

CHAPTER 4

FEAR: THE GREATEST DETRIMENT

...."Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his life's span? And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow: they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more do so for you, O men of little faith? Do not be anxious then, saying "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "With what shall we clothe ourselves?" For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own"....

Matthew 6:19-34 Nasb

ANY GROUND OF FEAR FOUND WITHIN US REVEALS A MISTRUST OF GOD IN SOME AREA OF OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

One of the most important things that every believer must gain a deep revelation of is the fact that the Father, in Christ, has provided everything that we

need - spirit, soul, body and financially - in this earth. That is, ALL of the things that we need for our sustenance and provision as we carry out "our portion" of God's will in the earth. We shall see without question - as we diligently study and meditate upon the Word of God - just how wondrous that provision which the Father has made truly is. When one "allows" a ground of fear to remain within them - through a holding to "self" in ANY form - it hinders them from fellowshiping with the Father and it blocks the anointing of God from flowing through them. Quite simply put, ANY ground of fear found in us reveals a mistrust of God in some area of our life and ministry. To avoid this positioning of ourselves in the place of doubt and unbelief we need to be found faithful to continually fill our heart with the Word of God. For it is only in this way that we come to "know" the truth - the truth that empowers us to continually rise above the lies of the Evil One, which lead only to bondage. Because the Father has made the provision for ALL of our needs to be met, we must come to the place wherein we refuse to take "even one thought" for the meeting of our needs by our own strength. As we go on to look at the scriptures we are going to see exactly what God has to say on this topic and, as we allow these scriptures to enter our heart, we shall indeed see that we need not take even one anxious thought for the meeting of our own needs and that God is both willing and able to supply our needs, spirit, soul, body and financially in this earth - as we carry out His will.

IF WE CHOOSE TO OPERATE IN SATAN'S REALM HE SHALL BE ENABLED TO STEAL FROM OR KILL OR CAUSE DESTRUCTION SOMEWHERE IN OUR LIVES

...."Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal"....

vs.19-20

In this passage Jesus is speaking of our need to keep our eyes fixed on heavenly things, that is, keep our eyes fixed on the Father's way of doing things. We must not in any way place our hope or trust in the "riches of this world", for if we, by our own free will, choose to operate in Satan's realm, he shall be enabled to steal from or kill or cause destruction somewhere in our lives.

AS OUR HEART REMAINS FIXED UPON THAT ASCENDED POSITION OF CHRIST, WE SHALL NOT ONLY EXPERIENCE THE FULNESS OF OUR SALVATION BUT, IN OUR ABSOLUTE DEPENDENCE UPON THE FATHER AND HIS WORD FOR ALL THINGS, SATAN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STOP US FROM CARRYING OUT THE WILL OF GOD

...."For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"....

vs.21

It is very important for us, as true believers, to realize that our heart needs to be inclined toward heavenly things. ALL of our "affections" need to be set upon the place where Jesus is at - the right hand of the Father in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:20). As our heart remains "fixed" upon that ascended position of Christ, we shall not only experience the fulness of our salvation, but, in our absolute dependence upon the Father and His Word for ALL things, Satan will not be able to stop us from carrying out the will of God (Psalm 121:7). If we allow ourselves to remain in any form of "fellowship" with the world and thus keep our eyes fixed on the pleasures of this temporal realm - choosing to operate in the same manner which the world operates - we are going to find ourselves in a difficult position; a position wherein Satan is able to attack us openly.

AS WE RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD INTO OUR HEART AND IT BECOMES OUR REALITY, THEN WE ARE ENABLED TO RISE ABOVE EVERY ATTACK OF THE SPIRIT OF FEAR

...."The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness"....

vs.22-23

In this portion of scripture we come across a very important spiritual principle. As we keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus (the Word of God) and, as we allow the Word to enter our hearts, that very Word will produce in us the light by which we are able to see things as the Father sees them. And, in having an abundance of revealed knowledge in our heart, even the very gates of Hell shall

not prevail against us in any way (Matthew 16:17-18). As we receive the Word of God into our heart and it becomes our "reality", then we are enabled to rise above EVERY attack of the spirit of fear, easily. But if we are not diligent in our meditation of God's Word daily - and thus we do not take the necessary steps for us to be renewed in our minds, moment by moment - then we are going to leave ourselves open to the lies of Satan. There should be no fear within us of being deceived by the Evil One as long as we diligently continue to walk at ALL times in ALL of the revealed knowledge (divine light) that we have in our heart. The Father shall surely show us the way - leading us, protecting us and keeping us from any harm (1 John 5:18-19).

IF ONE CONTINUES TO HARDEN THEIR HEART AGAINST THE FATHER AND HIS WORD - REFUSING TO ALLOW HIS GLORIOUS LIGHT TO FLOOD THEIR BEING - THEN, EVENTUALLY, THEIR EVERY WORD AND ACTION SHALL HAVE THE DARKENED WISDOM OF THIS WORLD AS ITS SOURCE

In this teaching which Jesus is presenting us with, He is showing us that if our eyes are upon Him THEN we shall have that light and love abiding within us which shall enable (empower) us to walk above fear, and if our eyes are fixed on the things of the world then we shall be enshrouded by the darkness therein. Indeed, if the light within us is darkness in this final hour then how great shall that darkness be! If one continues to harden their heart against the Father and His Word - refusing to allow His glorious light to flood their being - then, eventually, their EVERY word and action shall have the darkened wisdom of this world as its source. It is very, very important for every believer to keep their eyes fixed on the Word of God and guard their heart with all diligence (Proverbs 4:23) - paying close attention, at ALL times, to what they allow themselves to hear!

THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE APART FROM CHRIST ARE DEVOID OF HIS LIGHT AND THUS, THE SPIRIT MAN BECOMES WEAKER AND WEAKER AND, IN THIS CONTINUED FELLOWSHIP WITH DARKNESS, THE SOUL (MIND, WILL AND EMOTIONS) AND THE BODY ARE ENABLED TO OVERRIDE THE INNER MAN

For in the same way one's physical body takes in food for nourishment, so does their spirit. We know that if our physical body continually takes in food

which has no nutritional value then eventually the body shall become weaker and weaker and die. In the same way, our spirit man shall also enter into a "weakened state" if we feed upon the things which are not in accordance with the Word (Will) of God. Those things which are apart from Christ are devoid of His light and thus, the spirit man becomes weaker and weaker and, in this continued fellowship with darkness, the soul (mind, will and emotions) and the body are enabled to override the inner man - and thus, one remains in bondage to the "flesh". On the other hand, if one is continually feeding upon the Word of God - meditating upon it both day and night (Joshua 1:8) - then the spirit man shall become strong, and through the power of the Holy Spirit residing therein, one's entire life shall come under the "absolute control" of the Holy Spirit.

ANY TIME A BELIEVER BECOMES AWARE OF ANY GROUND OF FEAR IN THEIR HEART, THEN THEIR FIRST PRIORITY MUST BE TO FACE THAT FEAR HEAD ON - THROUGH FAITH AND OBEDIENCE!

Any time a believer becomes aware of any "ground" of fear in their heart, then their first priority must be to face that fear "head on" - through faith and obedience! To do this they must diligently seek for what the Father has said in His Word concerning their situation or circumstance. Then, having found that portion of scripture or scriptures (by the direct leading of the Holy Spirit) which apply to their situation, they must keep that Word "continually" before their eyes and on their lips until that truth becomes more of a reality than the lie of Satan which they had been believing up until that time. Everything that we will hear (and see) as we walk in this earth is found in one of two categories: it is either a lie of Satan or the Truth of God. Therefore, to whatever degree we fellowship or surround ourselves with those things that are of God it is to that degree that we shall prosper and be found living the "true" Christian life in the light of His Word.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUE SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENT BEGINS FIRST WITH AN INDIVIDUAL'S PERSONAL TIME SPENT IN THE PRESENCE OF THE FATHER AND HIS WORD

If someone is not prospering, that is, they have a definite lack somewhere in their lives, then it is certain that they are not in the "proper" spiritual environment, and they need to break away and separate themselves from the world and unto the Word of God. This is precisely why the Father calls us "out of" the world and into

the place of abiding in His Kingdom. He knows that there is absolutely no way for ANY of His children to fulfil their destiny in Christ - apart from Him! The establishment of true spiritual environment begins first with an individual's personal time spent in the presence of the Father and His Word. As one is obedient to fellowship with the Father daily (on His terms) then they can have the absolute assurance that He is both establishing and maintaining (by the power of the Holy Spirit) the perfect spiritual environment at ALL times - regardless of ANY outside circumstances or situations that arise.

WE MUST BE FAITHFUL CHILDREN WHO SEEK NO SECURITY IN THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD - CONTINUALLY PLACING OUR TRUST IN THE FATHER AND HIS WORD FOR ALL THINGS

...."No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon"....

Matthew 6:24

In this passage we see another very important spiritual principle. The word "mammon" used here is a word meaning riches or the "treasures" of this world, and when Jesus says that no one can serve two masters, He points out clearly God's divine requirement for each one of His children (Luke 10:27). We know that as born-again children of God, Blood-bought and purchased, we are no longer to live for ourselves but for God (2 Corinthians 5:15) alone. Many children of God "attempt" to walk in the fulness of the true Christian life, but yet keep one foot dragging along in the "world" - for in some way they still seek to find their security there. We must be faithful children who seek NO security in the things of this world - continually placing our trust in the Father and His Word for ALL things. We must come to know through continued fellowship and obedience that the Father will NEVER fail us nor forsake us for - in reality - He is the only one we can trust absolutely. Therefore, we need to seek to place every aspect of our lives under His care - and thus truly make Jesus Lord over our entire life and ministry.

THROUGH A LIFE OF ABSOLUTE FAITH AND OBEDIENCE WE SHALL INDEED RISE ABOVE THE FEAR WHICH CRIPPLES

...."For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink, nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing? Look at the birds of the air. that they do now sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his life's span"....

vs. 25-27

When a child of God takes an anxious thought or care for the meeting of their needs they are robbing the Father of the blessing and the joy which He derives in meeting the needs of His children superabundantly. The Father is pleased by the faith and trust which is exercised in His Word and He enjoys meeting "all" of the needs of His people superabundantly - and in a manner which will empower them to walk in His "best" at all times in the carrying out of His perfect purpose for their life and ministry. Something that every believer must have a revelation of is the fact that the Father desires to meet their needs - regardless of how small they may seem. It is never a matter of God meeting our major needs and expecting us to take care of the "minor" details. We know from looking closely at the ministry of Jesus that He did nothing on His own initiative and that all things were given to Him by the Father - through the power of the Holy Spirit (John 5:30). Jesus fulfilled His ministry perfectly in the earth through an "absolute dependence and obedience" to the Father - even unto death on a cross (Philippians 2:8), and nothing less is expected of us (obedience unto the death of the self-life)! Through a life of absolute faith and obedience we shall indeed rise above the fear which cripples and we shall come to a full and deep revelation that we have been "set free" from fear in all of its forms (Romans 8:1-2).

