

# THE GOSPEL TRUTH

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# THE GOSPEL TRUTH

## INTRODUCTION

### OF THE LORD OR OF THE DEVIL?

A clear word from the Lord as to “what is what” in life, what the Lord is about, and what the devil is about is John 10:10. Everything in life is either about the Lord or about the devil. It is one of the two. You know, they talk about gun control. It is not about the guns; it is about who has the guns and whether they are about the Lord or about the devil. One or the other.

When you talk about money, it is not really about money, it is about who has the money. They are either of the Lord, or they are of the devil as far as the use. Jesus makes it very clear in John 10:10 that *“The thief has come to steal, to kill, and to destroy, but I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.”* That lays it out really clearly, really simply.

I like simple. I like clean. I like clear because there is no mistaking it. Whatever steals is not of God. Whatever kills is not of God. Whatever destroys is not of God. The Lord gives life, brings it abundantly, and increases it. The devil wants to increase the evil in the earth while the Lord wants to increase the good.

And so, you cannot serve two masters, you either serve one or the other. The fruit of your life shows who you serve – again, either of the Lord or of the devil. What is the thief wanting to steal? He wants to steal everything that the Lord is about and what the Lord wants to give out. The devil is a thief, a liar, and the father of all liars, as Jesus says. The Lord speaks the

truth, and the devil speaks lies (to steal the truth away from people) and ultimately kills and destroys.

## PART ONE

### HOW GOOD THE LORD IS

#### FOUR THINGS BELONGING TO THE LORD

1. All the glory and all the honor belong to Him. If we put it another way, that means the Lord is the originator of everything that is good. He is the Creator. He receives all the credit.
2. All the silver and gold belong to Him. The silver and gold are His. He has dominion. He has rule over all things.
3. *“Vengeance is mine, I will repay,”* says the Lord. Nobody else has a right to vengeance. He alone has the right to judge the living and the dead. He alone has the right to discipline and remove evil. He alone has that power and authority.
4. The Lord says that all the people are His. His love goes forth to them. He made us as His creation. He knows the plans He has for us - for good, not for evil, plans to prosper, to give hope and a future.

The Lord created us for fellowship with Him. He breathed His life and His image into us, and He will not ever leave us or forsake us. *“Therefore, we can boldly say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear what man shall do to me.’* He knows His plans for us. He wants us working with Him as co-laborers and joint heirs in the kingdom of God, where love and joy and peace will reign forever in His presence (fullness of joy).

## THE CONSEQUENCES OF REBELLION

So, understanding those things, we see the thief wants to steal the glory. He wants to steal the money (by money we are talking about whatever resources the Lord intends to be used for good). The thief wants to use those resources to further evil causes, which will ultimately steal, and kill, and destroy. Though he speaks smoothly and sounds true, he will change the truth and alter it a little bit (which makes it not true anymore). He wants to remove the purity, the goodness, the kindness, the love, and the mercy of God. He wants to taint that and to change people. This is what happened in the garden with Adam and Eve, and they fell away from God.

They lost the dominion. They lost the rule. They lost the glory. They lost relationship with God. They lost the plan of God. They gave it up. They consequently were destined to go to hell under the vengeance and wrath of God which comes upon the evildoer, and ultimately on the devil and his fallen angels.

The Lord never made Gehenna, the place of fire, the second death, for man. He made it for the devil and the fallen angels that had followed him in his rebellion and traitorship against the Lord. But man chose to follow the dominion and rule of the devil and all the evil came into the earth. Genesis talks about how the fallen angels taught man the ways of the devil, and not the ways of God. Because the fallen angels lost their position, and Satan who used to be light became darkness (where destruction was working within him), he brought darkness to everybody and everything he touched. Ultimately to steal, to kill, and to destroy. And so, you have what you have in the world today. It is basically why things are the way they are.

## THE WAY BACK TO LIFE

However, the Lord in His infinite love and plan immediately had a promise to Adam and Eve that a Savior would come to restore people to the place that the Lord intended them to have. His name is Jesus Christ. *"You shall*

*call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.”* The Lord established the way back to Himself and to life, to abundant life and living, not just existence.

## UNDERMINE THE WORK OF THE DEVIL

The devil cannot create life. He can only distort and destroy it. He is not the Lord. His goal with Adam and Eve was to get them away from the Lord, to break faith with Him. That is where all of the temptations, trials, sickness, disease, poverty, confusion, chaos, worry, fear, and terrorizing come. The devil is the master terrorist, the head of the terrorists. But we are to terrorize the terrorist in Jesus' name and destroy the work of the devil. Jesus came to undermine everything the thief stole and to bring back, to give back, everything. To give it back to whom? To God.

## WHAT THE LORD ESTABLISHED FOR MARRIAGE

He created mankind – male and female. I know that is always an issue now because gender is an issue in the world. The devil makes an issue of gender. In Christ Jesus, the Lord made us spiritual which supersedes male or female. What the Lord established for marriage (a sacred holy thing), the devil has defiled and made an unholy thing with no meaning.

Without Jesus in the marriage there is no real union, no real bond. Without people being one in spirit, they are really not joined with each other. This is why the Lord says not to be unequally yoked with another person.

In the Old Testament there was an issue when the people of God intermarried those who worshiped false gods (who had pagan belief systems). It was considered an abomination. Their union was no longer a union because you cannot have the Lord Jesus and the devil in the same house. It will not work. It will not happen.

## WHAT IS BLESSED CANNOT BE CURSED

Balaam was paid to curse Israel, but he could not do it because every time he opened his mouth, as a prophet of God, he had to speak the truth. Balaam said, "I cannot curse these people because every time I open my mouth, I bless them." What is blessed is blessed, and what is cursed is cursed. You do not need to curse something that is already cursed. What is blessed (what is of God) cannot be cursed because it is blessed. What is not of God is already cursed.

Man was under a curse until Jesus came and broke the curse and the dominion of the devil. God given life is called the New Birth, the second birth. We are born the first time under a curse, but with faith in Jesus we receive the good news of the love of God in Jesus Christ. Jesus took the curse away.

