

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Genesis and Supplementation

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Version Bible, unless otherwise noted.*

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Special thanks to Megan Joy whose love and faith in me, and more importantly Christ, have greatly helped make this book possible

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If one is unwilling to challenge their beliefs, they say that either their beliefs are perfectly true or that all things are relative, including the reality of God, the actuality of truth, and the declaration of His Will.

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

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AMONG THE CALLED

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:1-2 KJV

Among the Called of Jesus Christ,

As the darkness increases, the appearance of the light becomes even brighter. So forth, as the promise of life diminishes, the promise of salvation comes to be even easier to find. Wherein iniquity and wickedness fornicate, they cannot help but seed their own destruction. We thus find, while we witness the darkness of these times, an abounding joy in proclaiming the greater triumph of our Lord and Savior. Therefore we know the end and our final victory, and so we do not evade the trials of life. For, as we have felt in our hearts, it will one day pass where each mountain that lines our path shall become before us like the pebbles in a riverbed.

Fittingly, as we act courageously and with abandon for ourselves, it should be our devotion to do whatever good work is necessary to keep this world fit for its creator. So then, for us who till the Lord's field, may we each perform in concordance to His divine instruction, enhance ourselves to be His instruments, groom the world to reflect His love, and, by the works which transpire through us, exhibit the truth of the gospel. In seeing this undertaking to its perfect outcome, our fervor must then be to endure whatever is required to see His will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven.

Correspondingly, while we dedicate ourselves to His culminations, let us be prudent and avoid getting too far ahead of our daily objective. Inasmuch as the accursed neither rest nor do they wait for another day. Theirs is not patience, for what they have wilts just as the flower cut from its stem. Verily their time ends in totality, and they do not waste even a second to prepare their approach. So then take great caution in their angst! Just as the devouring lion stalks its prey, so does that, which hungrily looks to consume us, hide in the brush nearby.

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

1 John 3:16

Let us nonetheless, while we fight the good fight, be complacent of our individual ambitions. As a simple matter of fact, this body of ours was not made to glorify our own being. With assurance we proclaim, we are lowly before that which has true Glory. So forth, let our lives instead glorify the only one worth glorifying – our Father in heaven. In doing so, let us avoid permitting the problems which pertain to one outweigh the problems which pertain to Him.

So, as it should always remain constant without cessation, let us work in unity, love, and with our full effort towards making this world fit for Christ. In doing so we should not rest until this world reflects the love He has for us. As Christians, who confess in the

sovereignty of our Lord, let us always be brave in living to our faith. Whether these days are the last or the first, we should honor our God with each and every second. Additionally, in being bold in our faith and acting on our faith's behalf, let these things be the standard we set for each and every one of our days.

Truly the Lord does not call to us without great expectation, and, for those of us He has chosen, He has chosen to become great. However, He did not come and give His life so that we may be greater than Him! So then, He did not bring us into this calling such that He might serve us, but instead that we might serve Him.

Let you my brothers and sisters fully understand, we have been and always are called to live by God's Word, which is to love above all else. So then there is no sacrifice we can make to the world with our body, our mind, or our soul that is greater than the sacrifice we can make to our Father in Heaven. As such, if we must choose one, let us always choose the One in Heaven who has made all things.

Finally, with overflowing vitality, let us all then live to the Word with our fullest strength. Let us have the teaching of our eternal Father outweigh the teaching of our earthly one. Let us seek the wise counsel of the one with all wisdom. Let us know of the infallible Word which was made to sustain the test of all time. Let us be mindful attendants. Let us be a warm family full of joy in our brotherly union.

Let us have the light of our faith light up the world. Let us have the resolve of our conviction move the earth. Let us put hope into the heart of all those who question our Lord's existence. In keeping to all these matters, let us give back to the Lord who had given to us first. Fully let us do each trusting without fault that every offering we make to Him will never be made in vain.

God Bless,

SECTION I

GENESIS

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4: 11-16

FLESH AND SPIRIT

Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.

-Genesis 3:22-24

From the beginning, the division between flesh and spirit tells the tale of mankind’s greatest inward conflict. That, the separation between man and God would ultimately be a result created by the inherent rift, amid our flesh and spirit, within man. The meaning behind the story of the fall of man, through Adam and Eve all the way to our present day, is that our flesh and His spirit have been made to exist refuting one another. In this manner, what has been the gain for one has had to come at the expense of the other.

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other...

-Galatians 5:17

Where it were ever since man was cursed to return to the dirt in which he came from (Genesis 3:19), it has been for man that obeying the greater passions of his flesh were set to be spiritually divisive to the Father. These very acts, which are sin producing death, would also be included as part of the very thing scripture was written to expose. In essence, that the things of the flesh will perish as they do, and the things of the Spirit will endure as the things of the Spirit endure.

To this end, in order to fully edify the heavenly and divine in us, the things earthly and vain would have to become overcome within. In this higher objective scripture would consistently affirm that in order for us to become truly perfect before our Creator we would have to fully overcome the selfish and insatiable nature of our flesh. As it would be, failure to adequately do so would then yield formation to the body of Sin.

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

-Galatians 5:19-21

As we note the morality of our flesh, we can conclude that its desires cannot coincide with God’s will. Surely then, we can also conclude that there exists a fundamental flaw in our flesh’s reasoning stemming from its propensity for making fundamentally irrational decisions. However, where we accept its limitations, we also open ourselves up to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

-Genesis 2:7

Just as our mother gave birth to our physical body, God gives life to our spiritual body. This truth is universal for all people. Within each, there is a spirit which was given to us by our spiritual Father. As such, we each have the choice to either satisfy it or deny it. Furthermore, where our spiritual self is manifest by the very body of God eternal, it desires to do the righteous things that our flesh resists. It is this spiritual presence which then gives us wisdom to grow and develop in a manner which is according to His intention.