FAITH PUTS INTO EFFECT THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS WHILE ITS RECIPROCAL FORCE, WHICH IS FEAR, PUTS INTO EFFECT THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH

...."And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He

not much more do so for you, O men of little faith"....

vs. 28-30

Again, we must have a burning revelation of the truth that the Father desires us to depend upon Him for ALL things! We must also come to a deep realization that it is ONLY faith which pleases Him (Hebrews 11:6) and that, therefore, we must be found operating in faith at all times if we truly love Him. Faith puts into effect the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus while its reciprocal force, which is fear, puts into effect the law of sin and death. It is as we come to the place wherein we understand clearly this absolute principle, that we shall seek to place all of our trust in, and dependence upon, the Word of God - thereby shutting out all of the avenues which fear seeks to take within us. As we walk in faith, placing all of our dependence squarely upon the Word of God, then we shall have the manifested presence of God in abundance in our lives and every one of our needs shall be met supernaturally by the power of the Holy Spirit.

ONLY THE FATHER CAN MEET OUR NEEDS PERFECTLY - FOR ONLY HE KNOWS OUR NEEDS AS THEY PERTAIN TO THE FULNESS OF HIS WILL AND PURPOSE FOR OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

The Father is both willing and able to meet our needs but too many times - because of fear and anxiety and our failure to place ourselves in a position wherein our minds can be "fully" renewed to the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16) - we hinder God's blessings (empowerment) from "overtaking" us. Only the Father can meet our needs perfectly - for only He knows our "needs" as they pertain to the fulness of His will and purpose for our life and ministry. It is a wondrous liberty and freedom we can have in "knowing" that whatever we need to fulfil our portion of the ministry of Jesus in the earth, we have - in Christ. As the Father's will, pertaining to our own life, is revealed to our heart, and as we exercise faith in the fact that our needs are met continually and perfectly (Philippians 4:19) by Him, THEN we shall simply believe that God shall provide whatever is needed for us - in His perfect timing. It becomes a matter of abiding moment by moment in Christ and simply stepping (faith to faith and obedience to obedience) into "all" of the provision which the Father has blessed us with - according to His holy purposes.

IF WE HAVE A DEFINITE (NOT JUST PERCEIVED) LACK IN OUR LIVES IT IS BECAUSE WE HAVE HINDERED THE FATHER THROUGH OUR UNBELIEF AND OUR MISTRUST OF HIM

...." Do not be anxious then, saying, what shall we eat? or what shall we drink, or with what shall we clothe ourselves? For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things"....

Matthew 6:31-32

Each time one relies upon their own understanding and their own strength for ANY reason they are going to find themselves in a position far short of the Father's best for them. Therefore, it is extremely important that we continually fill our heart with the Word of God - allowing the Holy Spirit to paint the picture in our heart that we are but a "vessel" in the light of true Kingdom-service. It is only as we continually seek to empty ourselves that the Father is enabled to flow through us and provide us with His perfect provision - all that we need spirit, soul, body and financially. If we have a definite (not just perceived) "lack" in our lives it is because we have "hindered" the Father through our unbelief and our mistrust of Him - and, thus, the thing one actually lacks is a perfect obedience. In the place of abiding in perfect obedience every need is continually met in the carrying out of the Father's highest purpose. Once there has been a deep and thorough repentance (from unbelief, mistrust and disobedience) lack cannot possibly continue to exist in ANY form!

HAVING COME FACE TO FACE WITH THE WORD OF GOD WE ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO DECEIVE OURSELVES INTO BELIEVING THAT WE ARE IN SOME WAY RESPONSIBLE TO MEET OUR OWN NEEDS (SELF-SUFFICIENCY)

The apostle Paul states in Philippians 2:11:

...."I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am"....

and he went on to write in 1 Timothy 6:8:

...."and if we have food and covering with these we shall be content"....

Paul had a revelation of the fact that the Father was both willing and able to meet each one of his needs as he carried out the work of the ministry in the earth. Once we "know" that the Father has stated His desire to meet our needs and that He knows we need certain things as we walk this earth such as food and clothing, we must put aside any fear or worry or care and place our absolute faith and dependence (trust) upon Him and what He has said in His Word. Once having come "face to face" with the Word of God we are no longer able to deceive ourselves into believing that we are "in some way responsible" to meet our own needs (self-sufficiency). If the child of God continues to do so then they are in stark unbelief and rebellion against God!

IT IS FOOLISHNESS FOR US TO THINK - FOR EVEN ONE BRIEF MOMENT - THAT OUR LOVING FATHER IS NOT AWARE OF OUR SITUATION IN THE EARTH AT ANY GIVEN TIME

In Matthew 6:32 Jesus is explaining to the people the heart of the Father. As one draws close to the Father and His Word, the deepest thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart shall be revealed to their heart, and their mind shall be renewed and conformed in every way to the mind of Christ. It is foolishness for us to think for even one brief moment that our loving Father is not aware of our situation in the earth at any given time. It is certain that He knows our going out and our coming in.

...."But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you"....

(vs.33)

It is obvious that if one is relying on their own strength in their service to God their priorities are in the wrong place (self-effort-self-glory). It is only as one straightens their priorities around - that is, they seek first and foremost to establish the Kingdom of Heaven in the earth (through the building up of the "Body of Christ" with each action they take and each word they speak) that they will be found in the position wherein the provision of God - spirit, soul, body and financially will continually be "added" unto them. It is certain that as one becomes a pure vessel of the righteousness of God, they will have a deep and abiding

assurance in their heart that they have everything (and superabundantly I might add) that they "need" to fulfil their ministry in the earth in any given moment - regardless of "appearances" or the way things might "seem".

THE FATHER REQUIRES US TO OPERATE IN FAITH (BELIEVE HIS WORD) AND IT IS FROM THIS POSITION OF FAITH THAT HE CONFIRMS HIS WORD - BEYOND A SHADOW OF DOUBT - IN OUR HEART AND IN OUR DAILY EXPERIENCE

We must be a people who keep our eyes fixed on Jesus - the author and developer of our faith - for as we do we shall surely be those who are found obedient to the command to seek first the establishment of God's kingdom. And in this "Kingdom-position" the blessings of Heaven shall constantly overtake us - and any fear or worry for our own sustenance in this earth shall be removed from us. The Father requires us to operate in faith (believe His Word) and it is from this position of faith that He confirms His Word - beyond a shadow of doubt - in our heart and in our daily experience. The Father will never manifest Himself to the heart of unbelief "just" to prove that His Word is true! His Word IS true and as one exercises faith in that Word then shall that truth be revealed to them - and through them. God may manifest Himself in order to "catch the attention" of one initially but soon thereafter there will be the need for them to exercise a "wholesome" (pure-absolute) faith upon His Word. It is clear from the Scriptures that we are not called (without exception) to walk by that which we perceive through our five physical senses, but rather we are to walk by faith in the revealed Word of God (2 Corinthians 5:7) (John 20:27-29).

AS WE CONTINUALLY SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM - AND THE BUILDING UP OF THE BODY OF CHRIST - ALL THAT WE NEED SHALL BE PROVIDED FOR US IN ITS DUE TIME

...."Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own"....

Matthew 6:34

Another important aspect of our Christian walk is spoken of here by Jesus! The Father desires us to live, moment by moment, day by day, bringing "every" thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5) - or, in other

words, bringing every thought captive to His revealed Will (the Word of God). As we continually seek first the Kingdom - and the building up of the Body of Christ - ALL that we need shall be provided for us in its "due" time. As we are "abiding" - that is, living moment by moment in Christ - and a particular need is revealed to our heart by the Holy Spirit, then we can pray in accordance with what has been revealed to us - believing we have received the request which we have made. From that moment forth we can know and have a deep assurance of the fact that that which we have requested shall be "added" to us in the Father's perfect timing for us to accomplish the task which He has given to us. Every Christian needs to have a revelation of the fact that the Father will ALWAYS provide in the "due" time, and that only He knows when that time is.

WE MUST LEARN TO TRUST IN THE FATHER AND BELIEVE THAT HIS WORD IS TRUE - KNOWING (AT ALL TIMES) THAT HE IS WATCHING OVER HIS WORD TO PERFORM IT

If we begin to "focus" our eyes on the physical circumstances then we shall have a strong sense or "feeling" (perception) that we are lacking something when in fact there is no truth to this at all. The Word of God has made it quite clear that we shall lack nothing in our diligent pursuit of holiness, and that our every need shall be met in accordance with the Father's will for our life and ministry. As our mind is renewed we shall come to the place wherein we can say at any given moment that our needs are met and that we lack nothing. In that place of an abiding faith we shall "know" that if a particular thing which we have prayed for has not yet manifested, then it is not yet "God's time". All these things which I have spoken of are based upon our deepest heart-desire being to walk in "perfect obedience" before the Father - aligning ourselves continually with the command to: "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness." We must learn to trust in the Father and believe that His Word is true - knowing (at all times) that He is watching over His Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12).

IT IS ONLY IN THE REFINING FURNACE OF THE FATHER'S PRESENCE AND LOVE THAT UNBELIEF (MISTRUST) IS REVEALED AND DEALT WITH IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ALLOW US TO EXERCISE AN ABSOLUTE FAITH IN HIM - AND IN HIS WORD - FOR EVERY FACET OF OUR LIVES

One of the great problem areas in the church is that many children of God still tend to "self-sufficiency". It is very important for us to realize that every lie of Satan which we come to "believe" indicates within us a ground of mistrust and potential rebellion against the Father and His Word. Many use the guise of desiring to "help" God in the meeting of their own needs by taking care of the "smaller details" but, in reality, they have a deep desire to remain "independent" of Him in that area of their lives - for whatever reason. It is only as one is righteously motivated toward the Father (that is, desirous of carrying out His will from the position of a heart wholly given) that they will "allow" the consuming fire of the Holy Spirit to both expose and remove every "false way" (ground of fear) from them. It is only in the refining furnace of the Father's presence and love that "unbelief" (mistrust) is revealed and dealt with in such a way as to allow us to exercise an absolute faith in Him - and in His Word for EVERY facet of our lives.

WE MUST BE FOUND MEDITATING UPON THE WORD OF GOD DAY AND NIGHT - AS IT IS ONLY IN THIS WAY THAT OUR THINKING WILL BE CONTINUALLY RENEWED TO THE DEEPEST THOUGHTS AND INTENTIONS OF THE FATHER'S HEART

The lie of Satan which tries to convince us that we, ourselves, are responsible for the meeting of our needs - even in some small way - is designed to keep us in bondage to fear, worry and unbelief. Should one continue to give Satan ground (fear, unbelief, pride), he will see to it that they are kept in an area of "lack" - and moving away from the Father and His Will instead of towards Him. This is precisely why we must be found meditating upon the Word of God day and night - as it is only in this way that our thinking will be continually renewed to the deepest thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart. This "renewing" produces an absolute dependence upon the Anointing that abides within us (the Holy Spirit) and brings us to the place where there is no mistrust or rebellion against the Father and His Will in our heart.

IN THIS MOST CRITICAL HOUR THE REVEALED KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH WILL BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ABSOLUTE VICTORY AND OVERCOMING IN ALL THINGS AND TOTAL DEFEAT AND FAILURE!

