The Wisdom of God

By: Segundina T. Valenzona

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The Wisdom of God

Written by the Same Author

Visions: More Witness For Christ Beyond The Glorious Voice "Thy Kingdom Come" In Earth The Promise Of Eternal The Covenant Of Peace Textbook In Biblical Studies

Tracts:

The Trumpet of A Watchman The Lord's Invitation: "Come Unto Me" The Gift of Love & Eternal Life

Lovingly Dedicated Ta

The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit

My Family

Supernico Y. Valenzona, Jr. Gibson Jun January Gay - Vernie Joy Jason & Ruth Love V. Russell Andrew David & Sophia Rebecca

All who seek to know, love, serve the Lord more deeply and faithfully.

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Quotation

"To be weeded to Wisdom is to live forever To love her is to be perfectly happy To do her work is to be rich beyond measure To share her company is to have sound judgment To converse with her is to be honored."

Valant

Chapter I

Tribute To Wisdom

The Wisdom Of God In All His Creation

Yahweh Almighty (God the Father) is everything. He is awesome in His greatness. He is the Almighty; the I Am. His wisdom and power are overwhelming. He spoke: "Let there be light," and there was light. He founded the earth by the power of His words and set everything in it firmly. He established the boundary of the seas and the land so that the waves would not go beyond its territory. He provided a passage of the great waters from the mountain to the seas, so that the river flows calmly and freely. He made the sky so beautiful and lovely by the presence of the sun, the moon, the stars that shine so brightly, and the rainbow that appears so wonderfully. He made the mountains, the hills, the valleys happy by filling them with trees, flowers, animals, butterflies, and the birds that sing with glorious melody.

At His command the wind blows wherever He wishes, and He lets the rain fall mysteriously. He orders the wind to blow upon the seas and the waves roll and roar to make the sea creatures feel and see the power of their Creator. He speaks and gives strong warnings through the thunder and flashes of lightning. He sends snow and we all marvel at its whiteness and beauty. The amazing shapes and colors of the flowers are also for the pleasure of all creatures. Almighty Yahweh once took perfect delight in all His creation, for all that He made was orderly, good, and beautiful. At that time, the earth was pure and filled with Yahweh's wisdom and glory.

Then Yahweh Almighty created man and woman, gave them knowledge and understanding to see the majesty of His creation. He also gave them power and authority to rule the earth. He said: "Be fruitful and multiply and have dominion over the earth...." Man and woman did not keep the words or the Law of the Almighty, so they fell from His glory. Because of the transgression, man and woman failed to completely and rightly rule the world and as a consequence, the whole earth suffers. Since then everybody in the universe groans in pain, waiting for the world's complete and perfect redemption. The scriptures say, "For we know that up to the present time all of creation groans with pain, like the pain of childbirth. But it is not just creation alone which groans; we who have the spirit as the first of God's gift also groan within ourselves as we wait for God to make us His sons and set our whole being free" (Romans 8: 22-23).

More than two thousand years ago Almighty Yahweh sent His only begotten Son, Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ), for the people to abide in Him by faith so that they would regain their position, power, and authority to take dominion over Yahweh's creation. But the people did not understand the plan and purpose of the Father through Yahshua the Messiah. Apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians confirms this saying: "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery.... Which none of the princes of the world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (I Corinthians 2: 7- 8).

The people rejected the Lord of glory, despised Him, shamed Him, and crucified Him. Then He was buried but by Almighty Yahweh's wisdom and power, He resurrected and ascended to the throne of the Almighty, constantly interceding for the believers to grow into the fullness of the measure of His stature (Ephesians 4: 11-13). So that the full grown believers or the fully mature man and woman will have complete and perfect dominion over the whole earth, in His Name – the Name Yahshua the Messiah or Jesus Christ.

Finding the path to wisdom begins when one recognizes and acknowledges the existence of his loving and mighty Creator. Walks on to search and know Him, listen to Him and obey Him. To be willing to be taught, to accept and endure His discipline. Discipline means doing the things that are right and proper even if it means hardship and sacrifice, not the things that we like. Discipline when applied particularly to the "old self" is certainly difficult and painful but its rewards are good, sweet and lasting.

Many people say, they want to be wise but are not willing to even start the discipline it requires. They do not have the determination to get it. They do not even want to listen and be corrected. That is why although there are many people who acknowledge their Creator, the Savior, the Holy Spirit who is the Teacher of truth, they do not possess the wisdom that they need.