For we know that the law is spiritual

-Romans 7:14

I delight in the law of God, in my inner being

-Romans 7:22

This also applies to God's laws and His given commandments. We subsequently embrace God's commandments inwardly, for the commandments bear the same origin as the spirit which fills us. However, the law was never made for the flesh because it, being rebellious to God, is against the spirit within. Wherever we find discord with the commandments of God, we then find accord with that which is also against God.

This implies that the highest state of living in is to be loosened from the desires of the flesh. Because the spirit within is perfect and eternal, being of God born by God, in it we follow the instruction our spiritual Father imparts. In such a way, it is therefore only in fully abiding in our spirit that we may be able to walk as God made us to do so. In all that we are and can be, without doubt, our greatest limitations occur as a result of needless submissions to inherently flawed desires; whereas, when we satisfy the wants of our spirit instead, we truly begin walking the greater path God calls us to walk.

THE RANSOM

**just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin,
and so death spread to all men because all sinned**

-Romans 5:12

Unfortunately for all, from the very first of mankind to walk, their sin would transpire to become the sin of all mankind's as well. By the narrative of Christianity, this would then explain how we came to be, sold under sin, captives to our faulty and often irrational mortal passions. Through a curse of God spoken into existence because of ancestral ties to rebellion against Him, our first birth into the world includes being made a prisoner to the flesh and married to the death of the flesh.

but I am of the flesh, sold under sin

-Romans 7:14

Where a living creature requires the breath of God, it is sufficient to consider ourselves, when live wholeheartedly against this breath, as spiritually dead. As then we see, because of the fall of man, the life without death meant for mankind was expunged, and humanity became set to live a short while being fully dependent upon the passions of his destructive flesh-born desires. Nonetheless, God was not satisfied with the state of His creation.

**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever
believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not
send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the
world might be saved through him.**

-John 3:16-17

The event of damnation through an act of humanity's own propensity towards transgression set the stage for God, in His great love, to reveal to him the full quality of His virtue, mercy, and good nature. Such that as darkness and despair descended upon the Earth, His light did shine and purge death away, and salvation from all tyranny and corruption came to the world in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. In this act, not only might humanity once more spiritually thrive, but that he may live internally at peace in a world purged into chaos.

**I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch
them out of my hand.**

-John 10:28

Where it was that man had been doomed to eternal death, in their flesh and by their flesh, the only remaining way for him to come to redemption was through the grace of God. Because of man's fallen state, there was simply nothing of his own to give in reconcilable sacrifice that could adequately atone him from the destruction he had wrought upon himself. The appropriate ransom could then only be made by something else acting on his behalf.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

-Romans 5:15

Therefore, in order for us to receive everlasting life and become recipients of the Spiritual birth, something far greater than us had to warrant our life with its own life. As we consider the hefty price that had to be levied – which was the crucifixion and humiliation of one who was innocent – we can surely conclude, by our own shortcomings, that none of us were ever entitled to such a giving of mercy and grace. In no way did humanity deserve this reconciliation, for his plight was justified through his own willful election of sin.

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

-John 3:3-6

THE RECEPTION

For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in the life through the one man Jesus Christ.

-Romans 5:17

Through the perfect act of God's love, man's redemption became free and available to all. This gift, as scripture affirms in the words of the Apostle Paul, is a gift and offering which can wash away any sum of sin. There is simply no sin, or amount of sin, that can outweigh the redemption presented through the Christ. Therefore the foundation for a charitable heart is accessible for any who allow for themselves the opportunity. Inasmuch as, where we see sin as both disobedience to Life and obedience to Death, we see how all sin is sin and generally is not separable by degree. For in God's righteous judgment any one sin, regardless of our perceived sense of severity, is considered as giving power to body of death. As all sin is then apart of one body, it is punished as one body. Accordingly, the free gift of grace is equal for each to receive as no individual is ever more worthy than another, because all have sinned and we all will sin again.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

-Ephesians 2:8-9

When we were sold to death, in disobedience, we were made a servant to death doing only the will of death. It is then only by acknowledging our death in sin that we come to find the true fullness of life in God. Such life, otherwise known as living in the Holy Spirit, begins only with the birth of our spiritual self by the Spirit. It is only through this spiritual birth, does one genuinely gain the perspective to shed their sinful tendencies and honestly adopt the ways of righteousness. It is only by this birth do we ever come to transform back into the image of God we were first intended to be.

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

-Romans 6:4

As we undertake this transformation, we should always remember and account for the fact that we are always under grace never having been truly worthy for any portion of blessings from the Spirit. As a matter of fact, it is actually only through abolishing the idea of "righteousness through works" that we can ever truly be empowered to earnestly overcome the sinful passions of our bodies in the first place.

For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.

-Romans 7:5

In this manner, where there is a consequence of death, death has power over us. However, where there is no consequence of death, death has no power over us. Since all things lead to grace, the desire of our flesh to rebel becomes nullified and void through grace. Naturally then, the words of the gospel are such that we may be led from our flesh.

But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code but in the new life of the spirit.

-Romans 7:6

In living according to the old law, which is in essence "righteousness through works," is also living according to the flesh. So then, for those who try to earn their salvation or be made more worthy by their actions in the eyes of men, they are also trying to indulge their pride in their accomplishments – which is certainly an aim to satisfy the flesh. For the flesh leads man away from God, all things which lead away from God must be of the flesh.

Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

-Galatians 2:16

Where by the old law alone no one could ever be deemed righteous, without doubt, no one who now alone lives by the old law can be deemed righteous either. As such, all those purely living under the judgment of the law do so live without vindication before God. Where faith has become greater than works, it is only through faith (though this faith is established in the genuine humbling ourselves to God) that we receive the Lord's mercy and grace. It is then only in faith that we are ever justified before the Father. It is then only in this justification that we ever become married with the Spirit which resurrected Christ.

...brothers, we are debtors, not of the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

-Romans 8:12-13

Where our unrighteousness to the old law had made us slaves to death, our new-found righteousness, as manifested only by the pure faith in God's giving grace, has freed us from our slavery. In this liberation established through faith, we are then given a new authority over the hateful ambitions of our flesh. Where in love we cannot sin, we are therefore set free to love our brother and sister, our neighbor, our stranger, and our enemy and to love them demonstrating the presence of God's love.

Assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

-Ephesians 4:21-2

CARRYING THE CROSS

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life (in the world) loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world (and gives it over to God) will keep it for eternal life.

-John 12:24-25

The more we examine the spiritual teachings of gospel-based faith, the more we may understand its spiritual intention, which is to manifest a renewal of self. So forth, being in the purity of faith is not a part-time affiliation, a casual adoption, or a weekend habit. Consequently, in observance of spirit, we must be truly removed from a lifelong carnal attitude – which is a self-centered sense of existence predicated on carnal ambitions - and gain a renewed perspective, attitude, and life ambition constantly seeking to satisfy the spirit of God within.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

-Romans 8:5-7

Those of us made new by the Holy Spirit and alive in spirit, because spirit is of God eternal being far removed from the things of the Earth, we find ourselves moving beyond materialism and all corporeal ideology. As it should be, we then move towards valuing ourselves and others above any sum of metal, gem, or printed paper and none in any quantity can ever come close to compare to the true value of the Spirit. For the things of the Spirit are forever and they have no end or countable substance.

Where the Spirit's value is genuinely beyond price and the Spirit is made seen to us through faith, we see that it is purely through faith that the value of ourselves becomes increased beyond any portion of earthly accumulation. Surely, to any redeemed soul, this must be the way we see ourselves, and, to us, this must be how we perceive all things of tangibility. As such, it must be in our hearts that even the least, which is forever, is worth more than the greatest that which is not.

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

-1 Peter 4:1-2

In this manner, doing so is how we truly become renewed in spirit and mind to act accordingly to the will of Christ. Inasmuch as, when we lived for things which were dead, we were dead, and when we came to live for things which are living, we were made alive.

Carrying the Cross

For the most refined Christian all life and all joy should emanate purely from the relationship we have with God.

In this way, in contrast to common teaching and practice, Christianity is very much so a spiritual based belief system which fully supports the idealism of spiritual substance over tangible substance.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on 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 and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

-Matthew 6:19-21

Accordingly, our greatest treasures should not be of worldly substance, but instead being solely of heavenly substance, and they should be strongly entrenched in the promises of God and appreciably expressed in one's demonstration of faith thereof.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"

-Matthew 16:24-26

Where Christ did not revel in the things of the world, so then might we do the same when we follow in Christ. Furthermore the reward and faith in receiving eternal life ought to condition us to have no great need to seek excessive worldly riches, in addition to our salvation. Without a doubt, Christ even more so viewed his eternal reward, in contrast to worldly things, accordingly.

And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

-Mark 4:18-19

Through the pleasure in things which are vain, comes attachment to vanity. As a result, in accordance with scripture, worldly riches ultimately lead us to confusion and misunderstanding of God's spiritual word. Therefore there is certainly a contradiction maintained by us who attempt to, while trying to separate ourselves through wealth and indulge in lavishness, understand the gospel.

One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for

Christian Spirituality: Genesis

either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

-Luke 16:10-13

We as well see the Lord refers to worldly wealth as unrighteous wealth. In contrast we see Him refer to eternal blessings as being true riches. In this context we can see what our Christian focus should be in life. Now, who is a Christian and who is not? No one is perfect, and we all sin. Nonetheless we, who believe in the gospel, are called to recognize the will of our Father and seek to obey it. Once more we see the will of our Father, and His will is for us to strive towards being devoted only to Him. As such we are not to be dedicated to ourselves, which accumulating worldly excess certainly is a self-serving ambition.

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him.

-Philippians 3:7-9

Once more, having knowledge of Christ, and being with Christ, is greater than any sum of worldly wealth. Then when we possess this righteous wealth, we should not be overly preoccupied with the unrighteous wealth.

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

-Colossians 3:2

Therefore, through the Bible's wisdom, we should not be focused on the long-term goals the world would have for our short lives, but be more focused on the long-term goals that we should have for our souls in eternal life.

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

-1 Timothy 6:6-10

Why then should we be wary of securing more of the unrighteous wealth than we need - especially when we cause division in the church and our communities? So forth, the spiritually wise follow a different path than what the worldly would follow. As such, when we are blinded by worldliness, we walk liberally to suffering we would much rather be without.

