

BUILDING THE BELIEVER

II

THE CHRISTIAN'S IDENTITY

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INTRODUCTION

The Building the Believer series is by design a series of short, easy to read teachings specifically written for Christians living in today's busy world. Each of these short lessons contain information that can release life changing revelations to the reader but only if the reader has made a choice to receive the understanding through prayer and revelation from the Holy Spirit. Nothing will come from God unless you ask for it therefore; ask Him to work with the booklet to open new insights and understandings to you.

An abbreviated version of each of the booklets in the series is available as a part of a larger work. This particular booklet is included as a chapter in the book "OUT OF THE FLESH". The booklets drawn from this work are Building the Believer I (The Economy of the Spirit), Building the Believer II (The Christian Identity), Building the Believer III (The Prophetic and Apostolic Assignments), Building the Believer IV (The Right Perspective), and Building the Believer V (The Marriage Covenant). Isa. 55:11 "*So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*" (KJV)¹

I commit this Word to accomplish the work God has sent it to do. It shall not return void (empty).

THE CHRISTIAN'S IDENTITY

We must face the fact we are created to be like God.

IDENTITY LOST

Probably the most defeating influence holding Christians down is the loss of their identity in the Lord. In Genesis 1:26-28, 26- *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. 27- So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28- God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." (NIV)¹*

Man has never done what he was told to do in Genesis chapter one. In these three verses, the Word of God is telling us what man was created to be, and anything less is a compromise and misses the mark. This was about the creation of Adam and we all know he gave his authority to the serpent: therefore, he (man) no longer had authority to subdue or have dominion or rule over the earth. This has been taught by a lot of pastors and teachers but so has the message of redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, the body of Christ either has not heard the message. Maybe because they have not been adequately taught or maybe they choose not to believe that Christ brought us back to the same authority given to man in the beginning. As I write this, I know that to miss the mark is sin and I, as well as the rest of the church, have been missing the mark. The evidence is in the shortage of supernatural testimony of the Lord. The miraculous is taking place. The miracles of God are happening all over the earth, all the time, but the body of Christ is still not seeing the Lord working with them as frequently as should be happening. This lack of power is probably because there has been too much pursuit of the miracles instead of the God of the miraculous.

Lets look at the authority given man in these scriptures first and then lets take a look at redemption:

Gen. 1:26 in the first phrase God said, “ Let us”- There has been a lot of teaching on the Trinity. Most of it giving the impression that there are three separate Gods, God the Father, God the Holy Spirit and God the Son. These three are not separate as in three different people but three facets of one God. Yes, He is a triune being and He made us in His image and likeness. We are triune beings. We are a spirit being, that is our identity. We each have a soul. The soul is of a spiritual substance and nature but also crosses over into the carnal realm. In the soul are the intellectual mind, the emotional mind and a decision-making ability. The soul does not own the spirit nor is it in control of the spirit. The spirit is the essence of the person and the soul is an integrated attachment to the spirit. The soul may be lost if a dead spirit is attached to it but if the spirit is alive the soul cannot be lost because the spirit is full in communion with God, who is the source of life. Both the spirit and the soul live or reside inside a physical body. The carnal nature fights with the Spirit. The carnal nature is the part of man rooted in the base, physical or animalistic house the spirit and soul live in while in the earth. The physical body is made of earth. The ministers of darkness were cast into the earth when they were cast out of the heavenlies. It is through this earthly, or bodily, connection the curse and death comes. If the soul is under the control of the flesh, it is carnal and will be led by carnal desires. However, if that carnal person chooses life and blessings they also choose Christ as their Lord and life is ignited in them. From that moment the living soul exists just as it was with Adam in the days of old. That is a living spirit with its attached soul.

“Make man in our image”- Please understand man is an Idol of God made by a creative act of God. We are the only Idols God will tolerate. “And according to our likeness”- Not only are we God images but we are like Him in every way. We are spirit beings who have the life giving breath of God in us. We must function as God functions because the whole of existence, both physical and spirit, are governed by His words. We are designed to speak creatively. If we look at our lives and are dissatisfied with what we see we can change it simply by changing the way we talk. Our current circumstances are a direct result of our previously spoken expectations.