Wisdom also means constantly abiding in the Will of God. Doing things under the guidance of the all-knowing Teacher. Doing the right things at the proper time, in the appropriate place, and in the right way.

Wisdom reveals herself in righteousness. It could mean keeping ourselves holy through faithful obedience to the commands and instruction of God. Not allowing ourselves to be influenced by any kind of evil, or be under the control of evil but destroying evil and leading people to the path of righteousness for the glory of God, our Father and Savior. Finally, it is wisdom that prepares mankind to be pure enough to be acceptable to the heavenly Father when He opens for them the door of the most holy and everlasting throne.

"Be ye holy; for I Am holy."

"If you want to be wise, keep the Lord's Commands, and he will give you Wisdom in abundance. Fearing the Lord is Wisdom and an education in itself." Sirach 1: 26 – 27

How Wisdom Made Me

Wisdom carefully and beautifully molded me in my mother's womb. After nine months of delicate care in a very small, enclosed world in my mother's body, wisdom brought me out to this bigger but still dark world-earth. She continued to take care of me in many wonderful ways – through my parents, relatives, teachers, ministers, people around me or the society where I belong for her own special plan and purpose.

I first met wisdom through the Word that comes out of God's mouth – the Law and the instruction in the Holy Bible. I then realized how wisdom loves me, how much she suffered for me. I eagerly studied her teaching and I was determined to follow her instructions. Oh, yes, to follow her instructions and her ways is not easy, for, as the heaven is higher than the earth, so are her ways higher than fallen man's ways. In my walked with her, there were times I fell, bruised, wept hard and downhearted. Many times, I fell short of her standard; felt I was not good enough for her. But wisdom knows everything. She knew me very well and she has been kind to me.

Wisdom's discipline was sometimes harsh and painful. I could still remember how she rebuked me and how I cried and mourned over my faults and failure to strictly follow her ways. Wisdom does not hesitate to rebuke and punish her loved ones but she is also ready to forgive, comfort, and teach. She is my best teacher; the most intelligent, patient and kind teacher I know and I am what I am because of her. I can always depend on her; she is my delight. I love her and I will never be without her.

Wisdom gave me understanding that :

- She is the source of my life.
- She is my teacher and guide.
- She is my refuge and defender.
- She is my counselor.
- She is my shelter from every storm.
- She is my light and my salvation from all enemies and destruction.
- She is my power and strength against all evil and temptation.
- She is my success and victories.
- She is my peace and joy.
- She is my righteousness.
- She is my honor and glory.
- She is my life forever and ever.

Wisdom helped me when no one else would. She rescued me and my loved ones from lies, deception, slander, and death. Enemies surrounded me everywhere but wisdom clothed me with her righteousness and glory. Hence, all enemies trembled in fear, scattered in confusion and defeated forever. I had walked through the "valley of the shadow of death," but Wisdom was always my light and mighty protector. Wisdom is every good man's perfect security, for, she will never allow wrong to triumph over right; lies to triumph over truth. With all my heart, I will always give thanks and praise to Wisdom. I will always love her as long as I live. Now, I know, why Wisdom made me so. It was because Wisdom wanted to make my body her home in earth. "Surely you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you! So if anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you yourselves are his temple" (I Corinthians 3: 16-17). "Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and who was given to you by God? You do not belong to your selves but to God; he bought you for a price. So use your bodies for God's glory" (I Corinthians 6: 19 - 20). Wisdom wanted to live in me, and rule the earth with lasting justice and integrity for the good of humanity.

My children and brethren, let us give thanks and praise to Wisdom continuously, because she loves us with the love that no one else could give. She alone can make our dark world shines so brightly with everlasting peace and prosperity.