Carrying the Cross

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

-James 4:4

In several cases the Bible refers to a binary reality in that one cannot satisfy two conditions at the same time. Perhaps the most notable of these examples was where Christ said one cannot serve two masters. Spirituality on its highest level is also being beyond the world in what one expects in life. As we see here this verse clearly establishes that one who places too much value on the things of the world fails to properly unify in God as God is beyond worldly substance.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

-1 Peter 1:3-5

In regards to things that truly matter in life, scripture clearly states that tangible wealth pales greatly in comparison.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit

-1 Peter 3:18

Once again, this verse clearly affirms the spiritual focus of the gospel, and strongly implies a greater means to prosperity above material accumulation.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

-1 John 2:15-17

1 John shows the importance of detaching ourselves from the world in order to be in relationship with God's love. 1 John also once again continues the well-documented biblical narrative that loving things of the world are not from our spirit but of our flesh, which is inherently divisive to Holy Spirit. As a consequence, if our focus is on doing the will of the Father, then we will not be selfishly motivated for worldly gain because worldly gain will have the opposite effect on how well we can truly know and serve God, who calls us for spiritual attachment rather than physical attachment.

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

While of course, considering the garden of Eden, God did create man to enjoy life and with it, in some capacity, its material value. However, the first thing to note is that in the act of crucifying oneself to the world, is overcoming the snares of our carnal nature. Inasmuch as, seeking the higher body of Christ is first and foremost receiving the Holy Spirit which reveals to us the spiritual eminence of Christ, and therefore overcoming the life of material pursuit. Living in regard to such truth is as well the highest demonstration of faith. Lastly, once we have committed ourselves to the Spirit, we are then to live in understanding of the transcendence of the Spirit and to live with a sense of transcendence to the material, also known as the unrighteous wealth, in all that we do.

WEIGHT OF THE CROSS

The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.

-Luke 16:16-17

The “Law and the Prophets” refers to the Old Testament law. “John” is referring to John the Baptist who taught people about the opportunity for remission of sins and a greater opening of the gates of heaven to humanity. As we can see here, Christ was referring to the common attitude that we may easily be redeemed, as we live our lives in a manner of our choosing. However Christ, as quoted in Luke, made the point that people will get in to heaven purely according to the law, and there is no exception to what’s required.

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

-Matthew 7:13-14

Where it is natural for us to think we are special, it is spiritual for us to accept that we are not. We don’t get to arbitrarily determine our fate, because the law is greater than each of us. Realizing this is essential to understand the law established by Christ. Otherwise we will count ourselves saved and remove the cross from our backs. Truly we should be very mindful of those who will deceive us in this manner, for they will satisfy their sins through taking advantage of our innate desire to similarly sin.

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

-Philippians 3:14

On the contrary we see that faith in Christ is a constant call to action and the crucifixion of the self. Where we abide in Christ we must then love, show mercy, give grace, and edify one another. We must work towards truly bettering ourselves, and we must work towards truly bettering others. Where we see injustice to others, we must work against it, as Christ’s ministry was predicated upon bringing justice to the world. However, as we see a call to righteousness in the finest of our choices, by our humanity we see ultimate impossibility, and we are therefore once again called to greater obedience towards love and grace.

Where the law is ultimately to love, the proud and selfish perish and only the humble receive the veritable higher blessings of God. Though love can be hard at times, it redeems us with sacrifice and builds unity among us. Though love often comes at a price, that price

Weight of the Cross

is little next to the reward we naturally and spiritually receive. Inasmuch as, where we obey the law in its premise we increase our heart to flourish in the short life, and we increase our blessings to flourish in our eternal life as well. In God's loving wisdom, we see the law not only corresponds and facilitates the spiritual maturation of the self, but it simultaneously does so for the world when adequately obeyed by the majority.

Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."

-Matthew 7:21-23

Through the very teachings of Christ we see that salvation and labels are entirely irrelevant. So then, according to Matthew 7:21-23, the true challenge of salvation only comes with living in the humility of always needing redemption. Such that we live in humility, embrace equality, and live to serve one another.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

-1 Corinthians 9:24-27

In this we might be committed in renewing ourselves and be most effective in cooperating with one another to help create a world which is fit for Christ. In maintaining this scriptural focus, we not only improve the condition of ourselves, but we also directly improve the condition of the world around us.

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

-2 Corinthians 9:6

Doing the minimum will net the minimum – though we should all be so blessed to still have done at least the minimum! By the metaphor above, which references eternal riches, we see eternal life is not the only objective of a Christian. The reality is the Bible clearly teaches the aspirations of a Christian are greater than simply receiving eternal life. Such that, as Christians we should be anticipating that the magnitude of our faith, which is ultimately expressed by our actions, will be proportionately rewarded in the new life.

For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

-2 Corinthians 5:10

Christian Spirituality: Genesis

Though the gift of eternal life is certainly sufficient, the just will of God is He not only gives eternal life to the righteous, but, He also rewards us in accordance to our work. In this justice, we might have ample motivation and incentive to fully pursue the works of the Father. Where there is much to be done in this world, there is also much to be given for those whose faith brings them to do more for God.

For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

-Matthew 16:27

So then, we must set our sights not only on salvation but also on increasing our heavenly abundance rather than our earthly abundance (unrighteous wealth), for the Bible clearly states, as we have seen in the previous chapter, that God most seeks to reward us with heavenly reward. To the contrary, seeking glory in Heaven is not against scripture, for not even Christ condemned his apostles for having that attitude. Merely it is the self-deceit of worldly ambitions that hinder us in our spiritual relationship with God.

For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

-Luke 22:27

Obedience to God is trust in God and trust in God is how the Spirit expresses itself through us. As we take on a servant's mentality like Christ we do so proclaiming we believe upon Christ, and that we believe in the righteousness of the Father. So then performing acts which support the teachings of the Bible are at the core of receiving reward from the Father in one's eternal life.