“Let them rule”- The word rule is defined in the Strong’s Hebrew as follows:

7287 radah (raw-daw');

a primitive root; to tread down, i.e. subjugate; specifically, to crumble off:
KJV-- (come to, make to) have dominion, prevail against, reign, (bear, make to) rule, - r, over), take.¹ As you can see this word has an authoritarian flavor. However, it is by delegated authority as implied by use of the word let. Let whom? Them. The, them, being the creatures made in Gods image and likeness. The Idols God made, man. Man has a ruling spirit built into his makeup and will never stop ruling over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air or over everything that moves on the earth. The impulse to rule is the result of God having spoken. As individuals, we have choice and can resist God's command. Of course, we will suffer the consequence for having made the choice. However, mankind has a built in tendency to rule over the creation, specifically the fowl of the air and the fish of the sea and all of the creatures moving on the earth. Exercising authority over the earth itself comes from the same command. I used to be confounded by the arrogance of people belonging to various government agencies or ecology groups and the like but once the impact of this command of God penetrated my thinking their behavior became understandable. Whether being obedient to the specific voice of God or following a voice coming out of darkness they are all obeying the general command God gave man at the time of creation.

What is different about these man Idols that makes them OK with God while other Idols are not? It centers wholly around the very identity of God, Himself. God is Life. He does not just have life but life is an integral part of His identity and nature. We, being created in His image and according to His likeness, were created to be Life beings. As such, we carry the force of life in us and influence every circumstance, situation or person with those Life Forces. Other Idols are dead, without life, having been made in the image of dead things. Therefore, they are forbidden to us. The Nazarite is forbidden to even touch a dead thing. Samuel, Samson and John the Baptist were given to be Nazarites before their birth and were to remain Nazarites throughout their lives. There are men called as Nazarites for a season today as a dedication to the Lord not being required to live their whole life under the law of the Nazarite. While going through this time of dedication, they may not touch the dead thing either, because they have been dedicated to Life by unction of the Holy Spirit. If you had knowledge of this then it would be reasonable for you to say, "that man is of the Lord and does not permit death to touch him." However, if you did not know you might say,

“that man has no regard for others he even refused to attend a family members burial.” The only difference between them was what knowledge you possessed. Who is in error in a situation like this, you or the man who is obedient to God without apparent regard for others? This illustrates a serious problem in today’s world. Our world gives no recognition to the things of God and stands ready to ridicule those who do. This is where the Christian identity starts getting lost. Man has a built in call to subjugate the creation. This makes those who are trying to worship the creation rather than the Creator angry. The animal lovers and tree hugers are very vocal about their outrage and can gain influence over those who are weak in faith. But, their outrage is no more than one of the many cares of this world Jesus spoke of in Mark 4:19 *And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.* (KJV)¹ Yielding to them in your thinking only makes the word of God unfruitful in your life.

It is the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches that consumes the mind of man and becomes the thing men fix their attention on. As long as mans attention is turned to these things instead of the great and mighty promises of God he have little hope of obtaining the promises. Our promise is that we can receive, according to God’s word, by faith. There is no other promise given to us. If we want the abundant blessings God has promised we must receive them by faith. If our mind is filled with the consequences of failure or the implied riches of the world, we will find ourselves a victim of their ever-changing promises. These are not the promises God has made. The promises of the world are nothing more than temporary winds with no substance. James 1:6-8, *But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.* (NIV)¹ Those caught in the trap of this worldly thinking rapidly become unstable in all of their ways, being double minded. They will not receive anything from God because they are double minded. There is no faith in anyone whose choices change. Faith is the confident expectation that that which was promised will happen. If you have confidence in God, how can you doubt His promise? If you have no doubt in His promise, then how do the cares of this world find a place in you? If your hope is in God, how will riches deceive you? Riches have no power of their own their power is solely in the authority man

has given them. Money is a good example. Money is nothing but a medium of exchange. It represents a product or service that you may want and you can exchange the money for that product or service. Money is completely dependent of the confidence of the general population. It is your confident expectation of being able to exchange money for the things you want or need that causes you to accept payment for your services in money. If you could not get the things you want or need with it, it would be completely unacceptable as payment for your services. God's economy does not work in the same way. Money fails when the general population loses confidence in it. God's economy never fails but confident expectation is still a governing requirement.