We are able to choose now. The Lord enabled that to happen in Christ Jesus. We are no longer under the curse. The Lord loves us, and there is nothing separating us from Him anymore. Through faith in Jesus Christ, He has given us opportunity and salvation. It is the gift of God. He Himself came to save us.

## LORD OF ALL

Jesus is not like any of the other prophets or leaders of the great religions of the world. Jesus Christ is the Creator. He is actually the Lord of lords and the King of kings over all the religions of the world, over all the power of the devil, over all that is and ever will be. He is the Lord of all, and the King of kings. Every knee will bow to the name of Jesus in the time ahead as well as even now because He reigns in spite of what else is going on out there with the devil, the world, and the old selfish self (the flesh).

They no longer have any power over a child of God through Christ Jesus.

That is what Jesus is saying right now, giving you a life more abundantly because He has come to live in you. The old is passed away. The selfish self was under the devil's rule and dominion, and did hateful, hurtful, awful, evil things, having no relationships with anybody because a selfish person cannot have proper relationships.

The selfish think only about themselves. They do not love. There was no love. There was no joy. There was no peace in the world. Everything was external stimuli, and nothing but evil came from selfishness (coming from oneself). Evil by definition is basically anything that is not of the will of the Lord. We were submitted to the devil's rule. The Lord would judge in wrath and vengeance whatever is of the devil.

## LOVE AND LIFE

Because of our faith in Jesus Christ, the Lord does not see us through His wrath. He is seeing us through His love. He first loved us in coming to save us in Christ Jesus. We now respond and have the ability to respond to Him in love. He gave us love.

If you understand the logic, love and life are one. Without love there is no life. There is no goodness. There is no blessing. But we become givers rather than takers.

Thieves have no interest in love. They have no care for anybody but themselves, and they really do not love themselves. I can never say that selfish people love themselves. They are about themselves, but they do not have any love because they would not do what they are doing to others if they really, truly loved.

Thieves want everything for self, but ultimately, they are under the rule of the devil. He then steals from them what they stole from others. What does he really want to steal? – The life of God, the love of God, the joy of God, the peace of God. He blinds people's minds, *"lest they receive the*

*glorious light* [and life] *of the gospel*,” the good news of Jesus. (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:4) He tries to keep people away from the Lord and portrays the Lord as the evil one, the bad guy, saying that He is not there looking out for you. The devil does not want people to hear about the goodness, the life and the promises of God. He does not want people to enjoy relationship with the Lord. That is why he has come to steal, to kill, and to destroy.

The first thing Adam and Eve did when they went against God and violated themselves (violated their life with the Lord) was run and hide from Him. Of course, the Lord in His love sought them out. Remember? The first thing they noticed was that they were naked. They were not covered by the blessing anymore. They were under a curse, and that is where guilt, pain, shame, sorrow, depression, anxieties, and fears came into their lives.

## PROMISES OF GOD

“*Surely He* [the Lord Jesus] *bore our griefs*.” (Isaiah 53) In the Hebrew, “grief” means sickness, diseases, or maladies (the physical realm). He carried our sorrows (everything in the emotional realm – grief, guilt, pain, shame, sorrow, suffering, torment). The Lord has come to restore relationship — with Himself, with ourselves, and with others as He comes to live within us. And so, life abundantly comes through all the promises of the Lord that He lives by, that He gives to us, so that we might participate with Him in the divine nature, the God-nature, the Lord Jesus-nature.

## EYES, BE OPEN

It is important to define who the Lord is. This is very important because there are many gods out there. Jesus and David said we are gods (that is, eternal creatures). Yet, only the Lord Jesus is the Superior God.

The question is where are you going to spend eternity? Angels are eternal creatures. They cannot be killed. Many of the worst angels have actually

been imprisoned by the Lord awaiting the time when He returns. They are reserved for destruction in Gehenna, the place of fire. That is comforting, that is actually good news because they are not even out there. The Lord reigns to enable us not to be blinded so we can receive His life.

We pray for everybody that their eyes be open so they can see the love of God. We pray that they can receive the love of God because there is no love in the world. The old selfish self (the flesh) does not love us. The world does not love us. It does not love the Lord. It is under the devil's rule right now until Jesus comes back, and ultimately establishes His rule and destroys everything of the devil, all his works and all his ways.

## A HIGHER AND BETTER PLACE

But right now in God's good plan, through faith in Jesus Christ, He has put Himself within us. He is enabling us to will and to do the will of the Father. We are at a higher and a better place than Adam and Eve were. They were created in God's image, and He breathed in them the breath of life. They had everything perfect.

We now have been given the dominion and the authority over all things in Jesus' name (as we abide in the Lord) because all authority, power, and glory belong to Him. When we are attached to Him, as His children, we are one, and we bring heaven to the people on this earth. We have authority over the devil and all the evil in the earth in Jesus' name. As you received Jesus as Lord and Savior, the kingdom of heaven came within you, Jesus says. So, the life of heaven, the promise of heaven, the authority and the power under the Lord's direction, guidance, and rule belong to us.

It only works because we are trusting the Lord, leaning not to our own understanding, acknowledging Him in all our ways. He then directs the path. In other words, you cannot nor do we want to use this power and dominion to go out and do what is not the will of God. We want all the glory to go to the Lord. We want all the money and whatever the Lord has

blessed us with to go to Him. We want all the vengeance to belong to Him. We do not want to hurt anybody. We do not want to repay evil to anybody.

## THE LORD WILL DEAL WITH EVIL

*“Do not repay anyone evil for evil”* (Romans 12:17) because that is the Lord’s role. He will deal with the evil in the earth, He will deal with the devil and the fallen angels. He will deal with all the rulers and people who are working the works of the devil in the earth.