One must have revelation knowledge in order to fix their faith perfectly in the Father and His Word. It is only from this position of an "abiding" trust (faith) that one is able to discern between that which is the truth and that which is a lie - and in this most critical hour the "revealed knowledge" of the Truth will be the difference between absolute victory and overcoming in all things and total defeat and failure! It is also this constant exercising of faith (love) that allows the Holy Spirit to remove ALL ground of fear, worry and unbelief from within us. As we enter into this final hour we must have a deep revelation in our spirit of the fact that the Father desires each one of His children to walk completely free from fear. As we go on to look at various scriptures we shall see clearly what the Word of God says about this, and come to understand to a deeper degree the glorious provision which He has made for us to be free from fear - in order that we might be filled with His faith and His love (nature).

IT IS ONLY AS WE CAST ASIDE ALL DEPENDENCE UPON OURSELVES AND, THUS, GIVE THE WORD OF GOD HIS PROPER PLACE IN OUR LIVES, THAT WE SHALL BE ENABLED TO EXPERIENCE THE FULNESS OF THE FATHER'S GRACE TOWARDS US IN CHRIST

...."Moreover, all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes Himself to those who set themselves above others, but gives grace to those who are lowly. Permit yourselves therefore to be humbled under the mighty hand of God, in order that you He may exalt in an appropriate season, having deposited with Him once for all the whole of your worry, because to Him it is a matter of concern respecting you. Be of a sober mind, be watchful. Your adversary who is a slanderer, namely, the devil, as a lion roaring in fierce hunger, is constantly walking about, always seeking someone to be devouring. Stand immovable against his onset, solid as a rock in your faith"....

1 Peter 5:5-9a Kenneth S. Wuest Translation

The word "lowly" found in this passage refers to those who are lowly in the estimation of their own flesh, but strong in the realization of who they are in Christ. In other words, to realize that we are nothing in ourselves, but everything in Christ. It is not a "false" humility - that is, a "humility" that gives the "impression" that we are dependent upon God for all things but, in reality, still

striving to maintain a grasp upon our own lives. It is only as we cast aside all dependence upon ourselves and, thus, give the Word of God His proper place in our lives, that we shall be enabled to experience the fulness of the Father's grace towards us in Christ. There comes a time in every believer's life where they must stop and say:

"I just thank you Father that my needs are met spirit, soul, body and financially. I give my whole life to you and therefore the care of my life is no longer in my hands, and the fulfillment of my portion of Jesus' ministry - the very thing that You created me for - is completely in Your hands".

IF ONE HABITUALLY FELLOWSHIPS WITH THE FATHER AND HIS WORD - SEEKING TO PLACE HIM FIRST AT ALL TIMES... THEN THEY SHALL REACT WITH THE FAITH (LOVE) OF GOD AND WILL NOT IN ANY WAY BE OVERCOME BY ANY CIRCUMSTANCE WHICH MIGHT COME THEIR WAY

In casting all of our care upon the Lord we lay ourselves continually open before the Father and His Word - allowing the Holy Spirit to teach us and guide us into the place where He would have us. It is in that place of abiding in the center of His will that we shall see - once and for all - that there is no need for us to "allow" worry or fear to influence us in any way. It is in that holy place of abiding that we shall see clearly that God's Word is true and that He upholds us by the power of that Word. It is very important for us to realize that if one chooses to retain fear and worry in their heart then - in any given situation - they are going to spontaneously react in fear rather than with the faith of God - and, thus, eventually be overcome by their circumstances. On the other hand, if one habitually fellowships with the Father and His Word - seeking to place Him first at all times and bringing every thought captive to that Word - THEN they shall react with the faith of God and will not in any way be overcome by any circumstance which might come their way.

IT IS OUR CHOICE - AND OUR CHOICE ALONE!

From these things one can see clearly that it is our choice - and our choice alone! Should one choose to retain the selfish desire to worry and, thus, "take care" for their own well-being and sufficiency, then they shall remain in

bondage to the Evil One - in some way. On the other hand, as one casts the entire care for their life (ministry) upon the Lord - seeking only to be obedient to Him in ALL things - THEN, through their faith, they shall be "overcomers" in every aspect of life and ministry (1 John 5:4-5). It is very important for every child of God to realize that Satan can only work "successfully" against them - or through them - in accordance with the "ground of selfishness" (fear, pride and rebellion) within them that they "maintain". In other words, those areas of the "fallen" nature which they have retained by continually refusing to be renewed and transformed by the Word of God in that area. It is only as one truly tires of the "wearisome" bondage to fear and worry - and, thus, comes to a clear realization (revelation) that the Father has taken the full responsibility for them, as His children, in this earth - that they shall come to the place wherein they are found walking by faith in the Word of God at ALL times.

ANY SELFISHNESS (FEAR, PRIDE, REBELLION) THAT WE CHOOSE TO RETAIN WILL SURELY PRECLUDE THE EXERCISING OF FAITH IN GOD'S WORD!

Any selfishness (fear, pride, rebellion) that we choose to retain will "surely" preclude the exercising of faith in God's Word! Since we know that Satan is only able to work through the ground of selfishness (self-desire) within us we must diligently apply ourselves to the Word of God - day in and day out. For when we are exercising "faith" in ourselves, we cause the force of fear to put into action the law of sin and death - in us and around us. On the other hand, as we seek to live only for the carrying out of Father's will - at all cost to ourselves - we, through, that deep and absolute dependence upon His Word, shall continually release the force of faith and cause the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus to work within us and around us - at ALL times.

THE FATHER CALLS EACH ONE OF HIS CHILDREN TO STAND IMMOVABLE AGAINST SATAN'S ONSLAUGHT IN ANY GIVEN MOMENT - SOLID AS A ROCK IN THEIR FAITH (TRUST) IN HIS WORD

The Father calls each one of His children to stand immovable against Satan's onslaught in any given moment - solid as a rock in their faith in His Word. The Father is establishing (building) a Church which has no sin and no rebellion and

no fear - and, thus, Satan shall have no ground to work within Her. This is precisely why she is called "the spotless and unblemished Church" - a glorious Church in which only the presence of God is found in EVERY word and deed. Many do not yet realize the significance of their words and actions and, thus, if they "allow" themselves to continually take fearful and worrisome (lying) thoughts (in their slothfulness-negligence), it will - ultimately - become a "clear confession" of their unbelief and pride. In this state of darkness and unbelief Satan is THEN enabled to prey upon them in some way - afflicting them almost, it seems, at will, as they place their faith in his lies rather than the Truth of God.

KNOWING THAT GOD JUDGES ONLY THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTIONS OF THE HEART WE MUST REALIZE THAT IF WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO TAKE AN ANXIOUS THOUGHT FOR ANY FACET OF OUR LIFE OR MINISTRY ON AN ONGOING BASIS THEN JESUS CHRIST (THE WILL AND WORD OF GOD) IS NO LONGER OUR PRIMARY FOCUS

Knowing that God judges ONLY the thoughts and intentions of the heart we must realize that if we allow ourselves to take an anxious thought for any facet of our life or ministry on an ongoing basis then Jesus Christ (the Will and Word of God) is no longer our "primary" focus - for as long as we hold onto that fear. If our eyes are truly upon Jesus (the Word of God) and we thus continually fix our gaze upon Him - regardless of any "outward circumstances" (or how we feel) - then that faith which we continually exercise in the face of any "adversity" shall always see us through superabundantly and eventually cause our "circumstances" around us to be conformed to the will of God. If we allow ourselves to take our eyes off of Jesus we shall find ourselves in a place wherein we are moving farther and farther away from the Word of God - until such a time as a deep and thorough repentance is forthcoming. Therefore, from these things, we are able to see clearly the folly of retaining fear and worry in our lives! For if we do we are playing right into Satan's game - which is to lure us out into "his domain" (the "world") that he might destroy us. On the other hand, as we exercise a steadfast faith in the revealed knowledge of God's Word, no demon in Hell (or Satan himself) will ever "touch" us (influence or change our heart motivation from seeking the fulness of the Father's purpose) in any way - for they shall have to bow their knee to the omnipotent Word (and the burning revelation of His Will) which dwells mightily within our heart! If one continues to walk in fear and anxiety then they are

essentially saying (through their words and actions) that God is not able - or even worse - not willing to meet our needs, and of course those are both vile lies of the Evil One!

FROM THE INSIDIOUS ROOT OF SELF-DEPENDENCE (INDIVIDUALLY) COMES A CHURCH VOID OF POWER FROM ON HIGH - A CHURCH CONSTRAINED BY THE DARKNESS OF WORLDLY WISDOM RATHER THAN THE LOVE OF CHRIST; A CHURCH MORE INCLINED TOWARDS THE FOOLISHNESS OF HUMAN UNDERSTANDING AND AN EXCESSIVE DEVOTION TO OUTWARD APPEARANCES THAN THE ABSOLUTE FAITH IN GOD WHICH IS REQUIRED!

Satan has attempted to make reliance upon ourselves seem like a very inconsequential thing but, in reality, ANY form of "self-dependence" sets itself as an enemy of the "cross of Christ" (Philippians 3:17-21). The Father desires to have an intimate relationship with each one of His children - that they might be blessed (empowered) to the greatest degree continually. It is ONLY the desire to seek "anything" for ourselves which prevents the Father's glorious blessing and favour from resting upon us. From the insidious root of self-dependence (individually) comes a church void of power from on high - a church constrained by the darkness of worldly wisdom rather than the love of Christ; a church more inclined toward the foolishness of human understanding and an excessive devotion to outward appearances than the absolute faith in God which is required! The Father desires us to depend upon Him for all things: upon His wisdom, upon His power and upon His understanding.

IN THE PERFECT UNDERSTANDING OF WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST (THE FULNESS OF OUR INHERITANCE IN CHRIST), FEAR WILL NO LONGER BE AN ACTIVE FORCE IN OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

Where one's "treasure" is there shall their heart be also. All that which is sown to the Spirit of God shall always lead to life and all that is sown to the flesh shall lead only to death and corruption. Until one has a deep revelation of the fact that God's Word is true - and that He is watching over His Word to perform it - then their instantaneous reaction to a pressure situation will remain one of fear and worry rather than one of faith and divine hope and trust! When we take the time to

diligently "fill" our heart with the Word of God and practice bringing every thought captive to the revealed knowledge of that Word - desiring in our heart ABOVE ALL ELSE to understand how the Father thinks, and to see things as He sees them - then in the perfect understanding of who we are in Christ (the fulness of our inheritance in Christ), fear will no longer be an "active" force in our life and ministry.

THE ROOT OF EVERY FEAR THAT ONE IS CONTROLLED BY STEMS DIRECTLY FROM A MISTRUST OF GOD

There are some in the church who remain in constant bondage to fear in some area of their lives. They have not allowed the Holy Spirit to come in - in His fulness - and, thus they have not pronounced (in word or deed) Jesus as Lord over their entire lives. It may be finances, it may be health, it may be their children or it could be a number of other things. If one is truly desirous of experiencing "salvation" in EVERY area of their life and ministry then they will have to discipline themselves to bring EVERY thought captive to a revelation of God's Word (Will). As long as Satan is "allowed" to maintain control of any element of one's thought-life then it is to that degree that they shall be held captive by him to do his will - through fear (pride and self-desire). All fear is the product of a deception and a lie - and the root of every fear that one is controlled by stems directly from a mistrust of God.