We are called believers because that is a characteristic of the Lord. He is a believer. He demonstrates it every time He says, "Let there be." Consider that there was nothing before He said, "Let there be", and only after He said those words it came into existence. God never speaks a word He does not believe. That is the reason He cannot lie. Titus 1:2 *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;* (KJV)¹ and again in Heb 6:18, *That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:* (KJV)¹

The reason it is impossible for God to lie is every word He speaks is creative so, even if He says something that was not true His creative word will make it be. Rom 4:17, *(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him, whom he believed, even God, who quickens the dead, and calls those things, which be not as though they were.* (KJV)¹

Lets take a Closer Look at God

In Genesis 1:26 the word states the relationship we have to God, "then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." It is reasonable to conclude from this text that the best way to see ourselves, as we

were created to be, is by looking at the person and nature of God. We must always remember that even though we were originally created in Gods image and likeness we also have been living on the earth for a long time, in the company of Gods enemy, satan. Satan is the father of lies and is continually seeking, whom he may devour with those lies. Man is his chief target and his only weapon is to seduce men into destroying himself. With that in mind, let us have a look at, what the Bible says about God. Matt 5:4 *"[Your Father] makes His sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust."* Even though God knows the hearts and minds of all men, and all things are naked before Him, He has a nature of forgiveness that refuses to treat, even evil, men in an evil manner. His Choice is to bless them, and He will do it to the extent they allow.

The word of God tells us, repeatedly, that our God is a just God, but don't make the mistake of thinking Him to be inobservant; just because He is long-suffering, with men does not mean that He will not wreak justice on those who persist in evil toward Him, or His children. He will not repay evil for evil but the man who falls into the hands of an angry and just God is truly to be pitied, for his destination into eternity will have been sealed. To ask for justice is a dangerous thing. As children of Adam, mankind is born into this world with a dead and sin filled spirit. It is by the grace and mercy of the God of love that he has opportunity to be reborn of the spirit and come to life. For the person who does not have that life giving and life sustaining relationship with God, justice means eternal death and damnation.

God claims justice for Himself. He is the only one who can administer it because He is the only one who sees the complete picture. In this way, we are saved from bringing evil upon ourselves, through unforgiveness, and the reward for evil will be severely dealt with. Unforgiveness is in itself a serious problem because it interferes with our ability to receive by faith; while exacting, it's own payment. In Mark chapter 11:25 &26 *"and when you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone forgive him that your Father, in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."* The thoughts and intents of the heart become very serious at this point, interfering with our ability to operate in the economy of the kingdom of God. Luke 6:38, *"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure,*

pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” This particular scripture is often used when offering time comes, but also applies in the other areas of our lives. The reward for giving evil is evil. Let us not become victims of our own selfish thoughts and actions when we are intended to be the life giving images of God, as declared in our origins: In 1 John 1:5, *“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declared to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”* If we are made in the image of God and God is light; then we are light. God is, in fact, referred to as the *Father of lights* in the New Testament and we do not know what we look like, but we know that when we see Jesus we will look like Him. A very brief description, of Jesus is given in Revelations chapter 1., *“His head and His hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like a flame of fire: His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; In His right hand He had seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in it’s strength.”* In 21:22, we read the description of the New Jerusalem, *“But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it, and the Lamb is it’s light.”*

You are a light being

John 4:24 *“God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.”* If God is Spirit then we are spirit. What we often call the heart of man is usually the spirit of man. When we see the word heart; it can many times be translated spirit. The spirit is that essential part of man that can best be defined as his basic substance. It has been said that we are spirit, we have a soul, and we live in a body. The part that is the essence of us is spirit and functions according to the laws and principles of the spirit realm. The spirit man is a creative man, whose words carry extraordinary power. He is the man God communed with in the Garden of Eden. He suffered an instant death when he turned to betrayal and accepted satan as his god. He knew he was naked because the light that had been radiating from him and clothing him went out. The Bible definition of life differs from the world definition and we have abundant

life. The world defines life as continuing to exist as animated physical beings. The Bible defines life as being connected to God, who is the source of life. The difference is in direction and focus. God gives life and cannot die but man hangs onto his physical existence with determination, often at the expense of his eternal life. As children of God, we give the forces of life while carnal man's concern is for his ability to continue in this world. The nature of man is selfish and focused inward while the Godly nature is selfless and focused outward.