Judgment is coming, and judgment is happening. It is happening as we speak because the Lord is advancing the kingdom of God in the earth, bringing everything to the fullness of days when He is going to come back and take His rightful place over all things, removing the evil and all that is intended for evil. Whatever was stolen, killed, and destroyed in people’s lives will be reversed.

He will establish His kingdom forever. There will be no more evil. There will be no more pain, sorrow, suffering, or sickness. Ultimately the final consequence of evil is death. People who are in Christ Jesus will live in the love, the peace, and the joy of the Lord in harmony with Him and each other forever. The consequence of love is life eternal.

## WHO GIVES AND WHO TAKES AWAY?

The devil cannot bring peace, even though he will talk about peace. He cannot bring it because he does not have any peace inside. He has no joy. He will allow people to have moments of joy, and then he will take them away. Hence the teaching, “the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away.” (Job 1:21) The devil has propagated this in the church through the pulpits. There is a lack of understanding about who the Lord is and how He works.

The Lord gives, but it was the devil who took away from Job. The Lord had

nothing to do with it. The Lord did not take down the hedge of protection.

The devil put fear into Job's heart. That is common to man apart from Jesus. Fear, worry, doubt, unbelief, and stress are the result of it. It breaks down physically, mentally, and ultimately spiritually in the person who is not of God, who has not received Jesus as Lord and Savior. Consequently, he is always afraid of losing stuff, always trying to hold onto it, always thinking about things rather than thinking about the Lord. He is always afraid for his life and seeking to be loved.

## HE IS YOUR REASON FOR LIVING

For a Christian "stuff" is not an issue. We realize, as Jesus said, that our life does not consist of the things that we possess – houses, cars, relationships. That is not our life. Our life is only in Jesus Christ, in the Lord. That is all that matters. Strip away everything else, and we have Jesus. We have everything we need for life and godliness.

I am laying it all out clearly (as it needs to be in this day and age) so that people will understand how things really are in God's truth and working. If you have worry and fear, then at that moment you are not acting in the Lord Jesus. You are outside of the protection of God. You are outside of the blessing of God. You are denying His presence. You are denying His provision. You have idols (other gods) in your life.

The fear for your life will, as Jesus says, cause you to lose your life. *"If you lose your life for My sake, you will gain your life."* (Matthew 10:39) Because the good Lord is all that matters. He is your life, He is your love, He is your reason for living until you are finished with what He has given you to do. He has given you an assignment. You are not just here to occupy time and space. When you are finished, you will be with the Lord because He is your reason for being here.

## THE FALLEN WORLD

When Jesus was finished, He went back and took His place as Lord of lords, and King of kings. The Father said, *“This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”* Jesus listened to the Father. He said, *“My words are spirit and life.”* They are spiritual. They are not fleshly, worldly, or carnal. They are not drawing us back to the old selfish flesh. They are not bringing us back to be conformed to the world that has fallen.

The world is evil, outside of the will of God and under the rule of the devil. I tell people, “This is not God’s world.” Even the whole creation is groaning for the day when Jesus returns so that the evil is removed. (Romans 8) Creation does not have chaos when God creates. The whole creation is upside down because of the rule of the devil and because of fallen man who abuses the creation for his own purpose, violating everything.

I am a godly environmentalist. I make the distinction, understand, because environmentalists are not always about godly purpose. When people care more about animals than they do about human beings, that is stealing, killing, and destroying. Yes, God loves the animals. He created them. He says in Proverbs that whoever abuses His animals are going to have to answer to Him. He says the same thing about His people. Anybody messing with His people are going to have to mess with Him. This is very important because the Lord loves His creation and everybody in it. That is why He came to save us.

## WE ALL NEED A SAVIOR

People do not understand that they need to be saved. Do not think you are okay; you are not. The Lord says you are not okay. You need a Savior. You need to be saved. That is why the Lord Himself came to save us. The devil will tell you that you don’t need a savior. You are okay. Everything is good. But what is the devil really saying? “I want you under my rule. I don’t care about you spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically,

financially, or in relationship. I am going to use you, and I am going to throw you away when you are of no use to me anymore.” The devil is causing evil in the earth, violating the will of God, harming people, being treacherous and traitorous. No love, no peace, no joy, making confusion, chaos, and division in the earth. The devil uses people under his influence to carry out his evil acts and purpose.

Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, Samuel told King Saul, and stubbornness is like the sin of idolatry. The first commandment of God is *“Thou shall have no other gods before me.”* What does the devil want? He wants to be the god that is over your life. You do not serve yourself. This is faulty, selfish thinking (“Take care of me.”) No, when you are taking care of yourself, you are actually under the devil’s direction who has come to steal, kill, and destroy. The truth is, the Lord wants to take care of us. He wants to be the Source of our life and living. *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*

## TAKING A LIFE

Thieves steal what is not theirs. There is no love in such behavior. When you do not value life, then you do not value the Lord of life. You are taking a life that is not yours to take.

A defensive war is different. It is taking a life from someone who is trying to steal a life. People always have questions about that and say, *“Thou shalt not kill”* is one of the Ten Commandments. To the contrary, we are going to protect life, we are going to honor life, we are going to help people to live, and live abundantly well, in Christ Jesus. That is love. To demean a reputation is also taking a person’s life. It takes on many forms (physical, mental and spiritual).

## THE DEVIL HAS DECEIVED AND PERVERTED

You have heard of the second death? That is what will happen when Jesus comes back. The wages of sin, of evil doing, of not doing the will of God, is death. But there is a second death where people will be sealed in their choice, forever separated from God. Sin is separation from the Lord forever, which happens when people have chosen to follow the devil rather than the Lord. The devil (as a liar and the father of all liars) has deceived them into thinking, "I did it my way." Such a statement is marching orders to hell.