IF ONE IS FAITHFUL TO REPLACE EVERY LIE THEY COME ACROSS WITH THE REVEALED TRUTH OF GOD, THAT LIE SHALL NO LONGER BE THEIR REALITY

If one is faithful to replace every "lie" they come across with the "revealed" truth of God, that lie shall no longer be their "reality" - regardless of what physical circumstances dictate. For the Word of God when "truly" believed (through the continual exercising of an absolute faith) shall always cause one to transcend "all" physical circumstances, and walk victoriously above whatever scheme or snare Satan has set for them - without exception! Any time we sense fear beginning to overcome us we must turn immediately to the Word of God - regardless of what that takes. How important it is for every child of God to develop the habit of leaning heavily on the Word of God in every circumstance they find themselves in - for by this continual acknowledgement and exercising of their faith they shall

continually experience the power (grace) of God in their lives - both sustaining them and protecting them in all things, at all times.

WE MUST CONTINUALLY SATURATE OUR HEART AND MIND WITH THE WORD OF GOD IN ORDER THAT EVERY WORD WHICH PROCEEDS OUT OF OUR MOUTH MIGHT BE FOUND IN PERFECT ACCORDANCE WITH THE HEART AND PLAN OF THE FATHER

How wondrous is this life of faith which we are called to and, thus, as faithful and obedient children of God we must ALWAYS be found seeking to lay aside every ground of fear - in order that our faith might not be hindered in any way, and that we might continually experience the joy of the fulness of the wondrous salvation which is ours, in Christ. To the degree that we effectively resist Satan (and his schemes) it is to that degree that he shall be found fleeing continually before us in this hour! We must continually "saturate" our heart and mind with the Word of God in order that every word that proceeds out of our mouth might be found in perfect accordance with the heart and plan of the Father. If the Christian is faithful to continually put the Word of God first in their life they will not be ignorant of Satan's schemes and he will be given no opportunity to formulate and carry out a "successful" attack against them. Continual and victorious positioning in the Kingdom is the "choice" of every Christian!

AS ONE TRULY DRAWS NEAR TO THE FATHER AND HIS WORD ALL THAT IS APART FROM CHRIST SHALL BE SEEN FOR WHAT IT TRULY IS BY THE FAITHFUL BELIEVER - DARKNESS AND DECEPTION LEADING TO DEATH!

We experience the fulness of our salvation through the words which proceed forth out of our mouth. If we speak words of faith and love - words which are in accordance with the will of God and the fulness of our precious covenant in Christ - then we shall indeed experience the fulness of our salvation. These wholesome words activate the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus in one's life. If, on the other hand, we allow "corrupt" (unwholesome) communication to proceed forth from our mouth then we shall remain under bondage to the law of sin and death. Until one truly tires of the "self-gratifying" pleasures and the deceptive glare of the "world", they shall continue to fix their hope and trust upon the lies of Satan (outward appearances) rather than the reality of God's Word (Will). As one truly

draws near to the Father and His Word ALL that is apart from Christ shall be seen for what it truly is by the faithful believer - darkness and deception leading to death!

EVERY TIME THAT THE REVEALED WORD OF GOD IS SPOKEN IN THE FACE OF ADVERSE (NEGATIVE) CIRCUMSTANCES IT WILL BREAK DOWN THE POWER OF THE LIE WHICH SATAN IS ATTEMPTING TO AFFLICT US WITH AND CAUSE THE GROUND OF ANY POTENTIAL FEAR WITHIN US TO BE REMOVED

As we speak the faith-filled Words of God (by the revelation and unction of the Holy Spirit) then faith shall continually rise up in our heart, and the very words which we have spoken shall come to pass - in the Father's perfect timing. This is precisely why in the midst of the most paralyzing fear that we may "feel", we quote a scripture such as:

...."For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind"....

2 Timothy 1:7 KJV

Every time that the revealed Word of God is spoken in the face of adverse (negative) circumstances it will break down the power of the lie which Satan is attempting to afflict us with and cause the ground of ANY potential fear within us to be removed. This points out the extreme importance of bringing EVERY thought captive to the revealed Word of God - and of confessing that Word in the face of fear at ALL times. For it is only in this way that we shall we come into the fulness of the revelation of the very Word that we are standing upon in that circumstance. From this, one is able to see the end result of continually confessing the Word of God in EVERY circumstance: all ground for fear to work within us shall be consumed and removed eternally - the fear-filled lies of Satan having been replaced by a clear revelation of the faith-filled promises of God!

IF WE WILL BE OBEDIENT IN THE THINGS OF GOD AND IF WE WILL HANDLE HIS WORD ACCURATELY AND WITH GREAT DILIGENCE AT EVERY TURN THEN IT IS CERTAIN THAT WE SHALL COME TO THE PLACE WHEREIN EVERY GROUND OF FEAR HAS BEEN REMOVED

Up until this time, Satan has been enabled to keep many children of God in bondage to the fear of death in whatever form - due to their negligence in tending to the requirements set forth in the Word of God (Luke 10:27)! As the faithful child of God begins to experience a deeper revelation of the Kingdom and, thus, comes to know - to a continually greater degree - the nature and absoluteness of God (through their perfect fellowship with Him) they shall begin to experience His love in their own lives. As the perfect love of the Father is continually shed abroad in their heart then "all fear" is ultimately cast out. It is from this position of abiding in the love of God that death in all of its forms is continually put under their feet. Simply put, to the degree that we allow ourselves to experience the absolute life (love) of God, it is to that degree that death (and darkness) shall be put under our feet. If we do not continually position ourselves (through diligence) to have our mind "renewed" - and thus not come to the place wherein we come to understand God's ways - then death and darkness shall be enabled (empowered) to "maintain" a grip upon our lives in some form. If we will be obedient in the things of God (if we will handle His Word accurately and with great diligence at every turn) then it is certain that we shall come to the place wherein EVERY ground of fear has been removed - through the continual work of the indwelling Holy Spirit. This is a "reality" which every heart that truly loves God desires to have and experience.

THROUGH THE CONSTANT RENEWING OF OUR MIND ALL OF THE OLD THOUGHT PATTERNS (MIND-SETS) - WHICH HAD KEPT US IN BONDAGE TO FEAR AND DARKNESS - SHALL BE BROKEN DOWN AND REMOVED THROUGH THE POWER OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS

Satan can in no way be effective in his schemes against us if we diligently turn to the Word of God in every situation! Through the constant renewing of our mind all of the "old thought patterns" (mind-sets) - which had kept us in bondage to fear and darkness - shall be broken down and removed through the power of the precious Blood of Jesus. This process is extremely important! There are many in the church who - because of their slothfulness and neglect concerning the Word of God - have "maintained" thought patterns (fear, failure, anxiety, worry, self-reliance, self-sufficiency) which are apart from the revealed knowledge of God's will. Because of these things, they continue to wander on a darkened path - failing when all the while the Father desires only a perfect preparation (refining)

for them - leading to success and prosperity in every aspect of life and ministry (Joshua 1:8).

EVERY THOUGHT THAT SATAN ATTEMPTS TO INFILTRATE OUR THOUGHT-LIFE WITH IS GEARED TO LEAD US INTO FAILURE

Every thought that Satan attempts to infiltrate our thought-life with is geared to lead us into failure - most importantly, the failure to carry out the will of God in the earth - which is geared to cause him great devastation! But it is also his steadfast desire to see us fail in a manner that will cause us to despair in some fashion. If the child of God "allows" themselves to succumb to disappointment, discouragement or disheartenment in any way then they will retain a steadfast desire to lean upon their own understanding (through fear and unbelief leading to spiritual blindness), and thus they will continue to seek after a "security" (a false peace) that is not of God, but rather is found in the "world"!

AS WE ALLOW THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO WORK FREELY IN OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY, HE SHALL LEAD US INTO THE PLACE WHEREIN WE HAVE NO FEAR, AND HE SHALL TEACH US AND EMPOWER US TO OPERATE IN AN ABSOLUTE FAITH AT ALL TIMES

From these things we are able to see clearly the futility of a life which is dependent upon anything other than the Word of God! The Father desires to renew our mind through the power of His Word and His Spirit - in order that we might have prosperity and success in the earth and walk in the fulness of all that He has so gloriously provided for us in Christ. Why? So that we might accomplish His will in the earth, and that we might destroy the strongholds of Satan in the hearts and minds of men - thus setting the captives free.

The Word of God states in 2 Corinthians 3:17 that:

...."where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty"....

In this final hour, as we allow the ministry of the Holy Spirit to work freely in our life and ministry, He shall lead us into the place wherein we have no fear, and He shall teach us and empower us to operate in an "absolute" faith at all times.

It must be clearly understood by EVERY child of God that the provision has already been made for us to be pleasing children to the Father (every moment of every day) - through His great and wondrous power and that it is only in this way that we shall receive the empowerment (grace) from on high to overcome in ALL things.

THE VERY NATURE OF FEAR BREEDS A COMPULSION TO ACT APART FROM A TRUST AND DEPENDENCE UPON THE FATHER AND HIS WORD IN AN EFFORT TO QUELL THE STORM IN ONE'S OWN STRENGTH

..."Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken..."

Psalm 55:22

It is very important for every child of God to realize that if they do not cast their "burden" (fear, anxiety, worry) upon the Lord (by faith), then He is not "enabled" to sustain them with His perfect empowerment. If one chooses to sustain themselves in any way, then God is forced to step aside and allow them to go their own way until they have "seen" the foolishness of their actions. The very nature of fear breeds a compulsion to act apart from a trust and dependence upon the Father and His Word in an "effort" to "quell the storm" in one's own strength. Rebellion takes root through a "maintained" fear and, thus, it is extremely important for the Christian to immediately let go of any ground of fear that may surface in the course of their walk! If one is both faithful and diligent to cast their burden upon the Father, moment to moment if necessary, THEN they allow the fulness of His provision (peace, joy love, etc.) to manifest in their life and ministry. This practice of trust and reliance upon Him is both deepened and strengthened each time one is faithful to lay down their life to seek Him.

SPIRITUAL REALITY DICTATES THAT WE, AS CHRISTIANS, ARE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST

Regardless of what fear may attempt to come upon us and regardless of what kind of pressure Satan comes against us with, we are able to take great consolation in the Word which God has given us:

...."He will never allow the righteous to be shaken"....

Spiritual reality dictates that we, as Christians, are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21). Therefore, we shall never be "shaken" as long as our dependence is based solely upon the "revealed" Word of God. There are times when we may "feel" as though we are being shaken, but as we continually stand on the Word of God - and thus allow our minds to be renewed to what the Father has already said (rather than take a thought for what we might feel or see or hear or think) - the revealed knowledge of God's Word in our heart empowers us to walk above the "sense" realm. And, thus, we will not find ourselves "influenced" in any way by our physical circumstances - unless "we" truly desire to be. Let it be clearly understood that it is only a heart of selfishness (self-desire) that could accommodate such a desire!