Any activity that is purposed to get you blessed is selfish. Love gives. God so loved the world; He gave His only begotten Son so man might live through Him. We might get away with deceiving the world, but the word of God is so sharp it can even divide between the thoughts and the intents of the heart. We cannot deceive God.

Living it

Once we start seeing ourselves as God sees us, we will understand the need for allowing ourselves to be transformed into the person, we were designed to be to begin with. This brings us to a choice for action. It is difficult to know what action, without the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Once again, the answer is found in the word: Romans 4:17 says, *"As it is written, I have made you a father of many nations. [He was appointed our father] in the sight of God in whom He believed. Who gives life to the dead and speaks of the nonexistent things that [He has foretold and promised] as if they [already] existed."* (*Amplified Bible*) Being a **creative being, created, to create**, we simply do as God does. He has made Himself our model. If we see ourselves as God sees us and begin to talk and act like God talks and acts. We will become like Him in thought, in deed and in purpose. As soon as we start behaving in this way the world is sure to react to it and we will find ourselves separated from the world. It will probably be uncomfortable for every one of us. There is a built in desire to be united with the rest of mankind. That desire came from our Father, God but the desire has been twisted by the voices of darkness.

God is love if we lack an understanding of love let us ask the Lord to reveal it to us. He has promised to make all things known to us. There is nothing disrespectful about holding Him to His word. In fact, that is what He desires, of us. In making a faith demand, we are declaring our belief in Him. We do not act on what we do not believe to be true. When you received Jesus as your Lord; it was your belief that was counted to as righteousness. Salvation comes by saying it.

He gives all power to us but our ability to walk in it comes by knowledge, understanding, and faith. *Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word*, if we lack faith we must hear the word it is impossible to get more faith by any other means. God gave us a measure of faith, even before we were saved. Without it, we could not be saved. However, it will only be increased by exposure to the word. Exposure to the word will renew our mind and the carnal interpretation of justice will give way to the thoughts of Christ. The vengeful spirit will yield to the Spirit of compassion. . I am a giver. This is not just an action but also a facet of my very personality. I do not give, just to get. I give so that others might receive what they may have needed.

Many years ago while talking to my son and said something about receiving the promise in Luke 6:38, *“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”* His response was very critical “ Do you mean you are trying to make God give to you?’ In that one question, he identified one of the most significant attitudes that keep people from receiving from God. It was also very disturbing to me because he revealed his word knowledge level, and it was not where I thought. We cannot blackmail God into blessing us, financially or any other way. As we become renewed in our thinking, we are responsible to operate the kingdom principles and the act of receiving by faith is one of those principles. The whole concept of giving in order to get is selfish to begin with and denotes a love of money. It is the love of money that is identified as the root of evil. He was a teenager at the time but had seen through the selfish attitudes that fill most churches. We are light beings yet carnal desires often are in control of our behavior. This is one of the most fascinating revelations of all. The thought of our being light beings open the way to possibilities that tax the imagination. In John 1:4 the word says, *“In*

Him (Jesus) was Life, and the Life was the Light of men. That means life enlightens the mind of men. Since there is an enlightening characteristic to life then the very presence of life can open people's eyes. Just being present and not hiding the life in us may be enough to alter the course of someone's destiny. There are people who are called to preach but the preparation for their message may be in the life demonstrated in our daily activities as we just behave as light beings.

Contemplating the potential effects of life and the light it brings to a world filled with darkness it is easy to understand why there is so much pressure to behave as the world behaves. The point is to stop the light from shining. Therein is the point of sanctification, being separated from the world, and set-aside as the children of a mighty and holy God.

While it is true we are now clothed in a mortal body that is made of the dust of the ground, it appears clear that Adam died the instant that he ate of the fruit and it was evidenced by the clothing of light being extinguished, revealing their nakedness. It took several hundred years for sin to inundate that body enough for it to die. It was not created to die but live. As a matter of fact according to Psalms 91:16, we are to live in the earth until we are fully satisfied.

Our God is *the Father of lights* and you and I are *the light of the world*. John 1:9 refers to Jesus as being *the true light*. Does this mean that there are false lights? I do not know, but I do believe there is blindness in the world making men unable to see the light of the spirit and we can only overcome it by the washing of the water of the word and a revelation awakening that can only come by the Holy Spirit. The word does not specifically say that we, meaning Christians, cannot see the whole light of God but does say we see through a glass darkly but we shall know even as we are known. This is probably telling us the same thing but it is my own opinion. Opinions are everywhere and should not be mistaken for truth. The word is truth.