Regarding sexual immorality in the earth, sex was a holy thing in marriage. It was only to be used in marriage. The devil and the world perverted sex. Doing such things outside of the marriage bed is defilement. Hebrews, chapter 13, says that you are violating somebody else. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, chapter 6, states that you are violating yourself. Your body is intended to be the temple of the Lord. Paul wrote that they had perverted it with prostitutes, and they had prostituted themselves. As such, there is a curse. You are under a curse when you lie, cheat, steal, rebel against authority, or act independently of God. God never intended folks to be independent. You are immediately born into a *family* — for better or for worse. Hopefully, Jesus makes the difference whether a family is under blessing or under cursing.

## TRUE PROSPERITY

The Lord wants everybody to be saved. He does not want anybody to be lost. He wants everybody to prosper in their life. But what is real prosperity? It is not the world's idea of prosperity which many Christians have gone after. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy, chapter 6, puts it all into perspective and balance. Matthew, chapter 6, also puts everything into perspective and balance.

Prosperity is knowing the Lord and being known by Him. Christians are not to pursue money. We are to pursue the Lord. Then the Lord supplies

whatever is needed for this life to fulfil whatever He has intended for us to do. It may simply be to raise godly offspring. It may be to take care of parents. That is godly, which is really novel in our world today. It is only fitting; they took care of us when we were young.

The world says, "What is yours is mine, and what is mine is mine." Really, they are deceived because who does it belong to? To the devil. Jesus says you cannot serve two masters. You either serve one and love it, or you hate the other. You cannot serve God and "the flesh-the world-and the devil."

They are the unholy trinity. Add "me, myself, and I" in the unholy trinity. As such, the devil is ruling and reigning, just waiting for opportunity to possess the people. He tries to wear them down, break them down by life and everything in it, and ultimately to come within.

## ALLOW THE LOVE

The Lord loves us with an everlasting love that never changes. He does not use us and abuse us. He uses us to bless us, and the only way He can use us is if we allow His love to come into our hearts, with "Jesus Christ, You are my Lord." It is a free will choice. The devil will not give you a free will choice. He is a murderer, Jesus says. He is a liar, a deceiver, and he uses people for his bidding. Then he throws them away. He trashes their life. He wants them forever separated from the Lord.

## PART TWO

### PURPOSEFUL LAWS AND PRINCIPLES

#### PROTECTION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING IS THE LAW

The Lord put something into the earth called law, the commandments of God. The commandments of God are to protect people for community living. Without law there is no community. Romans, chapter 13, will show you the intention of the law and the authorities. The fifth commandment deals with *“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”* The commandments are there to instruct you in the ways of the Lord and the ways to live in community with others.

The first four commandments have to do with loving the Lord and how to love Him. The second six have to do with loving your neighbor as yourself. This does not refer to self-love. It is referring to God's love. The Lord has given us a new life, and the same laws are written on our hearts.

That is why it is such a joke when ignorant Christians do not understand that the Lord has not done away with the law. The book of Galatians tells us that He did away with the circumcision of the body, and made it the circumcision of the heart, set apart to God (New Testament). Just because you are circumcised does not mean anything except for health and cleanliness purposes. Now what comes out of the heart matters. Jesus said, *“Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.”* I can guarantee you, what goes in comes as a sign of what is going out, because you will know them by their fruit.

What we have to realize is that the law is good. It keeps order in the universe. The whole universe operates by laws. For example, the Lord built the law of gravity (“what goes up must come down”) into the universe. The natural laws keep all the planets and stars in place. Otherwise we would have the chaos of heavenly bodies crashing into each other.

## SYSTEMS IN THE BODY

Your body is one of the most incredible creations that exist. Everything is set in order by a God of order who created us. For example, there is a filtration plant in your body. There are circulation, respiration, and endocrine systems. There is a chemical balance system. You have a brain, but most folks do not use it to capacity. It has been proven that people use only about 10% of their brain.

I have a phone today that I use for calling out and receiving calls. I receive texts, but I do not text back. My phone can do so many things that I never use. I was recently talking myself into going back to a flip phone (almost a dinosaur at this point in time).

The phone is similar to the brain. People are not using it to capacity. In addition, they use only about 10-15% of their lung capacity. You have a much better chance of surviving a sickness that affects the respiratory system if you breathe deeply. If you are a smoker, quit. You are killing yourself.

The devil uses smoking to destroy your life. The Lord has some very specific things to say about people who are destroying the temple of God (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3). Forget the terrorists, murderers, and killers out there. People every day are killing themselves by what they smoke or drink, by doing drugs or self-medicating. That is the work of the devil. No one even needs to come in and shoot people because the people are killing themselves.

## DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIORS AND RESULTS

Back in the 1960's Russia said that they could win America over without firing a shot. We are so divided now. This is why we have to pray.

What does cancer do? It feeds on your body. It is eating up things. The Ebola virus is infectious and can be fatal. Some of those horrible, hideous diseases actually melt and destroy the organs. In addition, bitterness and unforgiveness can rot the bones by affecting the bone marrow and the blood in the bones. Much arthritis is caused by bitterness and anxiety.

## THE LAW OF GOD

The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. The law sets a standard. Before Jesus came, nobody could keep the law and the love of God. (I am equating the law with the love of God) because the Lord Jesus gave the law to save life, to have life. However, the problem was not with the law. The problem was people could not keep it because they had no love and no desire or ability to love.

Now we are able to keep the law of God because He has given us His love in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:4), and we are saved by God's grace, not by our works, lest anybody should boast. It is a gift of God.

The devil wants people working their way to becoming a god when they already are a god. Unfortunately, they are going to hell without Jesus, God's one and only provision for life. Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, the only One that comes from heaven.

Consider the leaders of other belief systems. Not one of them came from heaven. They all were born of an earthly person. Jesus came from heaven. His Father was the heavenly Father.

The law of God is to be established in people's hearts in order to show them how to love the Lord, and how to love their neighbor. The Lord gives

us the willingness to do His law, for we did not have the willingness before Jesus came into our life. Many Christians are still operating by self, and the Lord calls what they do (their works) dead works. People try to be religious, they try to be Christians, but you cannot try to be a Christian. You either are or you are not a Christian.