**AS ONE GAINS A REVELATION OF HIS ABSOLUTE FAITHFULNESS,
THEY SHALL COME TO THE PLACE WHEREIN THEY KNOW
BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT HE WILL NEVER FAIL
THEM NOR FORSAKE THEM**

As one feeds continually on the Word of God they shall receive a continually deeper revelation of the Father's faithfulness - and this is very important! From this place of perfect fellowship with Him one begins to understand the way that He operates, they begin to understand that He is indeed an omnipotent and omniscient God who knows them through and through - even to the deepest fibre of their being. He is a God that desires only what is best for His children and, again, as one gains a revelation of His "absolute" faithfulness, they shall come to the place wherein they know beyond a shadow of a doubt that He will never fail them nor forsake them. These are all things which must be burned indelibly into our hearts if we are truly going to walk in the fulness of what God has called us to. It should be very clear by now that one who is truly desirous of abiding in Kingdom-life and true Kingdom-position cannot operate in this earth with a heart full of fear.

**ANY FEAR OR WORRY ON THE PART OF THE CHRISTIAN IS
CONSIDERED BY GOD AS MISTRUST TOWARD HIM**

As children of God we must learn to operate in faith at ALL times. In every

situation we come across it always comes down to two choices: we are either going to believe (trust in) or not believe God's Word in any given moment of any given day. As we operate "in Christ" - through a sole dependence upon the Word of God - we exercise faith, but it must be clearly understood that should we choose to operate in the "flesh" (our "own" understanding) then, through our fear and self-effort, we are found to be exercising unbelief. Any fear or worry on the part of the Christian is considered by God as mistrust toward Him and, if maintained, a spirit of rebellion will most certainly attach itself to that "bad ground".

IF THE WORD OF GOD SAYS, BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING, THEN WE HAVE NOTHING TO BE ANXIOUS FOR AND IF THE WORD OF GOD SAYS, DO NOT FEAR THEN WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!

We, as children of God, do not have the "right" to fear and worry, for if the Word of God says"be anxious for nothing" then we have nothing to be anxious for and if the Word of God says: "Do not fear" then we have nothing to fear (Philippians 4:6)! In this most critical hour we must come to a deep realization of the "absoluteness" of God's Word (character and personality). The truth of the matter is that if the Father has given us a command then we can be assured through and through that He has already made the provision for us to be empowered to carry out that command - in perfect accordance with the desires of His heart. This is the essence of the Word of God, the essence of His faithfulness - for He indeed is watching over His Word to perform it.

HOW FOOLISH IT IS TO BE OFFENDED AT GOD!

If there are things in our life (motivations and desires) which are not in perfect accordance with the Word (Will) of God then it is because we have not yet truly believed that Word or received and maintained a revelation of His Will! The Father is faithful, and if this has become the case in our lives then we must continue on in the Word of God until we discover the ground for unbelief and rebellion within us - through the illumination of the Holy Spirit. How foolish it is to be offended at God! He "is" faithfulness. He "is" integrity. He "is" love - and He cannot fail. So let us NEVER blame others and let us NEVER be found blaming God for any shortcomings which may manifest in our life, but rather let us humble ourselves in His presence continually and allow the light of His Word to flood our hearts - continually exposing and removing any ground of unbelief within us.

THIS FELLOWSHIP IN THE INNER CHAMBER INSTILLS WITHIN US A DEEP AND TRUE HUMILITY (HEART-DEPENDENCE AND TRUST) WHICH CAUSES US TO SEEK AT ALL TIMES TO BE DEPENDENT UPON THE FATHER FOR ALL THINGS, AND PREVENTS US FROM EXALTING OUR THOUGHTS ABOVE THE REVEALED KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WORD (WILL)

The more that we come to know the Father intimately - through fellowshiping in His presence and with His Word - the more we come to realize how little we truly know and, thus, it is always a very "humbling" experience to fellowship with the Father in His presence. This fellowship in the "inner chamber" instills within us a deep and true humility (heart-dependence and trust) which causes us to seek at all times to be dependent upon the Father for ALL things, and prevents us from exalting our thoughts above the revealed knowledge of His Word (Will). Any dependence upon ourselves, any looking to the "world" for the meeting of our needs, breeds pride and rebellion within us and leads us into a deeper dependence upon the things of the world. This will eventually lead to corruption and death and the darkness in one's life - a most dangerous practice in this final hour! This is exactly why the Father calls us to be separated from the world and to keep our hearts and minds set on the things above and not the things below.

"CULTIVATE FAITHFULNESS"

...."Do not fret because of evildoers, be not envious toward wrongdoers. For they will wither quickly like the grass, and fade like the green herb. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness"....

Psalm 37:1-3

The expression "cultivate faithfulness" blesses me greatly! It paints the picture of cultivating the same way that one cultivates a garden to produce healthy and maximum fruit. For us, as Christians it means doing all those things - day in and day out that are necessary for us to come into a continually deeper knowledge of the Father and His Word and, thus, a deeper trust and faithfulness towards Him

- knowing that He is faithful in all.

**IT IS ONLY AS WE TRUST HIM (THROUGH AN ABIDING FAITH)
THAT WE ALLOW HIM TO WORK IN THE FULNESS OF THE
MEASURE HE DESIRES TO IN ANY GIVEN MOMENT**

...."Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him and He will do it"....

vs. 4-5

The Word here does not say He will give you the desires of your "flesh", but rather the desires of your heart. As our heart is purified and cleansed before Him then the true desires - the eternal desires of the Father's heart - shall become our desires and from this perfect spiritual positioning - we can know and be assured that He will meet our every need, as we continue on in the narrow path of perfect obedience. Once again we see the importance of trusting God for ALL things - for it is only as we trust Him (through an abiding faith) that we allow Him to work in the fulness of the measure He desires to in any given moment.

**FEAR AND WORRY AND ANXIETY WILL ALWAYS LEAD US INTO
DOING THINGS WHICH ARE APART FROM THE WILL OF GOD**

.... "And He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your judgement as the noonday. Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. Cease from anger and forsake wrath; do not fret, it leads only to evil doing"....

vs. 6-8

Fear and worry and anxiety will always lead us into doing things which are apart from the will of God and in turn do those things (unconsciously) that are in accordance with those things which Satan desires to accomplish in his attempt to divide and destroy the Church. As one begins to read the Word and meditate upon it, they shall come to the full realization that it is not a "harmless" thing to retain fear in their lives - and that it is something which must be removed from the midst of God's people entirely. Being anxious and worrying can lead only to evil doing

on our part - whereas faith (trust) through the total acknowledgement of the Father and His Word in all of our ways will always lead us to do the will of God. This heart-position keeps the faithful one "above" the schemes of the Evil One and, because its sole dependence remains fixed upon the revealed knowledge of God's Word, they can never be used to impart darkness and death by him - through fear and darkness.

"HEART-TRUST"

...."For evildoers will be cut off, but those who wait for (on) the Lord, they will inherit the land"....

vs. 9

The expression "wait for the Lord" means exactly what it says. It means to wait upon the Lord for every instruction, for every detail of our life and ministry - and it is always to be the product of a deep "heart-trust" of the Father and His Word - a deep heart-trust that is the spontaneous result of perfect fellowship with Him in His Presence. As one comes into a deep revelation of the faithfulness of God, they are enabled to wait upon God - walking by faith in His Word and never allowing themselves to be influenced (moved) by their physical circumstances. To walk in any way apart from the wisdom of God is to "sow to the flesh" and that of course can only reap death and corruption in one's life. As we diligently practice an absolute dependence upon the Father and His Word in EVERY facet of our lives, THEN the Holy Spirit will bring us to the position wherein we are those who truly abide in the position of "waiting upon God" - a waiting that is the catalyst to one abiding in perfect obedience.

AS ONE DAILY HUMBLER THEMSELVES BEFORE THE FATHER AND HIS WORD THEY SHALL BE CONTINUALLY ENABLED (EMPOWERED) TO RECEIVE AND EXPERIENCE THE FULLNESS OF THEIR INHERITANCE

...."Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no more; and you will look carefully for his place, and he will not be there. But the humble will inherit the land, and will delight themselves in abundant prosperity"....

vs.10-11

These are wonderful promises of God. The land spoken of here in verse 11 is symbolic of the fulness of our inheritance in Christ. As one daily humbles themselves before the Father and His Word they shall be continually enabled (empowered) to receive and experience the "fulness of their inheritance" (the fulness of our salvation in Christ) - and it is because of these things that they will indeed delight themselves in abundant prosperity - a superabundant prosperity (spirit, soul, body and financially) that is the spontaneous manifestation of true, Kingdom-living and service. Quite simply, if one does not have that abundant prosperity manifesting in their life and ministry (the life and love of God flowing through them), it is because they have not truly humbled themselves before Him - on His terms - and thus they have retained a grip upon their own life and ministry to some degree.

HIS WORD WILL ALWAYS BE THERE

...."Depart from evil and do good, so you will abide forever. For the Lord loves justice, and does not forsake His godly ones, they are preserved forever; but the descendants of the wicked will be cut off. The righteous will inherit the land, and dwell in it forever. The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. The law of God is in his heart; his steps do not slip"....

Psalm 37:27-31

All of the words found in this portion of scripture are just simple sentences, but as one opens their heart to receive the living Word it shall become real to them, and they shall come to know beyond a shadow of doubt that God will never forsake them. One may "choose" to forsake Him in their foolishness, but He will NEVER forsake them and His Word will always be there if one should choose to repent and incline their heart back towards Him through a uniting of their faith with His Word (Hebrews 13:5-8).

OUR MOUTH SHALL UTTER WORDS OF FAITH, WORDS OF WISDOM AND WORDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ONLY WHEN WE HAVE TAKEN THE STEPS TO FILL OUR HEART TO OVERFLOWING WITH THE WORD OF GOD

"The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice."

Why? Because "the law of God is in his heart (Matthew 12:34). Our mouth shall utter words of faith, words of wisdom and words of righteousness only when we have taken the steps to fill our heart to "overflowing" with the Word of God. Our steps shall not slip because - as the love of God is shed abroad in our heart by the power of the Holy Spirit - we shall "allow" Him to lead us step by step. Although the path of righteousness is narrow and there is no turning to the left or right, our steps are firm and sure, moment by moment, day by day, because we are upheld by the "power" of God in ALL things - as we faithfully seek to walk in perfect obedience at all cost to ourselves.

HE DESIRES US TO REMAIN IN THE SECRET PLACE OF HIS PRESENCE

...."Wait for the Lord, and keep His way, and He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off you will see it"

vs.34

This whole area of "waiting on the Lord" can be likened to a parent and a child walking along in a rainstorm with one umbrella and the child keeps wanting to go out ahead of the parent (or they desire to lag behind) and the result is: to the degree they fall behind or go ahead they step out from under the umbrella which the parent is holding - and therefore allow themselves to be affected by all those things which are outside the umbrella. It is no different for us, as God's children, for He desires us to "dwell" in the "secret place of His presence" - walking moment to moment by faith in His Word and in perfect obedience to His commands. It is only in this place that we can come to "know" that we are totally protected and empowered in EVERY facet of our life and ministry - and that our needs are always met according to His perfect purpose. We do not in any way want to be like the little child, either moving ahead or falling behind, we want to be found walking step by step with the Father - empowered by Him in all things, having come to a clear realization of the fulness of the covenant which we have with Him in Christ. When we "dwell" in the presence of the Almighty we can be assured that - regardless of what happens "circumstantially" - He will continue to plough a path through the wickedness and the evil and the darkness of this world by His great and awesome power - continually using us to both build His Church and establish His Kingdom in the earth.