> *"Wisdom that is not expressed is like a treasure that has been hidden – both are useless." Sirach 20: 30*

What Wisdom Is All About

- Wisdom established the world and set everything in place.
- Wisdom is the source and sustainer of life.
- Wisdom also means to have reverence for God by humbly obeying His commands.
- Wisdom loves justice and righteousness, humility and kindness.
- Wisdom is knowing and doing the right thing in every matter; she is the reason that good things exist and flourish.
- Wisdom teaches everyone who is eager to learn and guide those who seek to do the Will of the Lord.
- Wisdom corrects and disciplines the wise so that they become wiser; anyone who rejects correction and discipline is a fool.
- Wisdom lifts the poor and humble and provides their needs; even much more than they need.
- Wisdom is the source of everlasting peace and joy.
- Wisdom guides, and comforts the righteous but harshly punishes the wicked.
- Wisdom leads the truth seekers to the path of righteousness and defends them against their enemies.
- Wisdom delivers the righteous from death and gives them eternal life so that they will have dominion over the earth.
- Finally, "Fear the Lord and keep His Law; that is what Wisdom is all about."

Wisdom Calls Her People

Listen to Wisdom! She calls everyone – great and small, young and old, rich and poor. "Come, Come, Come!" she calls. "I will give you wealth you have not known; wealth you cannot get or buy anywhere else no matter how much money you have."

I, Wisdom asks – Why are you so tired and burdened? Why are you fatigued with so many cares? You worked hard far into the night because you want to earn and live, and to get rich. Why are some people under oppression? Why are others – even your neighbors very poor, sick and dying? It is because those who are in power want to have more and grow richer regardless how.

People of the world listen to me and learn. Is life found in hard work? Are true riches found in the amount of money you have? Or on the material things you possessed? Do you find peace, joy, and contentment in what you are doing?

I, Wisdom is the source of life. I created you and by my breath I gave you life. When I made you, I have prepared everything you need so that you would continue to enjoy life to its fullness. But you would not listen to me. You refused to keep my laws and follow my instructions. You always wanted to have your own foolish ways. Ways that made you sick and stink. Did I not tell you that: "Not one of you will be poor if you obey Me and carefully observe everything that I commanded you?" Did not your LORD say: "Seek ye first the kingdom of GOD and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you?" (Deuteronomy 15: 4-6; Matthew 6: 33). My people, apart from me you can do nothing. The farther you go away from me and the harder you do things your own way, the more you are hurting and destroying yourselves.

I, Wisdom made the whole universe. I established the earth and filled its mountains with trees, animals, and plants. I made the seas, the ocean and filled them with sea creatures. I caused the spring and the rivers to flow, the air or wind to blow. I made everything in earth for you.

My people why don't you learn from Me and gain knowledge? Why don't you study My Book and obey? If I gave wings to the birds so that they could fly, will I not give you food to eat so that you would live? If I let the trees grow tall and strong so that they will bear fruits, will I not make you fruitful and useful? Will I not make your life meaningful? If I gave the flowers many different shapes and colors so that they will be pleasing and beautiful, will I not make you beautiful, and the best of all?

O, my people, If you would only return humbly to where you came from. If you would only seek the truth and admit you were wrong, I will forgive. If you would only say with all your heart that you want to live by my guidance, you want to keep my laws and obey my commands humbly and faithfully, I will help you and protect you. I will give you peace and joy. I will abundantly bless you. I will give you wealth you never knew. And, for all time I will be happy and proud of you.

Finally, Wisdom says to her people:

"Obey me, and you will never have cause for embarrassment; do as I say, and you will be safe from sin."

What Wisdom Is Like

- Wisdom is like a good and wonderful mother. She lovingly cares, she teaches, corrects, guides, and disciplines.
- Wisdom is like a responsible father. Ready to defend, protect, and is a great provider.
- Wisdom is like the sun that brightens the world and gives warmth, sustains life of every living creature.
- Wisdom is like the moon that sets the times and seasons; guides man in all his plans and action.
- Wisdom is like stars. When darkness comes, its glitter becomes brighter and brighter.
- Wisdom is like the wind. It is invisible but its presence is undeniable and indispensable.
- Wisdom is like the rain that nourishes the land and refreshes the plants.
- Wisdom is like a healthy tree with many fruits. Anyone can come near and freely pick the fruit he needs.
- Wisdom is like the sand on the seashore. It is beautiful, countless, and immeasurable. It marvelously sets the boundary between land and sea. Wisdom also sets the boundary between right and wrong.
- Wisdom is like ice or freezer. It can preserve anything that decays and stinks.
- Wisdom is like a safe and beautiful shelter where one can rest secure all day.

- Wisdom is like a huge rock. A sure defense against every enemy.
- Wisdom is like a pure spring that never runs dry.
- Wisdom is like a river that gets its source from the high hills or mountains and goes down the sea meeting the needs of everyone along the way.
- Wisdom is like a true and faithful friend. You can trust her and she will never fail you.