## DEVELOPING GOD'S IMAGE

Jesus makes you a Christian, for you cannot make yourself a Christian. You cannot make yourself anything because ultimately the thief will steal, kill, and destroy. He wants to puff you up and make you think you are important. The world is about self-image. The Lord is about developing His image in you.

Years ago, some people I knew bought a Rolls Royce, and a guy came by and said, "Oh, you have finally arrived." I was thinking, "*Arrived to what?*" It does not make any difference in your life as to who you are.

Now I believe in God's abundance. I do not have any problem talking about prosperity because prosperity is knowing God. When you know the Lord, He will give you whatever He has for you. I am not begrudging those folks with the Rolls. If He had that for them, it would be good, but they did not have it for long. In fact, it did not really work well. But what? Is it a status thing? Is your neighborhood a status thing?

## LAWS OF HEALTH

Someone came to me one time and said, "You know, Pastor, I gave up all my vices except smoking." I said, "Well, why not go all the way?" That one (smoking) will take you out. Why do it? People do what they take pleasure in doing. Even though the guy's grandparent died of cancer and emphysema, his parent died of cancer and emphysema. Why is the child doing this? Is it a generational curse? No, it is a smoking curse. It is a nicotine curse (you know they put more nicotine in the cigarette so you

smoke them more).

Now people are vaping. There are flavors in them for the young people. It is amazing. They are nothing more than drug addicts and pushers. Just because something is recommended to you does not mean you take that medicine. Take a good look at what it does to you. Yes, it clears my skin, but it shuts my kidneys down or it is going to affect my lungs. Oh, and it may give me suicidal tendencies.

Now, who in their right mind would take that? I would rather say, "Lord, just finish me. When I am done, take me out." I am not going out because I am violating God's health principles, shutting down His systems because I am doing something that works against the law of life and health that the Lord put in me. Jesus bore my griefs and carried my sorrows (the emotional realm), "*The chastisement of our peace* (the punishment for our peace) *was upon Him.*" He gave us His right standing. He took our punishment on the cross, and even the final curse against God's people (death) was removed. When we die, we live because Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

## WITH OR WITHOUT JESUS?

Why do I want to subject myself to the thief any longer for Jesus says, "*But I have come...*" Meaning, that is how it was, but "I have now come that you might have a life and have it more abundantly." I do not know anybody who would not want love, peace, joy, kindness, gentleness, meekness, humility. People might have a problem with it, and that is usually why they do not receive Jesus.

Self-pride (I want to run my life my way, I want to do what I want, I don't want any laws or authority over me) and the spirit of lawlessness came from the devil at the beginning. I have to go back to the roots, and I cannot

say the devil made me do it because I still have a free will. Whether you serve the devil, or you serve the Lord, you still have a free will.

I have found that most people without Jesus do what they do either because they simply want to, or because they are broken down and pressured by life and their old self. The devil enters into what they have entered into, but in any case, they still did it by choice. *“That which I feared the most is that which came upon me.”* Job feared for his children, and that is what opened the door to the thief. The thief did not take down the hedge, Job took it down because of his choice. But he was ignorant. He did not even know the Lord. He had heard about the Lord, and he was seeking to do what was right.

There are many moral people out there in the earth who are going to hell. They would be considered good people. They do not lie, cheat, or steal because they learned that does not profit. The world is into profit and loss, but the Lord is into being our Source, not people being our source. *“In your flesh dwelleth no good thing.”* *“There is none that doeth good, no not one.”* That is why we need a Savior. In Christ Jesus we need to remind ourselves of it periodically because the old self tries to raise up its head.

## THE LAW OF LOVE

Every time you worry, fear, or stress about something, you are outside of the will of God, for you are not doing what He says. There is a law against that. You have idols in your life that you are serving.

What is the law? It is the law of love that says, “My God loves me. He is with me. He is for me. He is not against me. My life is in His hands, and how can I say that I am alone, or I am worried, and I am fearful for my life when I have a Lord who loves me with an everlasting love that never changes, never goes away?”

You cannot say you are helpless and powerless. That is what worry and

fear say. You have the Lord of the universe who loves you, and you are the apple of His eye. He is looking out for you. How can you have the audacity to spit in His face and say the ministry of the Holy Spirit is not good and does not work?

Jesus is coming back for His Bride, but not a messed-up Bride. We are believers, givers, and receivers. We give peace. We give joy. We give love to everybody.

## YOU CANNOT BOAST, DIE TO SELF

People may say, "You are such a wonderful person. Oh, you speak so beautifully. You are such a giver, such a helper." No, you say, "I am just being attached to Jesus. That is what *He* does." You cannot take any credit nor can you boast about any of it. That is what self does. The devil loves to puff people up and make them think they are really important.

Have you ever read a self-image book or listened to tapes? I would be making millions out there on the circuit because people want to hear that. *Oh yeah, build us up, encourage us.* But as soon as I speak the perspective and truth of the Word of God, it destroys self-image. The Lord wants us to die to self and to become God-people. We are born of heaven.

This sets everything in perspective. Understand, the devil is not stealing from you. He is going after the Lord because you and I are His children, His creation, the ones He sets His love upon. So, what does the thief want to do? Break that up. He wants to break us up. He wants to mess that up. Think of it as a family. He wants to mess up and break up relationships.

## TRUE BLESSINGS

Years ago the Lord told me to teach a series on the subject of blessing. I went through the whole Bible on blessing. Others now have come out with books on the subject, but the Lord had me do it then. He started it this

way, “Son, for what reason do people come to see you?” And I said, “Usually, first about relationships with others. Second about finances. Third about health. Fourth about mental peace, and fifth about spirituality.” He said, “Son, that is mixed up.”

Understand, He wanted me to do a series on blessing. What is the first thing that people are looking for? Love, looking to be loved (relationships). It has to do with the fear for their life that covers over everything else — relationships, finances, health, mental condition, and then spiritual. The Lord said, “Flip it.”