ATTEMPTING TO MEET OUR NEEDS IN OUR OWN STRENGTH IS FUTILE AND SERVES ONLY TO ROB US OF THE TRUE SPIRITUAL LIFE WE HAVE IN CHRIST

I remember clearly the Lord saying to me one day, "I will meet all of your needs if you will allow me to". At that time it really struck my thinking because He said, "if you allow me to" - which of course pointed out something in me which was not allowing Him to have His way in my life. As the Father dealt with me in those areas I learned to step aside in EVERY circumstance and, thus allow HIM to meet my needs. He was faithful to continually show me where to apply my faith - thus allowing Him to supply "all". Attempting to meet our needs in our own strength is futile and serves only to rob us of the true "spiritual life" we have in Christ. After one's mind is renewed to God's way of thinking in this area it becomes very hard for them to continue on in their own strength - knowing that they will have chosen to walk in less than the Father's best for them. If the child of God does not learn to choose the Father's best in all things then, ultimately, they shall surely experience "Satan's worst".

THE FATHER IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL TO SHOW THE FRUIT OF OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH TO US AS WE TRAVEL ON FROM FAITH TO FAITH AND GLORY TO GLORY

We must come to the place wherein we refuse to take a thought from our own understanding - and be found seeking the Father and His Wisdom at ALL times. As we are faithful to develop this attitude - an attitude which is only developed through a continued diligence in bringing every thought captive to the revealed Word of God - we shall be found to have built our entire life and ministry upon the solid foundation which is Christ. We can liken our spiritual growth in the Christian life to watching a tree grow. If we stand attempting to "see" the growth in the tree day by day then it will "seem" to us that it is not growing at all, but if we depart from that place and return at a certain time in the future we shall surely see the growth in the tree. In knowing that we are to keep our eyes fixed on the things that are not seen, rather than on the things which are seen (2 Corinthians 4:18) we must proceed on, moment by moment in faith, knowing that the Father shall surely provide the "increase" in our life and ministry - spirit, soul, body and financially. Regardless of what it may "seem" like at times the Father is always faithful to show the fruit of our spiritual growth to us as we travel on from faith to

faith and glory to glory.

OUR GOD IS AN ABSOLUTE GOD AND HE REQUIRES AN ABSOLUTE SURRENDER AND AN ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE

Again, the Father desires to take the "full responsibility" for our sustenance in this earth and we rob Him of the pleasure which He derives from blessing us if we refuse to depend upon Him for ALL things. One can imagine what it would be like if an earthly parent were attempting to bless their children and they kept refusing the blessing because of an "assurance" in their own thinking of their ability to meet their own needs. One can see clearly that such actions have their root in prideful arrogance. Pride will ALWAYS prevent us from receiving the blessings of God and it is certain that to the degree that one depends upon themselves it is to that degree that they shall not be able to receive from God. So if we are in a position where we are finding it difficult to receive things from God it may just point out some "ground" within us that needs to be fully exposed and removed by the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to cast all of our burdens and care and worry - and every desire we have to lean on our own understanding - upon the Father. The Word of God states, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart" and "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding" (Luke 10:27) (Proverbs 3:5-6). Our God is an absolute God and He requires an absolute surrender and an absolute obedience. If we settle for anything less than a perfect obedience to this Divine Requirement then we shall find ourselves settling for less than what the Father has provided for us in Christ. As we faithfully seek to abide in that place of an absolute surrender we must ALWAYS remember that what God commands us to do is for our greatest good (greatest eternal benefit) - always!

IF WE REJOICE IN THE LORD CONTINUALLY AND FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON THE WORD OF GOD THEN WE - THROUGH THE POWER OF GOD - WILL HAVE OUR UNFAVOURABLE CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGED

...."Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension, shall

guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally brethren whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things"....

Philippians 4:4-8

The scriptures that we are studying today are scriptures that EVERY believer needs to have a strong and deep revelation of in their heart! This portion of the Word clearly expresses the will of God on the whole subject of fear and casting our care upon Him. They also express His heart-desire to be in "absolute control" of our lives (this being the result of our will continually aligned with His will for our life and ministry - a "control" that directs us and leads us into the experience of the "fulness" of our inheritance in Christ). The scripture here does not call for us to rejoice in our circumstances, but rather in the Lord (the Word) and the fulness of the salvation (soteria - deliverance from every temporal evil) He has provided for us. If we rejoice in the Lord continually and focus our attention on the Word of God THEN we - through the power of God - will have our "unfavourable" circumstances changed. As we truly cast our care upon the Lord we have the assurance that He is near - and that His perfect deliverance is coming soon. As we confess with our mouth the words which express our belief in the things which the Father has already done for us in Christ, we shall "know" that He is near and that He is indeed watching over His Word to perform it.

**AS WE CONTINUALLY EXERCISE FAITH IN GOD EVEN WHILE
WORRY AND FEAR AND ANXIETY ARE GOING ON AROUND US,
THEN ALL THOSE AROUND US SHALL INDEED SEE THAT WE HAVE
SOMETHING THAT THEY LACK**

The word "forbearing" in verse 5 is the Greek word "epieikes" and it means a gentle or a yielding or a sensitive spirit before God. It is important to realize the fact that as we continually humble ourselves before God that people will see in us an "unselfishness", and they shall see clearly the love of God being poured out through us - the fruit of the Spirit being continually manifested in our lives. As we continue to walk in love - regardless of our circumstances - they shall see our faith and, ultimately, the "deliverance" which that faith has brought about and, thus, we shall be a sign and a wonder to all those around us. We must realize that the world is "geared" to worry, but that we are "geared" to faith. As we continually exercise

faith in God even while worry and fear and anxiety are going on around us, then all those around us shall indeed see that we have something that they lack. But if we allow ourselves to fall into the same trap as those in the world do - that is, believing the lies of Satan rather than the Word of God - then we shall not be ,in any way, "distinguishable" from the non-believer. This is why it is such an abomination to the Father when his children worry - and thus allow themselves to be controlled by fear - for in doing so their allegiance "remains" with the lies of Satan rather than the Word of God! The Word commands us to have no anxiety about anything! Again, we must remember that if the Word commands us to have no anxiety, fear or worry THEN, in reality, there is nothing to be anxious for or worry about or fear! So let us realize that anything that attempts to cause us anxiety is a lie of Satan and let us replace it immediately with the revealed knowledge of God's Word.

BELIEVING PRAYER

We make our "desires" known to God through definite requests. In our study of prayer we looked at the fact that "true prayer" is a product of filling our hearts with God's Word, which in turn enables God to conform our hearts to His and reveal His will to us by the Holy Spirit through our spirit - which then causes His (God's) desire to rise up in our hearts. Then, as we speak those desires in "words" - that cause us to set ourselves in perfect agreement with that which the Father is already desirous of accomplishing in our lives - we enter the realm of "believing" prayer. We must understand that we do not just utter any words but only those words which are given to us through the unction of the Holy Spirit. As we speak the words which God has given us, we thank Him for "already" having accomplished our deliverance and we continue to call the things which do not yet exist in the "physical" realm as though they already did (Romans 4:17). As we speak the words of God in the face of EVERY circumstance then whatever aspect of "salvation" is needed to deliver us will manifest itself in our lives.

THROUGH DILIGENT PRACTICE OF THESE PRINCIPLES ONE REACHES THE POINT WHERE THEY WOULD NOT DARE TO APPROACH ANY SITUATION IN ANY OTHER WAY

As we begin to release our faith in a situation where fear, anxiety, or worry are attempting to rise up (although the "physical" manifestation "outwardly" may

not be resolved) we have the assurance that the peace of God - which passes (overrides) all understanding - shall come and guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Why? So that we can continue to release faith in the word that we are believing - and thus continue to "overcome" until the physical manifestation comes in the "due" time. One cannot fail to inherit the blessing that is needed as these steps (faith and patience) are put into action. Through diligent practice of these principles one reaches the point where they would not dare to approach ANY situation in any other way - and that is precisely what the Father desires each one of His children to do. The whole key to the true Christian life is to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus - the Word of God - and to bring every thought captive to the "revelation" of that holy Word. As we are faithful to practice diligence in these things our mind shall continually be renewed and through that renewing we shall begin to experience and live out a life which is devoid of fear!

WHEN WE PRAISE GOD...WE ARE EXERCISING AN ABSOLUTE FAITH

When we praise God - believing we have already received all those things which we have sought for in prayer (and yet the circumstances still seem to indicate that it will not come to pass) - we are exercising an "absolute" faith. That is, a faith which is devoid of any dependence whatsoever upon physical circumstance, or for that matter anything which is perceived through the five physical senses, and is dependent fully on the "unadulterated" Word of God. The exercising of an absolute faith exerts tremendous pressure on all of the forces of Satan which are attempting to work against us - even to the point of inflicting "spiritual pain" upon them! As we exercise the force of faith - through our continual praise and confessing of God's Word (will) - we cannot fail to inherit the blessing! It is NEVER a matter of time, it is a matter of believing. As we make the quality decision to believe God's Word ABOVE ALL ELSE we shall learn how to receive from God and we shall become totally free to advance in our spiritual growth - from faith to faith and glory to glory.

WHEN WE GAIN A REVELATION OF THE FAITHFULNESS AND LOVE OF THE FATHER IN HIS DEALINGS WITH US IT ALLOWS US TO ADVANCE IN OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

As we go forth in obedience from faith to faith we are - through our

continued obedience - "allowing" the Holy Spirit to remove ground of fear after ground of fear from within us. When we gain a revelation of the faithfulness and love of the Father in His dealings with us it allows us to advance in our spiritual growth - keeping us continually in the place where we truly desire every ground of fear to be confronted quickly - wholly determined to replace the "lie" we had been believing with the Word of truth. It is through this "process" that those who are faithful come to the place wherein the lies of Satan shall no longer have any serious affect upon their life and ministry. When the child of God walks in a very high degree of consecration - separated from the world and unto the Word of God, their heart being saturated with that Word) -they shall come to the place wherein they are free from fear, and even though fear may attempt to rise up against them, it shall not find any ground "within" them.

WITHOUT THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD WITHIN THEIR HEART IN ABUNDANCE, THEY SHALL BE OVERCOME BY FEAR AND DARKNESS

As we continually keep our mind on the "things above" and saturate our heart with the Word of God, then each time an opportunity arises for us to be influenced by the "cares of this world", the Word of God which "fills" our heart shall rise up and cast down any fear-filled thoughts which Satan attempts to influence us with. If the child of God remains in an unrenewed state of mind then when a potentially fearful situation comes upon them they will be "bombarded" with the lies of Satan - and without the power of God's Word within their heart in abundance, they shall be "overcome" by fear and darkness. We must understand that our entire life and ministry must be controlled by the power of God - through the "allowal" of the Holy Spirit to fill us and consume us with the love of God. For it is ONLY in this way that the Father is able to cause us to rise above all the "temporal" evil of this world - and thus continually live the overcoming life in Christ that is our heritage.