We are spirit beings. The world sees spirits as wicked ghostly creatures, out to do evil. If God is Spirit, how could this image be true? The essence of our self is a spirit of light. God is a Spirit of Light. In Him is Life not death. The saying, "I am spirit, I have a soul, and I live in a body," is a true saying. When I look into

a mirror, I see a reflection of light rays reflecting the image of my body. I do not see myself, only the reflection of my body. The world becomes enamored by that reflection, thinking carnally and believing that reflection is the real you. It is not.

A few years ago I was watching a TV program and heard the actor, who was playing the part of Tom Horn, say, "I heard you couldn't kill a Christian." The truth of that statement was astounding, and totally out of character for a Hollywood production. The worldview of death is our ceasing to exist. Light may pass from our limited field of vision, but it never ceases to exist. How can you kill something that is commingled with the source of life? You cannot. When a Christian dies he simply steps out of the body that holds him in the earth. *To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord,* in the spirit realm. Whether I go by way of the grave or by way of my body being translated into a new spirit body as I am caught up to meet the Lord in the air is not too important to me. What is important is where I go.

I am love. I am love embodied in flesh. Love is probably the most misunderstood word in the world. Many people confuse lust and love. The world is full of people who claim to love someone. Then spend their lives trying to own them. Never giving thought to the fact that in love is liberty. In perfect Love is perfect liberty. Love is best expressed in action, not words. If you act toward someone as though you love them, you will begin to have feelings of love, toward them. God always acts with love. That Love is often misunderstood. Sometimes it is even regarded as cruelty. An example would be the mother who loses a child. Her likely assumption will be heard as she speaks of the Lord taking her Child's life. In such cases, it is usual to hear comments about God's need for the child in heaven. What God says in the Bible is, "My people die for lack of knowledge." Every child is born by two acts, both of which come from God. One of these acts is the procreative sexual act of the parents and the other is the spirit being who is a gift of God indwelling the carnal body of the baby as it is growing in the mother's womb.

God has delegated authority over the child with instruction to raise them in the way they should go. The child is God is not a possession of the parents. Their role is to be a steward of the child. Does this sound like a God who would take the child's earthly life from him or her? Of course it doesn't. If that mother were to read the last few sentences,

she would probably think I was criticizing her but she would be wrong. The Lord said, My people, clearly indicating the children of God, die for lack of knowledge. If you did not know anything about marshal arts and found yourself confronted by a black belt in Karate, there would be no shame in being defeated. Not knowing how to do spiritual combat is a deficiency to be sure but it is a deficiency most of the body of Christ and all of the unsaved share. The only way to prevail is to believe God, His word and speak life filled, creative words into the situation, believing they will happen.

Again we are back to operating the economy of the Spirit Realm. Again we must face the fact that we have been created to be like God. Some people stagger at this because it appears to be an ego trip, but recognizing who you are does not mean you are responsible for it being so. God made us what we are; He assures us that what He started, in us, He is able also to finish. Our part is just like the seed in the parables; we agree and are responsible for the decision to grow. If the seed is good, the ground is good, and water is applied, the seed grows. Our seed is of God. The ground is a spirit connected to God. The water is the applied word of God. Our destination to be like God was preordained. There is no egotism in that; it is not because of my excellence these things are so. It is because of His excellence, and it is because of Him that we enjoy the success but the battle is His. As we learn and develop toward that which He has declared us to be, we become increasingly like Him. That is clearly His intent.

THE FOCUS OF YOUR LIFE

The secret to answered prayer is in keeping the focus of our attention fixed on the end result. It is easy to make a request of God. People do it all of the time. To make the request knowing what He said in His written Word requires us to study to acquire the knowledge. Far fewer people are willing to take time to do the studying. Making the request in faith reduces the percentage still farther. Faith is a confident expectation that what we have asked will be granted to us and therefore come to pass. At this point comes the faith battle. The battlefield is in the mind. Few, if any, thoughts originate with us. The original thought comes out of the spiritual dimension. They come from the realm of darkness (death) or the realm of light (life). That pertains to the original thought. We have opportunity to imagine on that thought giving it occasion to grow and gain power in our life or refuse it whereby it will wither and fade into oblivion. Once faith has