"Devote all your time to studying the Lord's Commands and thinking about them. He will give you the insight and wisdom You are looking for" (Sirach 6: 37).

Wisdom As My Teacher and Guide

Wisdom has been good and kind to me. She has been my teacher and guide everyday, and I know she deals everyone fairly and mercifully. Wisdom's ways are ways of justice, kindness, righteousness and peace. She teaches obedience to God's commands, faithfulness, and holiness. She says: "Be holy as your Father in heaven is holy. Be ye perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect" (I Peter 1: 20; Matthew 5: 48). I love my teacher very much and I was determined to have her live in me. Again, I love her and I will never be without her.

There were times I thought life was harsh and hard because of my love for wisdom and because I defended her. Marvelously, it was wisdom who constantly defended me and taught me what life in this world is. Her teachings made me realized that self-discipline is of primary importance in order to become wise. Wisdom patiently teaches and corrects those who love her because she wants them to be wiser and stronger than their enemies – enemies of righteousness, and those who are opposed to the Will of the Almighty Father.

Wisdom knows everyone and everything; nothing is kept from her. With wisdom as my teacher, I have won fierce battles in life because I have the advantage of knowing things which other people of this world know nothing about. I have the advantage of knowing things in advance; knowing them before the enemies could start their evil plans. "The righteous person has an advantage over others; he does not own any idols, and they can never make a fool of him" (Letter of Jeremiah 1: 73). With Wisdom as my guide, I am always kept safe from the traps of the enemies. With Wisdom abiding in me, I can find peace in the midst of hardship and troubles; I can rejoice and give thanks to our Father and Savior. Wisdom is very wonderful to me; I love her and I will never stop loving her.

"Is it good to have riches in this life? Nothing can make you richer than Wisdom who makes everything function. Is knowledge a useful thing to have? Nothing is better than Wisdom, who has given shape to everything that exists." The Wisdom Of Solomon 8: 5 – 6

Great Contentment In Wisdom

As I quietly sit alone and ponder, I can vividly imagine how Wisdom led me through narrow, winding, rocky, and thorny path. I can also recall how I hurt, how I wept, how I dreaded to do the things she asked me to do and the pain that goes with it or that may follow. How I feared the reality of life in this world. A world where position and possessions count much in order to be genuinely accepted. For me, it was truly a great challenge. It was like being born on top of a mountain and having not seen a great water once, I was prompted to jump into the ocean with sharks all around.

I was fainting in fear, but as I slowly fell on my knees for help, Wisdom quickly and tenderly spoke to me: "My dear child, don't you know Me? Don't you know that by my word the ocean existed and every natural thing around you? Don't you know that I can turn the deepest ocean into a dry land for you to walk?"

Carefully, I listened to the voice of Wisdom. Obediently and slowly, I started my lonely journey. One step at a time, and by Wisdom's help I walked through my ocean until I reached where I am. Now, I have no regrets. Rather, I have great contentment. HalleluYah!

"At first, Wisdom will lead you along difficult paths. She will make you so afraid that you will think you cannot go on. The discipline she demands will be tormenting, and she will put you to the test with her requirements until she trust you completely" (Sirach 4: 17).

Song Of Praise To Wisdom

I sing for joy because Wisdom makes me happy, I gladly sing for her because she loves me and cares for me. I will constantly praise her for letting me see often the dazzling lights of her glory. I will meditate upon her goodness and tender mercy. I will sing about her kindness day by day. I will tell the world what she has done to me, I will sing glorious songs for her in the Assembly.

In the evening, I will sing songs of praise for her only, I will sing songs for her joy and glory. In the night, I will praise her for loving me, I will thank her for taking care of me. Everyday, I will bow in prayer to honor her presence with sincere humility, I will whisper my prayers to her ever listening ears.

I love Wisdom and I will do my best to make her happy, By grace, I will do as she says and do it in righteousness. Because Wisdom saved me and lifted me By her help, I will live to show her ways everyday. I am grateful for the care Wisdom gives me and I will always be, I will sing her praises day by day.

Wisdom is very precious to me, and she will always be,
She is my comforter, my hope, my joy everyday.
She made my enemies trembled in fear before me.
Wisdom's love and care is beyond compare;
Her care is as tender as ever.
She is my delight and I will proclaim her sweetness all the way,
I will make known the wonders of her love for me.