IT IS SATAN'S FIRST AND FOREMOST DESIRE TO INFLUENCE US TO ACT APART FROM THE WILL OF GOD

One must never "keep on" casting their care upon the Lord - that is, cast their care of a certain situation or circumstance upon the Lord and then take it back again only to cast that same care on the Lord over and over. One must cast

the whole of their care - in any situation which arises - upon the Lord and then, by faith (regardless of all physical circumstance), continue to know that God shall cause them to emerge victorious in Christ. This points out the extreme importance of "bringing every thought captive" to the revealed knowledge of God's Word. For the failure to do so will SURELY allow Satan to retain a degree of control where our thought-life is concerned, and it is no secret that it is Satan's first and foremost desire to influence us to act apart from the will of God. That is, to walk in selfishness and fear - thus violating the "law" of love.

WE WILL SEE WITHIN THIS WORD TO JOSHUA THE PRINCIPLES THAT SHALL CAUSE US TO WALK IN THE FULNESS OF OUR INHERITANCE IN CHRIST

...."No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them"....

Joshua 1:5-6

In this chapter we find some interesting principles which we need to take heed of and obey. This portion of scripture deals with God's charge to Joshua. He had just taken over from Moses and now was "responsible" for leading the people of Israel into the fulness of their inheritance (the Promised Land) - and this of course is a perfect type and symbol of the "five-fold" ministry today, which is called to lead the children of God into the fulness of their inheritance and salvation in Christ. We will see within this word to Joshua the principles which shall cause us to walk in the fulness of our inheritance in Christ - and thus cause us to experience the fulness of God's salvation in our daily lives.

WE SHALL HAVE SUCCESS WHEREVER WE GO. WHY? BECAUSE WE SHALL BE GOD-LED AND GOD-EMPOWERED IN ALL THINGS

...."Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to go according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, go that you may have success wherever you go"....

vs. 7

Many get confused when people begin talking about the "law". To clarify this point: the law came in long after God's covenant with Abraham was established in the earth and, so, when we are talking about the law, there is the "Mosaic law", that is the law of God which He placed in the hands of His people to "expose" their sin - and reveal to them their "total inability" to carry it out in their "own strength". As the people of God then obeyed the words (instructions) which they were given this would enable them to experience the blessings of God. On the other hand when they disobeyed them then they would experience the "curse" (Deuteronomy 28:1-15). For us, as children of God today, the word "law", referred to here, means the entire Word of God, that is, the word which was given to men and inspired by the Holy Spirit - whether written or spoken. We are commanded to take heed of ALL of the Word of God and to not turn from that Word to the right or to the left - again, a type and symbol of the narrow path of perfect obedience. Then, says God, we shall have success wherever we go. Why? Because we shall be God-led and God-empowered in ALL things.

IF THE CHILD OF GOD ENTERS INTO THE PLACE OF AN ABSOLUTE TRUST AND DEPENDENCE UPON THE FATHER AND HIS WORD THEN THEY ARE GOING TO SUCCEED AND BE PROSPEROUS

...."This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success"....

vs. 8

We are called to let NO unwholesome word proceed from our mouth, but only such a word as is good for the edification of the hearer according to the need of the moment, that we might be vessels of God's grace to all who cross our path (Ephesians 4:29). The way that we ensure obedience to this command is to meditate on the Word of God day and night. Every child of God must come to the deep realization that at any given moment they are either meditating upon the revealed Word of God or the fear-filled lies of Satan. The word "meditate" in the Hebrew is the word "hagah" which means to think upon, to meditate, to ponder, to study, and to talk. From this definition it becomes very clear that what this word encompasses is that we are to "abide" in the Word of God - moment by moment, twenty four hours a day. In other words the Word of God is to become our entire

life and we are to keep our attention "fixed" upon that holy Word - in whichever way we are led to by the Holy Spirit. The divine requirement of God is for every one of His children to both love Him and seek Him with all of their heart all of the time. If we truly desire to fulfill the fulness of the Father's purpose in our life and ministry then we must have a "revelation" of the fact that it is only through the living Word of God and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit that we can possibly adhere to this absolute command from on high. In this most critical hour it is certain that if the child of God enters into the place of an absolute trust and dependence upon the Father and His Word then they are going to succeed and be prosperous. But if one continues to remain in a place wherein they continue to depend upon themselves then they are going to fail and reap corruption and great darkness in their walk.

WORRY IS NOTHING MORE OR NOTHING LESS THAN MEDITATING ON THE LIES OF SATAN

Every Christian must come to the clear realization that it is the sum total of the words that they speak that cause them to experience the "fulness" of the glorious salvation that is theirs, in Christ. Every word we speak is either going to come into agreement with God and what He is seeking to accomplish or it is going to be in disagreement with His will. The Father's best for us is to live in His "absolute life" (Zoe) at ALL times - refusing, at all cost to ourselves, to remain in bondage to death in ANY of its forms. Up until this time fear and worry have been prevalent in many areas of the church - even to the point where some will fight to justify their right to worry and live in fear and selfishness when, in reality, as children of God, they have no "right" to worry or fear. Worry is nothing more or nothing less than meditating on the lies of Satan and therefore, from this, we are able to see clearly that faith and trust in God are exactly the opposite: they are a product of meditating in His Word continually (Romans 10:17).

TO THE DEGREE WE FEED UPON THE WORD OF GOD - AND THUS ALLOW HIS LOVE TO BE SHED ABROAD IN OUR HEART - IT IS TO THAT DEGREE THAT ANY GROUND OF FEAR REMAINING SHALL BE REMOVED FROM OUR HEART

...."There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love"....

1 John 4:18

This scripture ties in perfectly with the scriptures that we looked at previously. As one feeds and meditates upon the Word of God continually the incorruptible seed of that holy Word enters into their heart and the Holy Spirit causes it to be revealed to them in just the way that is needed - according to the fulness of the Father's purpose. To the degree that one meditates upon the Word of God and thus, to the degree that one comes to trust in the Word of God, it is to that degree that the Holy Spirit shall be enabled to continually shed the Father's love abroad in their heart. There is no fear in love, and we know that love casts out fear! Therefore, from this, we can see that to the degree we "feed" upon the Word of God - and thus allow His love to be shed abroad in our heart - it is to that degree that any ground of fear remaining shall be removed from our heart. If we are diligent in our handling of God's Word day in and day out THEN not only will we be successful and prosper in all that we do, but there will also be no ground left for fear to work in our lives. If there still remains ground for fear within us then it is not for us to worry or get upset in any way and thus "fear the fear". It is for us to realize by faith that as we go to the Word of God and "allow" the love of God to be shed abroad in our heart, that that perfect love shall cast out that fear.

TO THE DEGREE WE FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER AND HIS WORD OR WITH THE WORLD, IT IS TO THAT DEGREE THAT WE SHALL EITHER SOW TO THE SPIRIT OR SOW TO THE FLESH

As Christians, we must come to realize that meditating upon the things of this world will produce within us a strong desire to sow to the things of the flesh - and we know that sowing to the flesh shall reap some form of death and darkness in our walk! But as we meditate upon the things above and keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus it will create within us not only a clean heart, but also an attitude of sowing to the Spirit - which shall in turn cause the absolute life of God to abide in us superabundantly to a continually greater degree. To the degree we fellowship with the Father and His Word or with the world, it is to that degree that we shall either "sow to the Spirit" or "sow to the flesh". If we sow to the flesh and repentance is not immediately forthcoming then until it is, we shall feel a

continually stronger pull towards sin and "fellowship" with the world.

THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS TO BRING EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE...TO THE REVEALED WORD OF GOD

The key to success in the true Christian life is to bring EVERY thought captive - moment by moment (if necessary) - to the "revealed" Word of God. As the Christian brings every thought captive they will get stronger and stronger in their faith and they will spontaneously seek to "sow" only to the Spirit of God in all things. If one truly desires to fulfill the fulness of the Father's purpose for their life and ministry then they MUST be found guarding their heart with ALL diligence at ALL times - continually avoiding that first step towards sin and the world. It is then - this time of "guarding diligently", that they shall truly begin to experience the fulness of their inheritance in Christ. Again - and very important to remember - as one brings every thought captive to the Word of God and as they bring every word and action in line with what the Father is calling them to do, in perfect obedience, then they shall become stronger and stronger in the Lord and, thus, the pull of sin and the desire to "conform" to the world and its ways shall decrease radically.

THE FIVE AREAS WHICH SATAN USES IN HIS ATTEMPT TO CONTROL THE CHILDREN OF GOD

...."And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? And how will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown: and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. And in a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the Word, immediately receive it with joy; and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary, then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, and the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word and it becomes unfruitful. And these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear

the Word and accept it, and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold".....

Mark 4:13-20

From this scripture we are going to see the five areas which Satan uses in his attempt to control the children of God.

The five areas are:

1. afflictions;
2. persecution for the Word's sake;
3. the cares (worries) of the world;
4. deceitfulness of riches;
5. the lust for other things apart from God (self-desire);

It is through these five things that "all" of Satan's schemes against the children of God have their basis (open door). In other words, when Satan comes against us - in order to separate us from the living Word of God and remove that Word from our hearts - his plan will be formulated through at least one of these five areas. He may be attempting to try and cause one to take a thought for an affliction which he is attempting to lay on them - perhaps symptoms of physical illness. He may be trying to cause one to succumb to the persecution which shall come for the Word's sake - and which shall befall everyone who is seeking to live a godly life in Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 5:5). The problem is not found in the fact that these things come against us - for it is certain that Satan shall come against us in an attempt to "overcome" us. The key is: How will we handle it?

THE CARES OF THE WORLD ARE THOSE THINGS WHICH ATTEMPT TO DISTRACT US FROM OUR TRUE SPIRITUAL REALITY - THE WORD OF GOD AND THE KINGDOM

The cares of this world cause us to take a thought for our own sustenance in the earth - and thus they only serve to conform us to the pride and self-effort which dominate those who live in "fellowship" with the "world". In the area of the "cares of this world" the word that is used for care in the Greek is "merimna" which comes from the verb "merizo" which means to draw in different directions, to distract. So then, the cares of the world are those things which attempt to distract us from our true spiritual reality - the Word of God and the Kingdom. The deceitfulness of riches is able to be used by Satan against us whenever we "maintain" a greater love for the "riches" of this present world rather than an abiding love for the Father and His Word. The desire for "other" things - that is, those things which are apart from God (the desire to be independent of God and thus unknowingly remain content in sin and rebellion) - allows Satan to "remove" the Word of God from our heart on an ongoing basis. Thus, if self-desire is maintained it will cause one to continually lean upon their own understanding (because of their hard-heartedness) rather than the Spirit of wisdom and revelation.