The spiritual should come first because it has to do with the blessing of a relationship with the Lord. My spiritual condition should be the first thing I am thinking about. But the world is all about the external, the physical condition. The largest amount of money (multi-billion dollars a year) is spent on physical exercise, cosmetics, clothing, etc. It is all about the external.

Secondly comes finances because people want to have “stuff.” Then they find out they have to pay for it. They go into credit debt because they want something they cannot afford, or they want a lifestyle they cannot afford. Many think it is going to make them feel good. It is going to make them look good. It is going to make others think that they have it all together.

“Yeah, I live in a nice big house in the right neighborhood, and I have a beautiful car, I am looking really good, you know.” It is a shame when somebody marries you for your car. Many people will not consider others if they do not look good on the outside, and they do not have a good-looking car and a place to live. It makes a big difference in this world. But what is in the person’s heart? What is their character?

The world is all about show and being healthy, but I know people that have much money and no health. If you do not have health, you cannot enjoy anything. If you can have it all but no health, you have nothing. Others

have all kinds of money, but they do not have anybody who is really a friend. People just want what that person can do for them. They are not real friends. As soon as the money is gone, you find out who your friends are. As soon as you stop doing for them what they want you to do for them, they do not talk nicely about you anymore. They only flatter you to get what they want.

When people are stressing out about their life, you can see that peace is more valuable than billions and billions of dollars. Can you imagine millionaires stressing about their life? Why? There is a place in everybody reserved for the Lord. It is the spiritual spot. It is dead until a person receives Jesus, who alone can fill that place.

## WE PURSUE THE LORD

When you are right with the Lord, and you have received God's free gift to you, it means you give up everything for it. Jesus taught the kingdom principle, "the pearl of great price." Some gave up everything to receive what the Lord had for them. Jesus said to the rich young ruler, "Go and take all your wealth and give it away. Then you can receive the kingdom of God." But the ruler walked away sorrowing for he had great wealth.

The disciples' first response was, "Who then can have eternal life if this guy can't have it?" He was a moral person. He was not out there carousing and sinning and drugging and doping, and using alcohol and sex. He was a clean moral person while others were out there in the fallen world.

He was not classified as a sinner. How difficult for him because he was not doing all those negative things. However, people like him think that they are doing everything themselves rather than acknowledging the Lord. That means humbling yourself under the mighty hand of God. He could not humble himself under the mighty hand of God and trust the Lord because his trust was in what he possessed. Money was his god.

I am not against wealth by any means because the Lord will prosper His people so we have something to give to advance God's Kingdom in the earth and bless people. But understand, we do not seek the money, or wealth. We seek the Lord and pursue Him, and then He gives what is needed to be done through us to accomplish what He has given us to do.

## THE FALLEN MIND VS. THE MIND OF CHRIST

One of the subtle things that traps people is the deceitfulness of riches (Mark 4) and the lust of other things. Have you found you hungered and thirsted after God more when you were having problems?

After the 9-11 terrorist attack in America people said, "Draw near to God; the whole nation has got to pray, pray to God." There were people saying before that, "Don't pray to God. You can't pray to Him; get rid of the commandments." But after 9-11 happened in America, "Oh, everybody's got to pray to God." Well, which God? The Lord told me years ago, "Identify Me, 'Jesus Christ.'" He is the only living God raised from the dead; Lord of lords, King of kings, who loves us.

When you are right with the Lord, then He gives you the mind of Christ. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:16) God's mind. Where is the center of the will? In the mind. That is why the devil tries to blind the mind, but He cannot blind the mind of Christ. He can blind the fallen mind that needs to be renewed by the Word of God. That is why it is so important that we get God's promises in us. *"Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed through the renewing of your mind by the Word of God."* (Romans 12:2) Spirit food. Jesus says, *"It is spirit and life."* It feeds my spirit. Now, if my spirit is healthy, then my mind will have healthy thinking. No "stinking thinking."

My attitudes, my heart, my intellect, my emotions will be stable and consistent. They will not be moved by whatever is going on out there because inside of me is the will of God — God's peace, God's joy, God's love. I know whom I have believed. Stability will in turn affect the health

because the system is operating in Christ Jesus under the law of life and health, meaning that all these systems will work in balance.

Have you ever had an ulcer? I had one when I was a youngster, right after one of the double life-threatening events that happened to me. I had to change some attitudes. When you worry or stress, more acid is secreted in your belly, and secreting more acid than necessary eats the body. With correct attitudes, health and peace will start to flow. The mind controls much of what goes on in the body. The body responds to what the mind is thinking.

## PRINCIPLES OF FINANCE

Regarding finances, the Lord has laws or principles of finance. If violated, you will go broke. Too long consuming alcohol will lead to poverty. It is at the end of what you are doing: Poverty in relationships, poverty in finances, poverty in health, poverty of mental well-being, and you will be bankrupt spiritually because God is not your Source.

Giving tithes and offerings is the first thing. (Honor the Lord with your finances.) How can He be the source of the finances, if all the silver and gold does not belong to Him? If we are not honoring Him with what we have, we will not see increase. If you are not honoring Him with a little, you will never honor Him with anything more. Understand, nothing more will come from the Lord if you are not honoring Him with a little.

Jesus was standing where the people dropped the money into the offering box, and He saw a lady drop in a mite. A mite is a very small amount. The Lord is concerned about money, how it is managed, and what is done with it. She had given all that she had.

Many years ago, when the staff was counting the offering, it did not balance out; it was 10 cents off. I had a dream that week that the account was 10 cents off. Now I did not say over or under, it was 10 cents off, so I went

and talked with the workers that were handling that. I asked if there was anything left over or not balanced in. They said that it was 10 cents off. I said, "That is what the Lord had shown me."

The Lord was concerned about that amount. This is a supernatural God that we serve and love. He is concerned about how we are managing every penny. There is no waste with the Lord. When they fed the 5,000 men, let alone women and children, and God multiplied the loaves and fish, the Lord Jesus sent them out to collect the baskets left over. There were 12 baskets full after everybody was satisfied.