I will always praise her for loving me, I will thank her for the things she has done for me. I will always praise her for saving me, I will thank her for constantly guiding me. I will always praise her for teaching me, I will thank her for her kindness and mercy. I will constantly praise her and thank her for every blessing she bestows upon me. Wisdom is a light that constantly shines regardless of time and season. The more darkness there is, the brighter she shines. She is very precious to me, more precious than valuable stones such as silver, gold, and diamonds. She is always my delight and I regard her so highly, higher than crowns and thrones. Wealth and riches, crowns and thrones are nothing compared to her because she is the source of all these. She is the source of life; she is the one who caused the existence of all good and beautiful things.

Wisdom is power. She is a mighty protector, a defender, a rescuer, a very present help to those who rely on her. She is the reason for every victory in battles. History revealed that great leaders, mighty armies have lost in battles because they ignored the voice of Wisdom. But the weak and humble who made Wisdom their strength and power returned home victorious and happy.

Wisdom loves justice and righteousness. She looks at the poor and faithful with compassion and pleasure and make them kings and queens, princes and princesses by lifting them up to the throne, while she pulls others down.

Wisdom is the treasury of all good things such as peace and happiness. You, who seek Wisdom and faithfully abide with her will never be lost nor fail. You will find treasures that will last forever because she will give you eternal life and glory forever and ever.

Rewards For Loving Wisdom

Wisdom is pure and just in every way; she takes pleasure in justice and righteousness. Those who love her will never be disappointed because she rewards everyone according to the way he lives and what he has done. Anyone who listens to her will be guided, and sustained by her unfailing love in all circumstances. She reveals herself – her glorious presence to them who sincerely love her and humbly live by her guidance. She blesses them with peace, hope and they find joy in doing what is right.

Wisdom laughs with scorn at those who device evil against those who love her. All enemies will be shattered and trampled down because Wisdom is determined to richly bless those who gladly live by her teachings. With compassion she takes care of them and will rescue them from all their enemies. She will save them from all their suffering and make their enemies tremble in fear before them. She will cloth them with her righteousness and holiness and they will shine like stars in the sky.

At her appointed time, she will shake the nations of the earth, overthrow kingdoms and rulers, let the wealth of the nations flow to those who love her. She will also lift them to position of great honor and power for her glory forever and ever.

What Wisdom Hates

" The spirit of Wisdom is intelligent and holy.... She is a breath of God's power – a pure and radiant stream of glory from the Almighty." She knows everyone and everything; she sees all that every man does, and the activities around the world. Wisdom is able to do any thing she wants to do. She patiently corrects those who are willing and eager to learn but she certainly does not tolerate evil. She terribly hates every kind of evil and is ready to punish anyone who deserves punishment. She gladly and readily appreciates every pleasant thought and work each person does and rewards everyone justly, but she hates sin and sinners who stubbornly go on sinning.

Arrogance, and injustice are both hated by sensible men but all these: idolatry, crime & violence, arrogance, and injustice are terribly hated by Wisdom. Idolatry or to worship or bow down to idols is a great insult to Wisdom who gave man eyes to see, ears to hear, mouth to speak, hands to work, and feet to walk. "The gods of the nations are made of silver and gold; they are formed by human hands. They have mouths, but cannot speak, and eyes, but cannot see. They have ears but cannot hear; they are not even able to breath. May those who made them and trust in them become like the idols they have made" (Psalm 135: 15-18). "All who trust in idols, who call images their gods, will be humiliated and disgraced." (Isaiah 42: 17).

Idolatry, crimes, arrogance, injustice and every evil beget violence, and many people – nobles, rulers, nations have greatly suffered their consequence. Because of these evil, Wisdom took off her protection away from them and allowed other nations to conquer them; allowed foreign cruel leaders to rule over them as punishments.

Wisdom reveals herself in many wonderful ways, and she also reveals herself through this sacred scripture: "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6: 7 - 8). If a person sows seeds in the field of his natural or worldly desires, he will harvest pride, all kinds of immoral acts, and violence that brings his own fatal destruction. But if a person sows seeds in the field of the Spirit, from it he will harvest good things such as love, peace, joy, honor, and eternal life.