IF THE CHILD OF GOD IS FAITHFUL TO LOVE IN THE FACE OF EVERY ATTACK - AT ALL COST TO THEMSELVES -THEN SURELY THEY WILL ADVANCE IN THEIR SPIRITUAL WALK

Affliction (in the form of anything that we have been redeemed from in Christ) and persecution (for righteousness' sake) are geared to "wear down" the child of God over a period of time - with a view to keeping them in a weakened state spiritually. Disappointment, discouragement and ultimately disheartenment (an entire letting go of revelation knowledge through a heart-decision rooted and grounded in unbelief) are the aims of the Evil One and his forces while the Father's aim when these attacks arise is for his children to continually resist the "affliction" until breakthrough (the "physical" manifestation) comes, and continually resist the persecution through prayer (fellowship with Him) and a continual blessing (love) of all those who are used by Satan to come against them. If the child of God is faithful to love in the face of EVERY attack - at ALL cost to themselves - then surely they will advance in their spiritual walk - all the time being perfectly prepared by the Holy Spirit to walk in the "fulness" of their Kingdom-position in Christ.

AS WE LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD WITH ALL OF OUR HEART, THEN WE SHALL NOT SUCCUMB TO A LUST FOR OTHER THINGS

All of these areas are geared to distract us from keeping our eyes "fixed" (focused) on Jesus. But as we consistently choose to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus all of these things shall pass away before us having been overcome by our faith. It is certain that Satan will indeed attempt to use these five areas to cause us to worry and fear, but as we diligently maintain the Word of God that has been "revealed" to our heart he shall be stopped cold! In other words, as we obtain a revelation of the fact that "by His stripes we were healed", and when we understand and have a revelation of the fact that ALL those who seek to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, and when we understand that we are called to walk in love and pray for those who persecute us and to love our enemies, THEN every one of his attempts shall be cut short and stopped! As we gain a revelation of the fact that we are to be anxious for nothing; as we gain a revelation of the fact that the love of money is the root of all evil - and thus become obedient in money matters, operating in giving rather than "hoarding" and selfishness, THEN we shall be enabled to walk above his schemes in that area. As we are diligently faithful and obedient to all of the commandments of God, and as we love the Lord our God with all of our heart, THEN we shall not succumb to a lust for other things - that is, a desire to be independent of Father and His will for our life and ministry at ANY time.

REVELATION KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO OVERCOMING SATAN IN ALL THINGS!

So again, from these things we are able to see clearly that "revelation knowledge" is the key to overcoming Satan in "all things"! That is precisely why Jesus said, that the gates of Hell will not stand against the revealed knowledge of God's Word (Matthew 16:18). Because many children of God have not "received" the authority they have been given in Christ, they leave themselves wide open to attack by Satan when, in reality, he should be "constantly fleeing" before them in stark terror! We, as children of God and servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, have been given "all" authority, and as we take that authority we shall "control" Satan. The "only way" that he is able to control us is through fear. In other words, if we have no ground for fear to work within us then he can have no control over us!

IT IS OBEDIENCE (LOVE) THAT RELEASES THE ANOINTING

...."for though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ"....

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

As one continually brings every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (Who is the Word of God) they shall become "open channels" of God's life and blessing to all those who cross their path - breathing life to a dying world and a "weakened" church in all that they say and do. It is obedience to the Word of God that releases the Anointing that abides within to meet the needs of the people. As the Christian gains a revelation of the "fact" that they have been freed from fear and that they are "called" to destroy the strongholds of Satan, they THEN become pure vessels of the wisdom (revelation knowledge) that will bring down Satan's strongholds in the minds and hearts of the people - the very things that "allow" the Evil One to keep them in bondage to fear, and therefore control them. To the degree that the child of God is controlled by fear, it is to that degree that they are controlled by Satan; to the degree that they are controlled by faith in God's Word, it is to that degree that they are controlled by the Holy Spirit. This is an "absolute" standard and there is no middle ground!

NONE OF OUR WORDS OR ACTIONS SHOULD EVER BE MOTIVATED BY FEAR

None of our words or actions should ever be motivated by fear but, rather, only by the love of God through faith in His Word. This is God's absolute standard for each one of us as we walk in this earth. We know that 2 Timothy 1:7 states that our Father did not give us a spirit of fear, but a Spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind. In light of these things, EVERY Christian must come to a deep realization that ANY continued reliance upon themselves only serves to put them into an ever-deepening bondage to a spirit of fear - while a continued reliance upon the Father and His Word puts them under the control of (an ever-deepening fusion with) the Holy Spirit.

IF ONE'S FIRST AND FOREMOST HEART-DESIRE IS NOT TO ACCOMPLISH THE FULNESS OF GOD'S WILL, THEN THEY SHALL IN NO WAY BE ABLE TO DISCERN WHAT THEIR NEEDS ARE IN LIGHT OF THE TRUE KINGDOM-SERVICE THEY ARE CALLED TO

...."For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a Spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, Abba! Father! The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him"....

Romans 8:14-17

I am firmly convinced that until the child of God has a revelation of the fact that they are exactly that: "a child of God" and, thus, they begin to allow the Holy Spirit to develop a picture in their heart of the Heavenly Father as a trustworthy parent - a parent who continually meets their every need perfectly according to the fulness of His purpose for their life - then they are still going to attempt to sustain themselves (through fear and self-effort) in some way. It is the Father's deepest heart-desire for each and every one of His children to enter into the place of an absolute dependence upon Him - trusting Him as a little child would. As one allows the Holy Spirit to work in their heart, what then happens is that they come to the clear realization that they are under the "Spirit of adoption" - and from that place they begin to gain a continually deeper revelation of the reality that they are indeed a child of God. With that revelation and an ever-growing intimacy with the Father and His Word comes the "true" knowledge that He is both willing and able to meet every one of their needs in the earth. But if one's first and foremost heart-desire is not to accomplish the "fulness" of God's will, THEN they shall, in no way, be able to discern what their "needs" are in light of the true Kingdom-service they are called to and, thus, they shall continue to live a life which seeks only to fulfil its own "lusts" (self-desire and self-agenda) apart from the will of God.

THE ONLY REASON A CHILD OF GOD IS HELD IN BONDAGE BY FEAR IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE A LACK OF REVEALED KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD

...."The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?"....

Psalm 27:1

David is saying quite clearly here that the Lord alone is his light and his salvation - his all - and as he considers these facts he asks the questions "Whom shall I fear?...Whom shall I dread?" In other words, David had come to the realization that he had no reason to fear anything as he lived his life in the center of the Father's will. These questions are questions that every Christian must ask themselves and, in asking and seeking, come to the deep realization that they have no need to fear or worry - for indeed the Greater One resides within them (1 John 4:4). The only reason a child of God is "held" in bondage by fear is because they have a "lack" of revealed knowledge of God's Word and they have failed to take the necessary steps in obedience to the Holy Spirit that would allow perfect love to both expose and cast out every ground of fear within them.

THERE ARE TIMES IN THE LIFE OF EVERY BELIEVER WHEN THEY MUST WALK THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WILL CAUSE THEM TO PUT THEIR FAITH AND TRUST IN THE FATHER AND HIS WORD - ALONE

We must keep in mind as we study this portion of scripture that David walked "experientially" through great persecutions. He was pursued through the wilderness by Saul and his army. He was forced to hide in caves even though he had been "Anointed" king over Israel and, yet, through all these things he continued on - trusting God that His Word was true regardless of any circumstances he himself had experienced. It was in those "precious" times, that David learned to depend entirely upon God. In the same way, there will come times in the life of every believer when they must walk through circumstances that will cause them to put their faith and trust in the Father and His Word - alone. It is as one consistently perseveres in these times - continually standing in faith - that ALL ground for fear to work shall be removed from their lives. To the degree that one "knows" the Father and His Word intimately, it is to that degree that fear shall be removed from their lives; so therefore, if one is aware of fear remaining within them they need only seek the Father and His Word to a greater degree and He will SURELY lead them and guide them and protect them and deliver them from all fear.

AS ONE IS FAITHFUL TO SPEAK THE APPROPRIATE PORTION OF GOD'S WORD THEN IT IS CERTAIN THAT THEIR REALITY WILL BE ACCORDING TO THE WORDS THAT THEY HAVE SPOKEN RATHER THAN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT SURROUND THEM

...."When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident"

vs. 2-3

A great confession in the midst of adverse circumstances is "my heart will not fear!" - for as one confesses this they shall continually "block" any attempt by a spirit of fear to get a grip upon them. As one confesses the fact that they refuse to fear, then they will not enter into fear - for in this act (step) of faith they shall allow the Holy Spirit to come upon the scene and cause (empower) them to walk "above" their situation. If one will faithfully confess any of these scriptures which we have studied here (particularly 2 Timothy 1:7) then they shall learn how to walk above fear - regardless of ANY circumstance. As one is faithful to speak the appropriate portion of God's Word THEN it is certain that their "reality" will be according the words that they have spoken rather than the circumstances that surround them.

Example:

"My heart will not fear! For my Father did not give me a spirit of fear but a Spirit of power, and of love and of a sound mind"!

As one confesses this in the face of Satan's attempts to remove their dependence from upon the Word of God, THEN the faith of God shall rise up within their heart and they shall keep Satan in a place of continually fleeing before them - as they continue to pursue the fulness of the Father's will for their life and ministry each day. Indeed, it is only through one's faith (trust) in God's Word that one is able to resist Satan - and the fact of the matter is that by confessing that Word every time he rears his ugly head they shall surely do him great harm - spiritually speaking!

ONE WHO TRULY ENTERS INTO CLOSE AND INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER GAINS A BUILT-IN DESIRE TO KNOW HIM TO A CONTINUALLY GREATER DEGREE

In Psalm 27:4 David gives us the key to what brought him to the place where he could make such a bold statement in the face of adversity as, "My heart will not fear":

...."One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord"....

David desired only to know the Lord and to seek Him first in all things. He desired only to fellowship with Him and to behold His ways. To truly know the Father is to desire to know Him more fully with each passing day. The one who truly enters into close and intimate fellowship with Him gains (by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit) a "built-in" desire to know Him to a continually greater degree. As one meditates the Word of God in the "secret" place of His presence, His Word is revealed to their heart and they gain deep insight into His Holy nature. Again, it is from this place of an abiding intimacy that ALL ground of fear shall be removed from the heart of the believer.

AS ONE COMES TO RELY UPON THE WORD OF GOD ALONE, THEN THE FATHER SHALL TRULY BE ENABLED TO TAKE CARE OF ALL OUR NEEDS - AND CONTINUALLY DIRECT US IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

...."For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; in the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me upon a rock. And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me; and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord"....

vs. 6

The Father has lifted us up above all our enemies; He has seated us at His right hand in the Heavenly places with Christ. Indeed, we are in the "ascended position of victory" in Christ, and as we continue on and pursue diligently the

things of God (faith and obedience) - keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus - THEN we shall be able to see and understand clearly that we need have no fear at any time, regardless of circumstances.

Psalm 94:19 states:

...."When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Thy consolations delight my soul"....

As one comes to rely upon the Word of God alone, then the Father shall truly be "enabled" to take care of all our needs - and continually direct us in the paths of righteousness.

Amen