## BLESSED FINANCES

The Lord is concerned about the left overs. He is concerned that there be no waste on anything. You do not touch what belongs to the Lord and try to do something with it for yourself. It came back and bit Judas. He was dipping in God's till, using it for personal gain under the guise of helping the poor. He was robbing the Lord and he cursed himself.

Everything that belongs to God is holy so money becomes holy as it comes into our hands. It is not tainted. I have heard people say they would not take any tainted money. I say, "Well, I would. Send it over to us because what we touch becomes holy (because we use it for God's purpose). Whatever it was used for before, the Lord will turn that for His purpose." Unless it is food given to idols. You do not eat food sacrificed to idols. The wealth of the wicked is stored up for the Lord's people.

When finances are blessed, you do not have to worry about what you are going to eat, what you are going to drink, what you are going to wear. Seek first the kingdom of God, and the Lord does it all. See how it flows together? It is really a very simple system. Spirit, mind, body, and finances have to do with you. Then comes relationships with others. When the Lord has you all together, then you are ready to meet the public, because the

public is wild out there. There are lions and tigers and bears, oh my.

## PART THREE

### WHO DESERVES ALL THE PRAISE?

#### THE LOVE FACTOR

When did I say people first come to me? Relationships. They have met the lions and tigers and bears. They are out there with all the selfish, self-seeking people who are about themselves. They are looking for love. They are looking to be loved, and they get eaten up. Just chewed up, spit out, over and over again, and they do not have the spiritual back up (the Lord). Jesus summarized the first four commandments as: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul, etc. He summarized the second six as: Love your neighbor as yourself.

You are not even ready to deal with the public until you have it right with Jesus. Many people are badly messed up. That is why I tell them, "If you are going into a marriage, you make sure that person is set with Jesus because then their mind, health, body, spirit, and the finances are honoring God. Then you are ready to meet the people because now you have love.

You are able to give love to people rather than looking for love from them. Note, the Lord came for us. We did not come for Him. He made us ready to love Him, to love ourselves, and to love others. That is when blessed relationships can happen. Healing can happen, forgiveness can happen, caring for others and preferring others more important than yourself can happen — the basic laws and principles of relationship. But I could not do any of it until Jesus came into my life.

I used to think anybody sitting in church must love the Lord. No, folks are in church for many different reasons. Some come for healing. They heard the Lord does what He does, and He does it. He freely does it. He gives it out, but will people continue in it? Many times, they go to the Lord to

receive something they need in their life, and once they have it... *“Were there not ten healed? Where are the other nine?”* (Luke 17:17)

There would not be buildings big enough to hold all those we have ministered to over the years. The Lord Jesus did amazing things for them, but that is between each person and the Lord. We do not judge anybody. We do not get into any of that judging. We just faithfully seek to serve the Lord. Do what is right for ourselves as well as help and bless others in the Lord. That is what life is about. No more, no less.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE AND CARE?

I will never forget what the Lord told me when I was wearing myself out physically, trying to help people and be about the Father’s business, trying to be a faithful Pastor and love the people and care for them. It just wore me out in my first years. I had no energy or strength to do anything. I went and got tested, and I was told, “You are the perfect specimen of health.” *Thanks, I can’t do anything except get in the pulpit.*

Thank God once a week was the only service they had.

People will run you ragged because they are only concerned about their immediate needs. In fact, I have had some people call the office, and by the time we got back to them (as the Lord would have it), they forgot what they called about, or “The Lord took care of it.” That is why we follow up on the backside because the Lord has it. We pray, and God takes care of everything.

So, call the office, leave a message about what is going on, and know that you are being prayed for, but do not just sit out there. One time a lady said, “Oh, Pastor, I was in the hospital for two weeks and nobody came.” I said, “Did you call the office and tell anybody that you had an issue, or you were going in for something?” She said, “No.” Personal responsibility. You

have to take personal responsibility for your life. You cannot blame the Lord. You cannot blame the devil. You cannot blame anybody or anything.

## QUALITY OF LIFE CHOICES

Some think how great it would be if they had been born into a wealthy family. No, wealth has nothing to do with your quality of life. There are many sick people in wealthy families. There are many sick people in poor families. This is America, and just because they are poor, they have freedom to become anything that God wants them to become. However, if they do not want to work, and they do not want to be a part of America, or a part of God's church, then they are on their own — no pity, no mercy, no sorrow. They made their bed, and now they have to lie in it — personal responsibility.

Folks can do nothing and still go to hell. They can believe nothing, and have nothing, and go to hell. The Lord is not losing sleep over it. He has done everything that is needed for abundant life and living, provided all the systems, and given *Himself* so that we might have it all. If somebody does not want it, that is his or her choice. Do not cry when you have what you have (nothing good) because you chose not to believe God and were disobedient to the Lord and His authorities.

On the contrary, rejoice that you do have everything good, and take advantage of it. Work it. It says in Philippians 2:12, "*Work out your own salvation...*" You have it now. God gave it to you. It is not self-works because the next verse says, "*For it is God who works in you enabling you to will and to do His good pleasure.*" No excuse.

## HONOR GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE

Let us honor the Lord with our giving. What is that? That is the law of love principle for financial life and blessing, but it does not just cover finances. It covers everything. The Lord says, "Honor Me with your giving," specifically

10 percent of the gross off the top before taxes, before mortgage, before food —first fruits, then offerings. The increase comes in the offerings. He says, “Prove Me on it. Put Me to the test. See whether or not I am going to do this.” It is awesome how that works. But it is not just to take care of yourself. It is to take care of His kingdom, and His work.

The people in the Bible lived in farm communities. So, it was done that way. But to take the Word to the nations and do all these things, it costs money. Who is going to supply that? The Lord spoke to me years ago when we started Glory To God Ministries under His direction. He said, “You shall call the name Glory To God Ministries, for the work which I will do will bring glory to My name.” He also said, “Thankful people give to the work of the Lord.” That is all we have to say. We do not have to pitch anything or show starving babies. I do not have to motivate and move people. Thankful people give to the work of the Lord. If you are thankful to God for all He has done for you, you will honor Him by your giving. The Lord than promises to give back to them who honor Him and His work.

