because of this, we can see clearly that this step, besides cementing all the other steps together, becomes the pivotal point of the successful faith walk. If our eyes are firmly fixed on Jesus in all things then they will not be on "ourselves". Quite simply, if our eyes are focused on ourselves then we will "sow to the flesh", having, by our actions, set ourselves above God in retaining control of our lives and disregarding totally the Word of God. It is when God's children seek the face of the Lord Jesus in all things that their every action will always come to light as the perfect action, whether or not this is shown immediately or some time down the road. Always regarding the Word in all things will cause believers to walk in the perfect will of the Father and experience the life of blessing which is manifested continually through those who operate solely by faith in God's Word.

### **"A DEFINITE ACT OF THE WILL"**

It takes a definite act of the will for children of God to look to the Word for ALL things, for if they take their eyes off of Jesus, they will immediately be "lured" by the pull of the "world". Their eyes will be firmly fixed on themselves and their only purpose will be to seek the gratification of the flesh rather than to

do the perfect will of the Father. As believers' hearts are "established" in God's Word they will come to the fulness of the revelation of who they are in Christ Jesus and they will become steadfast in their efforts to walk by faith in all things. How foolish it would be, as we drive our vehicles down the narrow highway, to remove our eyes from the road ahead. If we persisted in this exercise for any longer than a few moments we would end up "off course", and find ourselves in dire straits. It is no different as we walk the narrow path of God's perfect will for our lives, the highway of holiness (Isaiah 35:8), for if we fix our eyes (spiritual and physical) on the things which are apart from God we will inevitably suffer "shipwreck" in regard to our faith. When our eyes are on the Word we will meditate continually the things of God, but if we "allow" our eyes to turn away from these things to ourselves, we will be found continually meditating on the things of this world and the evil therein. Our spiritual and physical eyes should be apart from the things of God for no longer than the split-second it takes to realize and reject the thought that Satan has attempted to get us to "act on".

### **"EVERY THOUGHT"**

As we discussed earlier, every thought must be brought captive to perfect obedience and every speculation, and lofty thing raised up against the Word of God must be cast down and destroyed, in order to prevent our lives from being affected in any way, thus giving Satan no opportunity "bind" us in any way (2 Corinthians 10:5)! It should not seem "unrealistic" to us that God is able to empower us to be obedient in keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus for He indeed is watching over His Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12).

In Hebrews 12:1 the Word tells us to:

...."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"....

In keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, we will be steadfast and immovable when confronted by the storms of life and we shall run the course of God's perfect will for us with "supernatural endurance" - that never-tiring energy which is manifested in the lives of those who wait upon the Lord in all things (Isaiah 40:31); those whose constant confession is of faith, without wavering; those who

"know" that their only hope is in God's Word alone, and who know also that "He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23)! As we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, all potential problems will be in the care of our Heavenly Father, for we will have reached the point of "total dependence" upon Him (1 Peter 5:7). This "absolute" trust in Him pleases the Father and He will take our cares and handle our "situations" in ways that are far beyond all we are able to ask or think, blessing us as He does, that we might be the fulness of the blessing we were called to be to all those who cross our path.

### **THE LIFE OF FAITH BRINGS A CONTINUAL AND PERFECT SATISFACTION AND CAUSE ONE TO SUPERCEDE THE "FRUSTRATION" THAT IS THE RESULT OF ALL SELF-DEPENDENCE AND DISOBEDIENCE**

Our Heavenly Father is indeed a rewarder of those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6) and, therefore, as we constantly seek Him, we are continually rewarded. I state emphatically that the life of faith and the ability to bless others through God's power is more than enough to "satisfy" us at ALL TIMES. As God's love flows through us, we experience that which is far above anything found in the physical realm. Who could place a value on the continual flow of joy, love and peace which pours forth from the heart wholly given to Him? It is for this reason that we must forsake "selfishness" (desires which have their root in the "flesh") and pursue with all diligence the spiritual walk in this earth that the Father has provided for us in Christ Jesus. One thing is certain, if we are to walk with Jesus, and be like Him, we must keep our eyes "fixed" on Him. For what student who wished to be successful ever ignored his teacher? And how then could we, as children of the living God, ever hope to be successful without a full dependence upon the One we serve? In order to be fully dependent upon Him we must keep our eyes fixed on Him, regarding ALL which does not proceed from Him as detrimental (when we dwell upon it) to our relationship with Him. In Hebrews 12:3 the Word states "consider Him" (Jesus). As we walk the true life of faith we will truly "consider Jesus" in all things - regardless of circumstances or feelings. The established heart of faith will always consider Jesus and what the Word has to say before acting on "anything". Needless to say, this provides an effectual safeguard against the wiles of the Devil in the believer's life, for no matter what is thrown at them, they will "spontaneously" be found looking to Jesus and will not act until they have procured within their "thinking" (heart) that portion of God's Word

which will enable them to place all their faith on it alone and then - having done ALL to "stand", they will stand until the manifestation takes place in their lives. This system is infallible as long as believers hold fast their confession of faith without wavering, having "believed", and continuing to believe, that they "received" their petition from the Father the moment they put it in prayer. This is the true essence of faith which causes us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus:

... "looking 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 4:18