What kind of seeds do you have? Are they good seeds, and where do you intend to plant them? Remember the Messiah said: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6: 21). Would you invest or keep your treasure in the bank that no robber or moth can destroy? Let us invest our talents, skills, abilities, spiritual gifts, money in the bank of our Father and Savior for the building of our Father's Kingdom in earth. The Kingdom of righteousness and peace; the Kingdom that will last forever and ever.

From the book, the Wisdom of Solomon in the Holy Bible, I shall quote the following for our meditation.

"The worship of idols,...is the beginning and the end, the cause and the result of every evil such as: murder, robbery, deceit, corruption, faithlessness, disorder, falsehood, harassment of innocent people, ingratitude, moral decay, sexual perversion, broken marriages, adultery, and immorality" (The Wisdom of Solomon 14).

Apostle Paul in his letter also said:

"God's anger is revealed from heaven against all the sin and evil of the people whose evil ways prevent the truth from being known. God punishes them, because what can be known about God is plain to them, for God Himself made it plain. Ever since God created the world, His eternal power and His divine nature, have been clearly seen; they are perceived in the things that God has made. So those people have no excuse at all.... They say they are wise, but they are fools; instead of worshipping the immortal God, they worship images made to look like mortal man or birds, or animals or reptiles. And so God has given those people over to do the filthy things their hearts desire, and they do shameful things with each other. They exchange the truth about God for a lie; they worship and serve what God has created instead of the Creator Himself, who is to be praised forever! (Romans 1: 18 - 24).

"To fear the Lord is the root of Wisdom; her branches are long life." Sirach 1: 20

The Wisdom of God In Noah

When the people of the world during the time of Noah were living in wickedness, the wisdom of God was in Noah. Noah chose the way of righteousness and lived in fellowship with God, while all the others did things as they wanted. The scriptures tell us that God looked down the world and saw that it was filled with evil and violence. He regretted that He made man and decided to wipe them out the face of the earth by flood but told Noah to build a boat for his family and the animals which should be with them.

Noah obeyed the Almighty and started making the boat according to God's instruction. The wicked people thought Noah was weird, even insane for preaching righteousness and for building a boat on top of the mountain. But God's word is always true to those who believe in Him and obey His teachings.

After one hundred twenty (120) years of building the ark, Noah had finished it. The rain started pouring and it lasted for forty days and nights. Noah and his family, eight men and women, together with the animals entered the boat and sailed on the great waters for one hundred fifty days, while the wicked people and other creatures were drowned.

The wisdom of God in Noah, and Noah's righteousness through faith saved the world and gave its new beginning.

Do you preach righteousness in words, and in deeds? Are you faithful to God in the midst of unbelieving and evil people? Are you determined to save the world by your righteousness through faith in God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit? I hope that like our ancestor Noah, you and I will consider it a privilege and an honor to be our heavenly Father's instruments in saving the world from total destruction.

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof: the world, and they that dwell therein. Praise Him, all His angels: praise Him, all his host. Praise Him, sun and moon: praise Him all ye stars of light... Let them praise the name of the Lord: for He commanded and they were created." Psalm 24:1; 148:2-5

The Wisdom Of God In Abraham

Abraham lived with his wife, parents, relatives, and friends in Haran, Mesopotamia (Middle East). But one day God called Abraham to leave his country. Taking his wife, his nephew Lot, his servants and flocks, they journeyed to a far away land not actually knowing and seeing what lies ahead but having faith that He who called him is in control of everything.

Obviously, God's Wisdom was in Abraham. It was clearly shown in Abraham's humble obedience. It was also seen in Abraham's faith and noble actions when he gladly endured hardships in reverence for God. God was so pleased with Abraham that He made a promise to give him a son in spite of Sarah's old age and other constraints. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 91 years old when she gave birth to Isaac.

The promise was fulfilled with so much joy to Abraham and Sarah. But when the child became older God tested Abraham's faith in Him. God told Abraham to take his son to Mt. Moriah and offer him there as sacrifice. Taking his son Isaac, Abraham set off for the mountain with a heavy heart but keeping the faith that he who commanded him to offer his son is the source and the giver of life, hence, His word has supreme power and authority. God was so touched by Abraham's faith and He rewarded him by keeping Isaac safe.

God's wisdom in Abraham through faith became the foundation and the gateway to man's salvation and eternal life.