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true)

-Ephesians 5:8-9

As we examine the Christian narrative it is clearly the calling of each child of the light to bring light into the world with strong and righteous faith. In this, those of the light those who possess the fruit of the Spirit, are called to work together for a common purpose. However, there is to be kept in mind the contrasting spiritual energy known as darkness, which will work against us.

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.

-John 3:19-21

Weight of the Cross

Here, we clearly see within scripture, the world is not like the light because it desires to maintain spiritual darkness. Accordingly, the world hates the light, and it will ultimately resist those who are of the light. Naturally part of representing the truth comes with the burden of resisting those who are ignorant, and part of representing love comes with the burden of resisting those who hate. As is, the world is ignorant, hateful, and full of fear, for its truth and love are only in temporary things.

Such that, we can appropriately identify, from a spiritual sense, this metaphysical mechanism as the origin of all injustice in our world. Consequently, where there are those who do right, there are those who hate others for doing right as it exposes the masked personal faults they desire to stubbornly deny. So forth, where there are those without light, there are those who are convinced of themselves, and those in this condition unwittingly will not change. Rather than change, when one thinks like this, they will seek to harm those that do not adequately exalt themselves as they do in their own imagination.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

-Ephesians 6:12

As soon as we manifest qualities of God's light we become a target, not just for the people of the world who are trapped following in the darkness of the world, but for that which emanates from the spiritual realm of darkness as well. In regards it is the will of darkness to bring destruction and division to the light. Consequently it is very much so the motive of evil to prevent the power of the light from shining in the world.

Remember the word that I said to you: "A servant is not greater than his master." If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.

-John 15:20

Where Jesus Christ is referred to as the light in the gospel, as we see from His ultimate persecution, those who follow in Him will ultimately similarly experience unjust persecution for following in His ways. Unfortunate to the well-being of all, persecution will follow the ways of love, grace, truth, wisdom, self-sacrifice, and compassion. As this world and the worldly have often hated these qualities, there can be no question why this world is so far short of what it can be, and why bringing positive change to the world can be so close to impossible. However, any opposition to this result will ultimately end in defeat, and any injustice incurred upon those who make this change happen will come with a greater blessing from God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

-Matthew 5:10-12

Christian Spirituality: Genesis

Ultimately the weight of the cross is then obedience to God and His commandments of love. It is being a servant of Him and acting with a graceful and humble heart set on tending to the Lord's world. It is also remaining in faith and building oneself up to be more refined in the ways of Christ. It is also building the world up, so that the light of God may more so reach throughout. It as well comes with the threat of persecution as well. Where Christ was unjustly persecuted, so then might we also experience unjust persecution when we follow Him. However hefty the weight, scripture consistently affirms God is a Righteous God who justly rewards our faith and commitment to Him and His will. While most of His promises do not necessarily apply to this short life of ours, they certainly do in our eternal life.

SECTION II

SUPPLEMENTATION

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

John 15: 9-17

DENYING CHRIST

Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, "'Lord, Lord,' did not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."

-Matthew 7:21-23

Through scripture we see that the lawless act of denying Christ is far from the basic act of denying the life of Jesus Christ. As we can infer, it is only in abiding by God's law that we receive salvation, such that calling Christ Lord is clearly not what it takes to fulfill God's law. Therefore denying Christ is not denying whether or not He is who He said he is, but is found in adhering to the two commandments He taught.

And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

-Mark 12:32-34

Since at the core of Christ's commandments is to love God with all our being and to love our neighbor as ourselves, once we accept Christ these are the most essential conditions which need to be met to inherit the kingdom of God. So then, at the core of denying Christ, is both refusing the Spirit of God and refusing to love one's neighbor to the extent that one loves themselves. There is no religious doctrine, dogma, and worship which equates to following these commandments.

Truly then, Christ's legacy is much more than a *belief* in one basic absolute which absolves us from all divine penalty. In this manner, His greater legacy is about connecting us to the Spirit of God and showing us all how to walk with God's presence. His greater legacy is about ensuring that we might be woven into the body of Creation, and that we may acquire the necessary awareness to do so as intended. As a result, we should understand that the heart of all scripture, in personal regard, fully pertains to only these key accomplishments.

Consequently we see how denying Christ is not a religious topic. Instead we see how it is actually a universal topic which breaches over into every single religion, every single belief, every single society, every single interaction between two people, and every single stirring within that a person may either satisfy or quell. Therefore denying Christ has little to do with what we say, but it instead has everything to do with what we do. So forth it is not merely in verbal confession, but instead it is denying the Spirit of God within.

Whereas we accept self-exaltation, or excessive attachment to our possessions, we live in denial of Christ, because we fail to give the lives of others the same importance we give our own.

In this deeper understanding it then becomes clear that denying Christ is, generally speaking, being overly concerned with some aspect of Self and worshiping instead some form of false idol. As such we observe that with misplaced selfishness comes darkness and ignorance, and with the appropriate giving of self comes the light of God and the understanding of Him.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

-1 John 1:5-7

Such that, as we pursue to have our worship of God's Spirit show through our actions, we should fully consider any appropriate practice to be far beyond the words in which we use. In doing so, those of us who seek spiritual worship ought to focus on much more than the vocabulary we use in our praise. Simply put the cultivated children of God ought to speak a higher language, being a spiritual language based on action, then those who only abide as children of the world.

CHRISTIAN ETHOS

love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

-John 4:7-8

Love is an essential quality of God. From this, we realize the importance of love and loving others as essential to building our relationship to God. For this reason, the greatest fundamental to Christian practice is love and loving others.