As a little boy, I learned that for 10 bucks you give a dollar, but I had always given two or more because it was to the Lord. I am not giving to an organization. I am not giving to a person. I am giving to the Lord, and as such, the Lord will honor that heart of giving.

Cornelius, in the book of Acts, gave. He helped people, and it went up to the Lord as a memorial. In other words, it was like a statue or something in front of the Lord in remembrance of what the Lord had received from him.

Jesus said to store up treasure in heaven. See, when you are giving to the Lord you are putting in treasure for the other side. What? Do I need to do that “over there?” In the first creation the laws were established for the tithe, the giving and receiving, seed time and harvest. Whatever was sown was going to come up in harvest. If nothing was sown, nothing would come up. If you are sowing, you will reap in due season as the Lord would have it.

## CREATED TO WORSHIP GOD

Everything of the Lord is very simple. People complicate it. Some are looking for a new revelation, but there is nothing new under the sun. Saying something louder does not make it clearer. That is a cultural thing. If anybody ever yells at me, I tune them out. I do not listen to it because peace does not enjoy loud. I find that some people get moved by that, but it is external stimuli. It is not a spiritual movement, which is internal. When the crowd gets totally silent, that is when the Lord is doing a whole lot of things. Why? They are thinking about it. It is going deep.

If you like pumped-up praise, great, but praise comes from inside, not outside. We do not need a band to worship God. You were created to worship Him.

When the devil was in God's glory, being everything that God had created him to be, he was an entire orchestra within himself. In the description of him, he was magnificent the way the Lord created him to worship the Lord. The devil led the choirs of heaven. The Lord had given him all that, and done that for him. The devil did not do it himself, and he got sidetracked. What a loss.

## INVITATION TO THE WEDDING FEAST

The Holy Spirit just grieves over people when they are rejecting the Lord, and the Lord has done all to save them. Jesus gave the parable about the wedding feast in which everybody was invited, but nobody showed up. What does that tell you? He said to go out to the highways and the byways, but nobody came from the highways and the byways either.

A few years ago, the Lord spoke to me about this:

1) "My people do not want to be My disciples. They do not want to be trained into all that I have intended to train them into and to do." They still

cannot handle an hour in prayer. We only ask for a half hour. And I heard that some folks are not even doing that. What? You cannot do that? What is distracting you? What is getting in the way?

2) He told me (and this really grieved me) that considering all the people from the beginning of time since the Fall of mankind, very few are going to enter into the kingdom of heaven when Jesus comes back. That is a relative amount, but what the Lord was saying is that the majority of people have not, are not, and will not receive His love and His goodness. They are distracted, and off on other things. That was really an eye opener for me. He was showing me perspective, for that is what Jesus said when He walked the earth; *“Many are called, but few are chosen.”* The chosen are the ones who accept the call. It is just that simple.

Some ask, “Does the Lord do that?” Yes, He gives opportunity to everyone. He does not make anybody do anything. If you want to stay in your poverty, stay in your poverty. I am not talking about finance; I am talking about spirituality. What was the order of things that people are looking for? *Love, love me, love me, I need to be loved* (Relationships). Then finance. *I do not have any money.* Many do not want to work. If you do not work, you do not eat. Want everything given to you. Health starts to break down because you are worrying and stressing out over relationships, over money.

## COME TO ME AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST

If a person’s mental state is blacked out, many times it is because he or she drank alcohol, or took drugs. They went to sex and porn. Those things will disintegrate your life rapidly. Depression comes, then confusion and anxiety. The Lord is standing there the whole time saying, *“Come to Me you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. I will help you. You have not because you ask not, but you do not want it.”* So, you will go into more alcohol, more drugs, more sex, looking for love. You do not find love in sex. It is a bodily function without love. There is nothing to

it. It is self-gratification. It means nothing without love, and really it was basically intended for procreation. That was the point of it, not all the worldly-devil-sexual-fantasy-abuse stuff out there in the world being propagated. Young kids think, *Wow, sex is going to be all in all.* No, it is not so. Nowadays you do not know what disease you are going to get from whosoever. States do not even require that you be checked for disease when you go in for a marriage certificate. That bothers me. I tell couples, "You had better be checked." Because everyone that a person has had sex with is brought into your relationship.

## GIVEN OUT OF LOVE

The Lord is saying, "I have better plans for you than that. Just humble yourself and receive Me into your life. Say, 'Jesus Christ is My Lord.' Turn your life over to Me, and follow My principles and laws. They are made out of love. They are all given. They all work, and they are all for you that you might be one with Me. Because that is how I work. That is how I operate."

You will find when a relationship is in place, the mind is in place, the body goes into healing and peace, the finances get straightened out, and you are ready to meet the public. Always have a word of faith on the tip of your tongue to speak to people. Love them and care for them because God knows this world needs love and care for the people out there.

You cannot change the world, but you can change one life at a time. That is what the Lord told me when we began Glory To God Ministries. We will reach the world one person at a time. That is the way He does it. They will then reach another as Jesus would have it.

It has been a privilege to reach you with the Truth.

## A CLOSING PRAYER

*Father, we pray that you would touch the lives of the people that are reading this word, and that you are causing them to receive it, tune in to it, and turn off what is not of God, listen to what is of God, and know the difference. Lord, help the people to not get caught up into anything unprofitable. Help them to receive and remain in your faith, your hope and your love. Let it come to your people this day and always. Lord, be glorified and honored. You have all the dominion. All the power is yours, all the silver and gold is yours, and, Lord, the vengeance is yours, not ours. Let peace and joy reign in our hearts and let love be toward people.*

*Father, we thank you that no devil or anything can take away the life you have given to us in Jesus' name, and we are certainly not going to give it up. Use us every day to your glory. As long as we have life and breath, we will praise you in Jesus' name!*