been declared the forces of darkness will commit themselves to stopping faith from producing. Since faith is a confidence that Gods Word will produce the attack will be against the confidence. There is a dependable strategy used to undermine that confident expectation. It is a two front attack. One of the fronts is diversionary while the other comes by stealth. These two attacks operate together. The diversionary tactic is concentrated on getting our attention drawn to something other than the faith battle. It does not matter what draws our attention as long as it is not on the expected outcome God has promised. The more consuming the object of our attention is the more time will be available for the stealth attack. The stealth attack comes with options of failure, giving opportunity for a second or third option if our faith fails. It is a barrage of negative thoughts or ideas. The moment one of the alternative options gains real consideration faith fails and darkness has won because it was our confidence in God and His Word that was producing the desired result. However, the confidence is suddenly gone and with it the production of Gods Word. Faith is a substance. Heb 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* (KJV)¹

Salvation comes by faith. Easton's Bible Dictionary says Faith in its direct act makes Christ ours. It is not a work, which God graciously accepts instead of perfect obedience, but is only the hand by which we take hold of the person and work of our Redeemer as the only ground of our salvation.²

While listening to a Kenneth Copeland Bible Study TV broadcast, Jerry Savelle was a guest, and he was talking about wars and how they continually came upon the United States in time to draw the focus off of the Lord thereby putting an end to a revival. As an example, he cited the Albert Finny revival in the late 1800's. It is said the whole city of Syracuse, N.Y. was saved and no one could be found in the whole city that had not been saved. Finny was not confined to Syracuse it was just one of the places this revival was in evidence. However, the civil war erupted and the attention of the people was drawn away from God to the war. As the war was gaining notice the good news message lost the attention of the people and what had been a great revival slowed and eventually stopped altogether. Why did this happen? War reports became more important to the people than the message of God. There was a spiritual change and the revival that was spreading through New England like a wild fire but through the

distraction of the war, it ended. The Viet Nam conflict brought an end to the charismatic awakening. It was a matter of the focus of the people being drawn away by seemingly more important issues. There is nothing more important than a move of God but people locked into the mind-sets of work, home and the government will fail to give heed to the greater thing because the carnal mind is at war with the Spirit and the Spirit with the carnal mind. Rom 8:7 *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.* (KJV)¹

This strategy of the satanic realm is not new it was a ploy used against Jesus. The more popular His message became the more resistance He faced. The resistance was not the disagreements on religious issues but attacks against His character designed to draw peoples attention toward anything except the message He was preaching. He was accused of being a heretic in an attempt to diminish and undermine His popularity. The Pharisees and Sadducees feared Him for the wrong reason. They feared His message but set out to discredit Him instead of the message failing to recognize the very one they were attacking was a part of the Godhead they claimed to represent or defend. His message was popular declaring faith over works while theirs was oppressive demanding perfection in works. The Bible says, John 1:5, *And the light shined in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.* (KJV)¹ Darkness does not comprehend light. The synonyms for comprehend are understand, grasp or figure out according the MS Word Thesaurus and according to Strong's Dictionary #2638, katalambano (kat-al-am-ban'-o); from 2596 and 2983; to take eagerly, i.e. seize, possess, etc. (literally or figuratively): KJV-- apprehend, attain, come upon, comprehend, find, obtain, perceive, (over-) take.¹

Put simply when the light shines those who are filled with darkness just don't get it. They cannot grasp what may be obvious to you as a child of God because the life in you has filled you with His light. John 1:4 *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.* (KJV)¹ The life force is the light of men. That is a good reason all by itself for us to stand guard over our souls. Prov 4:23 *Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it {flow} the springs of life.* (NAS)¹ The Amplified Bible uses the phrase, *the forces of life*. I Jn 1:5 says, *And this is the message which we have heard from him and announce unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.* (ASV)¹ We are instructed to be imitators

of Christ who is the Divine Communication who put on flesh and dwelt amongst men. He is God expressed in the earth therefore we are instructed to be God expressed in the earth. It is impossible to be the expression of God and lose the focus of faith in our Father. Just as the tempter came to Jesus after He was baptized he comes after us when our actions express a confidence in the Word of God. Jesus is the Word of God.