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye. Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

-Matthew 7:1-5

Now, through the existence of God there certainly is absolute truth, a definitive moral code, and a correct way to live, the Bible is also highly expressive that our primary concern should be to try to identify these things for the sake of ourselves above all else. In this wisdom, it is then only as we perfect our understanding of these things we can truly help others come closer to understanding these truths as well. So then we may find that living scripture is the highest form of attempting to apply scripture to others lives. Conversely we may find that under no circumstance is it proper Christian practice to force our understanding on another. In this manner virtually all evangelizing is best to be done through simply being an example of the love Christ has shown us and trusting the Spirit to guide others to Him.

In committing ourselves to this worship, we should then be highly focused on the way God has treated us. Because of this, where all are only saved through grace and faith, we also then should see it as important for us to always focus on showing grace to others through faith. In such regard we must be diligent to never assume we have figured everything out or have somehow evolved beyond ourselves to express this obvious pretense. Naturally, where our focus is in Christ, our evangelism then should likewise be one of acceptance and tolerance with the appropriate sense of humility.

Nonetheless while we may seek to surround ourselves with those who have greater principles of faith, it is important for us to be inviting to all others in an effort to promote equality in Him and His will to love. Truly, as God has called us, we must put edifying the church and being a light to the world above our own life, as our Lord Jesus Christ did as well. As such, each of these only becomes possible as we reject being conformed to the image of man and accept our Spiritual identity as a Christian.

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

-Luke 18:9-14

Through love and grace it is ideal to be tolerant of others simply on the basis of beliefs and opinions. Perhaps a convicted Christian may feel strongly otherwise, but the reality is that none of us are perfect and consequently have no true absolute moral authority to impose what we know of only through faith. Perhaps through absolute self-perfection we may have the right as with the Christ, but otherwise we are missing the plank in our own eye.

We must instead channel our faith inwardly and strongly resist from ever judging others. While the Lord expects us to a certain style of life, He also expects us to love our brother and sister, our neighbor, our stranger, and even our enemy, bearing in mind how He has loved us always regardless of our own lack of worthiness as well.

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

-Galatians 5:14

Where we may perceive another's errant choice, it's best to first consider our own false perception, then, if we are genuinely without mistake, we should seek to show the truth through the love and patience it affords. At the end of the day, our only responsibility is to live as the Lord tells us to live and to live accordingly. In doing so, we will ultimately serve as called to be a lighthouse of the truth, and we will best allow the Lord to guide and correct the error in our and others hearts and actions. So forth, such practice must be patient and merciful, even if undeserving, as we all have also been undeserving of the patience and mercy the Lord has shown each and every one of us as well.

ACTS OF SPIRITUAL WORSHIP

Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.

-Matthew 9:17

Where we are a child of God, we are meant to strongly resemble our Spiritual Father. For all those who do, the severity of the spiritual darkness within the world becomes apparent. However, until we walk above the world, we may never recognize how we have or still do help contribute to this outcome. For as much, all of us who strongly follow in the pursuit of earthly obtainment, in selfish pursuit, cannot help but augment this circumstance. In regards, it is only through spiritual acknowledgement that we may ever fully observe the relationship between the increase of corruption and the decrease of awareness to the source of corruption.

Because it is only as we live in darkness we cannot see, our individual focus then ought to be to help cultivate a light, within and throughout, such that all things are made visible. The following are simple guidelines to assist in accomplishing this result. Where Christ's ministry was about teaching and delivering the Holy Spirit to humanity, these acts are so forth founded firmly upon His teachings.

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

-Matthew 7:24-25

Serve one master, God: We are all servants to something (Matthew 6:24), and it is ultimately our actions which determine what we serve. To this end, we should try and understand what our actions imply. We are all accountable to Him and Him alone, and we should strive diligently to live our lives honoring Him over the world.

Deny the love of wealth and money: We are worth more than all the riches of the world (Matthew 6:25). There is nothing we can buy, purchase, or wear that will make us any more valuable. In truth, that which is of the Spirit is always greater than anything which is of the Earth. In effect, allow one's wealth to be measured solely by one's light and peace alone.

Labor only for the Lord: *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,"* (Colossians 3:23). Therefore, we should be solely focused on doing everything we do for the Lord, and we should seek spiritual blessings far before we seek worldly riches. As is, it is unwise to labor for what can be taken in one's sleep (Matthew 6:20), and it is much better to labor towards that which cannot be lost.

Forego earthly attachments: *"They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy"* (Jonah 2:8). If something is anchored to the Earth, for whosoever should hold on to it, they will be anchored to the Earth as well. How can God be to blame for one's ill-gain when there were such obvious ends to one's willful action? As we loosen our grip onto the

Acts of Spiritual Worship

things which hold us to the fleeting, the Spirit within us will begin to thrive. So then, strive to fast often, drink only water, read scripture, pray silently (Matthew 6:6), and seek the Spirit within. In doing so, one will learn to live on the Lord's guidance, and they will become most empowered to walk upright and by the Spirit.

Live by the day and do not worry about tomorrow's requirements: Relent from feeling stressed about things in life (Matthew 6:27, & 6:30), and focus most on the present day (Matthew 6:34). In doing so it is imperative we see our life as being worth more than our possessions (Matthew 6:25). In practice, live trusting in God, not the fears of what may come. If so many creatures in nature can live in harmony with its environment – as it lives by the day – then why can't the most sophisticated and prized creation on the Earth easily do the same (Matthew 6:26)? There is an expectation that comes with the way the world tells us to live, and that expectation is not inherent but being merely established by men, not Christ. If we want more, and we give our trust to God, then we will get more.

Do away with internet/television obscenity: Once more, we are searching for what supports the narrative of freeing ourselves from carnal vices which quell our spiritual vitality. Such that, when we suppress His Spirit, the desires of the flesh will grow, and, as we overcome the desires of the flesh, the vitality of His Spirit within will grow. In following, search to keep the spiritual greater than the physical in every conceivable way, and receive Christ's grace everywhere you cannot.

Take one's self less seriously: Remember that in heaven the one who is greatest is as a humble and respectful child (Matthew 18:4). Be like the greatest in Heaven and do not take one's self so seriously being humble and respectful – just like those who are the greatest in Heaven (Matthew 18:1-5).

Be confident as a child of God: One puts a lamp where it lights a room (Matthew 5:14-15). Do not let those who walk in darkness impede oneself, for light is greater than darkness. Inasmuch as, trust in the light knowing that it is simply not possible to put a light out with darkness.

Be forgiving and do not judge: Forgive and be forgiven (Matthew 6:14), and do not judge others or condemn them (Matthew 7:2). As such do not be guilty of stealing the seat of the Lord who is the only one that presides over another person's fate. Accordingly only let the truly righteous accuse the wicked (John 8:7). Remember, all acts of judgment divide the body of God, and testify against His love, mercy, and patience.

Be charitable in heart: It is better to get into Heaven with one arm, than to be cast out with two (Matthew 18:8). Therefore we should aim to lose whatever is vain, and only carry with us that which furthers ourselves to true riches. If so one says "I want to give this away," and that something inhibits us spiritually, we should give it away right there (Matthew 6:3-4). All we should want, desire, and hold onto is nothing but the Spirit. If something should make one lose that, then it is best for them to lose that something. In doing so, give to the world that which belongs to the world (Matthew 22:21), and allow oneself to be filled with light instead of darkness (Matthew 6:24).

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

-John 12:24

Accordingly, at least by the words of the gospel, when our focus is solely on heaven and trusting in God's promises, we become most enabled to live according to Christ's

Christian Spirituality: Supplementation

instruction, and we become most enabled to sow the seeds of the Spirit and light the world. Simply that believing in them is not enough to manifest this result. As we follow the instruction, we move toward the actualization of who God made us to be, and we move toward discovering our purpose in Him. Lastly, we become most empowered to bring about His will on Earth as it is in Heaven.

REFLECTION ON GOD, SATAN, AND THE WORLD

The greater problem with this world is not how it lives outside of God's walls, but more so how it lives within Satan's walls. Accordingly what causes humanity his greatest strife is his obedience to the rules established by that which is otherwise to God – Satan. Inasmuch as one of the greatest ways the Father of Lies has humanity lead to confusion and conflict is through mankind's innate desires for earthly attainments. Naturally then it would seem that the strings of Satan tie tightest to the hearts of those who, above all else, seek earthly satisfactions. As these strings are tautly wound, his control over those who are compelled by worldly temptations is near absolute.

Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

-Proverbs 27:20 KJV

As such, earthly and carnal passions are the primary motivations Satan inspires to misdirect mankind from truth. Consequently it is paramount for each of us to identify the tactics in which Satan uses to ensnare us with his hooks. In this, generally speaking, wherever we can see people in mass being led to their ultimate demise (vanity), we can rightfully recognize the architect of that system is most certainly the Adversary. Because the Son of Perdition's objective is known, where he seeks vindication in man's rejection of God, it is also evident what pertains to him. In this manner, where we can say the Lord acts in mysterious ways, we can simultaneously say that Satan acts in obvious ways.

This truth then begs to ask, how so do we get everyone to become aware of Satan's existence? For as much, it is only when this task is completed – the task of getting all people aware of the one who aims for their destruction – are we, as one, able to properly defend against the death he brings upon us. Surely it is so that in order to solve a problem one must first identify the problem. So then, how do we get the world to recognize the greatest problem it faces in the first place?

Concurrently, we must also question how, if so we could get the world to become aware of its enemy, how too might we get the world to overcome this enemy by its strength alone? Insofar as Satan is certainly formidable having power far greater than men. This must mean overcoming Satan additionally requires a strength which is greater than the strength of men. As fortune would have it, even if Satan's power vastly supersedes that of our own, his power in no way can match the power of God.

I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

-Luke 10:18

So then, if we could get humanity to acknowledge the existence of Satan, how also could we get the world to come to the realization of God such that we may all draw upon His strength? In our blindness, how may we see the truth in the light and submit ourselves, as any lesser thing must do before any greater thing which compels, to the one true righteous God? Isn't a fact that a blind person can neither see the brightness of day,

nor the darkness of night, but can still know each by the radiant warmth of the sun and the cold chill of earth's shadow? Consequently, it must be true that if we are willing to use our full sense of perception, we may then rightfully perceive the greater forces that exist.

In earnest, may we all become so observant. However, what good would it do if we are not willing to give ourselves over to God and His instruction? Truly, getting a person to submit to God should be like getting an ant to submit to a sugar cube; unfortunately, causing great conflict for many of us, is the fact that we are often far too zealous in our pride. As such, in great numbers, we people would much rather scurry, through and over one another, for specs of sweetness to claim as our own – in contrast to – seeking the much greater abundance of God. In doing so, we unwittingly aspire to rebuke the very cube where each grain had loosened. Sadly, it is simply in our nature to praise the fallen grains with our mouths and to forsake the cube, which the grains had fallen from, with our hearts.

For those of us full in ignorance and self-serving desires, it makes little difference to us if our volume is that of a teacup. We will trust in our little portion all the way until we stumble and it all pours out. It furthermore makes little difference to us, if so we simply add our little portion into the ocean of life, that we may, in turn, become likewise as full as an ocean. It is simply too hard for us to practice such a humiliating exchange. So then, we will impudently refuse to do so until our cup becomes empty, and we have nothing left to pour in offering.