If the focus of our thoughts can be drawn to the political scene and its disagreements and arguments or any other thing in the world that expresses carnal works then we will be thinking on those carnal things instead of the creative power of God that is being released on our behalf. We see this kind of thing all of the time. If our child gets his fingers caught in the car door and he is hurting, one of the most common tools we have is to divert his attention until it stops hurting. Most every parent has used that tactic at some time. It is among the most common means of dealing with pain. If our tooth hurts and we stub our toe, we soon forget about our tooth until the pain in our toe stops demanding our attention.

The diversionary tactic is well recognized in military circles. It is also popular amongst politicians allowing them opportunity to slip unpopular laws through congress undetected. It is the foundation of the con man. The shell game or three card Monty depend on this strategy. Great magicians perform their illusions by this device.

The diversionary tactic has become so popular that it is called a strategy when it is really nothing more than a lie. A lie according to Easton is *an intentional violation of the truth. Lies are emphatically condemned in Scripture.*³ There are Bible references to otherwise good men telling lies but these lies always had a potentially dangerous outcome. Gen. 12: 12, *"Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. 'Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you.'*"³ Abraham who later became known as the father of faith spoke these words. When Pharaoh saw Sara, Abraham's wife, he took her as one of his wives. Had God not intervened before the marriage was consummated evil would have certainly come upon Abraham, Sara and Pharaoh. And, the child of promise (Isaac) might not have

been born. Isaac is the avenue through which Christ came into the earth and our way was made to salvation.

The faith walk is not some game we play to entertain ourselves it is a spiritual fight with important consequences. Every victory we win will build our confidence for the next battle. No matter how large or small that victory is it demonstrates the power of God that works in us over the power of darkness that works in us. The power in us is not ours but Gods and is His gift through Jesus Christ us who have been given His authority to use by faith. Faith is an act expressing love toward God. It is an inherent trust and confidence toward God who watches over His word to perform it.

Man has been taught to think there is power in bombs, missiles and guns but the power in us through Christ is much greater. It is the power of life. Life brings growth, increase and abundant supply. All the bombs, missiles and guns do is kill, steal and destroy. They cannot produce anything. They can only destroy what already is. Where is the power in that? The only real power that exists is the power to create and that belongs to God alone. God has given us authority over the creation but our powers are limited to re arranging the things that already exist. Man has never created a single atom in the physical dimension. Yet, the man's ego under the influence of darkness has accorded him a god like status. Why is difficult to fathom when man's own scientific community has concluded the universe is continually expanding. Not only is it expanding but according the data recently obtained from the Hubble Telescope it is expanding at an accelerated rate the farther from earth we get. That information upsets the accepted theories and conclusions of science. That bit of information may be more upsetting than the discovery that the earth is not flat.

The spirit realm is the realm of creation and God, who is Spirit, made man in their own image and likeness. We, who were created to create, will only actually fulfill our creative purpose when our Father permits. Our Father is good and will only allow us to exercise the level of power we are mature enough to properly handle.

A prerequisite to true creativity is our complete union with God. The word unity has become very popular over the last few years. This is particularly true

amongst church groups but the term is almost universally used in regard to man alone. These groups talk about men being united to men, which is supported by scripture. John 17:21, *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.* (KJV)¹ This lateral unity is not what Jesus was encouraging us to do. He was praying for a vertical unity where men would become so fixed on God that through Him they would be united into one common being with Him. Man has united laterally in the past. Gen 11:5-9, *But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel-- because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.* (NIV)¹ These men were evil not good but they were in unity, the same kind of unity being called for today. The men of Babble were trying to be like God, seeking to be gods. That is the trouble Lucifer it got into and it got him cast out of heaven, (the God realm). Although these men never achieved true creativity, the creative impact of their words is still working in the earth today. In the nineteen fifties the United States and the USSR engaged in the space race. The thinking of the day was that this was a new pursuit and mankind' s ingenuity would propel him to the stars. It was nothing more than the continuation of what was started in the city of Babble. Men now move in the nearby regions of space but no one has crossed the dimensional divide that separates us from God. Many have entered into the realm of God but never without God. We are supposed to be trans-dimensional beings. Able to move freely between heaven and earth as God is Trans- dimensional and moves freely through these realms of existence.

¹ PC Study Bible Version 1.7A

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