How then might we, when we fall victim to this way of thinking, ever know of the ways of our Lord? For there is neither a man-made logic which can substitute for His establishment of faith, nor is there any amount of reason which may add to His sum. How so might us, who imagine ourselves as having out-thought our need to believe, seek the wisdom of the one we have denied?

As we wait for our great sign, do we not know of the signs which we have already overlooked? Do we sincerely believe the Lord of lords acts as vainly as we do? If we possess such a hardened heart to trick ourselves to believe in prosperity without Him, how then might we seek the fullness of prosperity which comes by being in Him? How then might us, who had hated our Lord so much so as to deny even His existence, repent of our contempt such that we may have His light and wisdom once and forever?

These things are certainly greatly worth wondering about, but the means of our Lord are greater than the ways of ourselves. Therefore we have seen how He is not purely the God of the elect. In truth, He makes a path for each person to be with Him forever, and He, before us all, comes as the God of love and mercy. As we see in scripture, His plan for salvation was also made for the sake of those who crucified Him. When He died on the cross, He did it for both the faithful and the unfaithful, the righteous and the sinner.

By this narrative we say, in such great love, the Lord gave His life in ransom for the entire world. In such great love, He gave His life in ransom for the most disbelieving and blind as well. As He did so, He gave each and every one a veritable path to eternal life living in His eternal kingdom. So forth, may we each know our Holy creator and live by Him who has set out, with His own well-being at stake, our salvation. As it is, only then might evil be put to rest, and we may have true peace in the world.

ELECTION OF THE SPIRIT

Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

-John 4:13-14

There can be no doubt, we always have a choice. Do we continue to feed the appetites of our flesh, which are never satisfied, or do we instead learn to feed the appetites of the Spirit, which are easy to satisfy? Insofar as, do we choose to remain as the worldly who are a prisoner to their flesh, or do we aim to become as the spiritual who are loosened from the chains of their flesh?

Although some of us may not believe, the truth is that this empowerment of self, which is the means to freedom from our unyielding carnal desires, is always available for us to achieve. Truly, where we are willing to seek this truth, we will find this truth. As we see others who have obtained this greater state of self-expression, we even more so see in the most plain of manners how, through clear scientific evidence, our paradigms, habits, and desires are all - to some extent - malleable. This is true whether it be by our will or by the will of another.

Consequently it is not a matter of what change we cannot make. It is only one of what change we will make. This maturation of self is only a matter of faith, will, practice, and perseverance, such as with the development of all skills. Naturally, where we can learn something through repetition and practice, we can also unlearn something through repetition and practice. As a result the slate of our mind is always being rewritten day in and day out.

Accordingly, it is only in bondage to our flesh that we may be controlled to act in accordance with the suffering of our flesh, so we should thoroughly recognize the spiritually deprived state of the modern man. Inasmuch as, who among us would not prefer the more agreeable state of freedom from want? As the desires of the Spirit are few and easy to satisfy and the desires of the flesh are many and can never be satisfied, we must choose to live exceedingly against ourselves where we foolishly have many desires.

As such, only through a worldly focus can we be kept so blind to not recognize our inherent freedom. As we collectively fail to see, the great majority of us will willfully submit to a lesser existence. However if we all were fully aware that we could obtain freedom from the insanity of selfishness, would we choose to live any differently? Surely if we are rational we would not willingly act in a way of life that causes so much suffering to ourselves, to others, and to the environments in which we depend upon for survival.

We must then ask ourselves for what reason does the state of humanity abide - as an organism which can always change - in a perpetual state of self-destruction? Even in a world where we have enough to satisfy every basic need, we opt instead to fight against one another in egregious conquest. We even do this making our necessities harder to

acquire all for things we merely want. What's driving us then? It can't be the will to survive, because we're committing suicide in the process.

If by all accounts it's beyond a blemish by the hand of nature, perhaps it is even more, a force of nature instead. The more and more we maintain our recklessness in choice, the more and more we can conclude it must be a force rather than an accident. If then it is an undisclosed force, which creates confusion and isolation among us, then we may rightly call this force spiritual darkness. If so these things are true, we may say this world is wrought in this darkness, for the confusion and isolation in our world is dreadful, and it becomes more dreadful by the day.

How then can we not see the burdens of vanity? A body is made up of cells which work together for the integrity of the whole and one another. However the things which make up a body that cause it and its cells it to die is not a member of the body. In this regard we have to be very careful in how we balance out our lives and the impact we make with our choices. The more selfish we are the more we burden both ourselves and others; the more entrenched we are with the tangible, the more we burden both ourselves and others as well. Furthermore the more others are burdened the more they may, even more, burden us in return.

By this, we may fully appreciate the value of a spiritual focus. Not only do we further open ourselves to the opportunity to receive greater peace and lasting happiness in our lives, but we also increase our social cohesion and environmental stability when we all share this focus. Accordingly we see the great difference between choosing self-centered desires over this deeper connection to life. In doing so we even more see how making a choice is the greatest thing we possess, and how it is often times the thing we are most willing to give away.

Ultimately, where we don't, as a whole, change and develop ourselves to become more than what the world would have us be, we elect the chaos of the tangible and finite to rule our lives. We say then, even though we know how little we actually know, what we think we know is what we consider to be all that matters. At the very least, we fail to secure our own fate. As is, in the process of choosing a more limited notion of self, we pay the opportunity cost of having the ability to choose something more, which is even more in our best interest.

End of Book

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