Do you hear God's call and obey? Surely, when God calls He has divine purpose. Do not miss to answer His divine call. Take courage and be ready to obey. To ignore or reject God's call is to ignore or reject His divine plan, and wonderful blessings.

The Wisdom Of God In Jacob

Even when Jacob whose name was later changed to Israel, was very old and was about to close his eyes for eternal rest, the Wisdom of God was at work through him. Jacob called all his sons who were the twelve tribes of Israel, to gather around him and foretold their future. At that time Jacob's eyes were already failing, and his body was very weak but the Wisdom of God was actively at work through him.

The following are Jacob's words to each of his sons:

"Reuben, you are my first born, you are my strength ...but you will not be the most important because you dishonor your father's bed.

"Simeon and Levi. They killed men in anger, crippled bulls for sport. I will scatter them throughout the land, disperse them among its people.

"Judah, your brother will praise you. You hold your enemies by the neck. Your brothers will bow down before you. Judah is like a lion killing his victims and returning to his den...Judah will hold the royal scepter and his descendants will always rule....

"Zebulun will live beside the sea. His shore will be a haven for ships.

"Issachar is no better than donkey...He bends his back to carry the load and is force to work as a slave.

"Dan will be a ruler for his people. He will be like a poisonous snake beside the path, that strikes the horse's heel, so that the rider is thrown off backward... "Gad will be attacked by a band of robbers, but he will turn and pursue them.

"Asher. His land will produce rich food. He will provide food fit for a King.

"Naphtali is like a deer that runs free, who bears lovely fawns.

"Joseph is like a wild donkey by a spring...His enemies attack him fiercely and pursue him with their bows and arrow. But his bow remains steady, and his arms are made strong by the power of the mighty God of Jacob.... Blessings of cattle and children. Blessings of grain and flowers, and delightful things.... May these blessings rest upon Joseph.

"Benjamin is like a vicious wolf. Morning and evening he kills and devours."

Jacob marvelously saw the future of his children and declared them without hesitation because the wisdom of God was upon him.

Do you see the future of your children? Have you told them?

The Wisdom Of God In Joseph

When Joseph was a growing boy, his older brothers were hostile to him because Joseph was the favorite of their father and because he always dreamed something which the brothers resented. Something which showed, though vaguely, that Joseph would grow greater than his brothers and that his brothers would someday bow down to him. The scripture says, "they hated him because of his dreams."

One day while Joseph's brothers were out in the field taking care of their father's flock, Jacob said to Joseph, "I want you to go and see if your brothers are safe and if the flock is all right, then come back and tell me." Joseph answered: "I am ready", and he immediately left. But when the brothers saw him in a distance, they plotted against him and decided to kill him. Fortunately, one brother named Reuben tried to save Joseph by suggesting that they would throw him to the well instead of killing him. They threw him into the dry well. But while the brothers were eating, they saw a group of Ismaelites. A thought came to another brother Judah who said: "What can we gain by killing our brother and covering up the murder? Let's sell him to these Ismaelites." The brothers agreed, and they sold him to the Medianite traders. In Egypt, the traders sold Joseph to Potiphar, one of the Kings officers, who was the captain of the Palace guards.

God was always with Joseph. He blessed him and made him successful in everything he did. So Potiphar was pleased with Joseph and made him in-charged of his house and everything he owned. Because Joseph was well-built and handsome, Potiphar's wife began to desire Joseph and asked him to go to bed with her, but the Wisdom of God was in Joseph. Joseph said: "How could I do such an immoral thing and sin against God?" Joseph strongly resisted the temptation until Potiphar's wife accused Joseph falsely. She succeeded in sending Joseph to prison but God was with him. At His appointed time, He raised Joseph to power, and indeed, all his mocking brothers bowed to him.

God is merciful to those who are faithful to Him. Are you faithful to God, like Joseph, in the midst of trials and temptations?

> "The Lord watches over the righteous and listens to their cries; but he opposes those who do evil...." Psalm 34: 15-16

The Wisdom Of God In King Hezekiah

The Kings of Judah before the reign of King Hezekiah such as Amaziah, Uzziah, and Ahaz greatly aroused the anger and fury of God because of their pride, and idolatry. For Amaziah, the blessing of God was upon him at the start of his rule. By God's grace, Amaziah summoned up his courage and attacked the Edomites and defeated them. But when Amaziah returned home together with his army, he brought with him the idols of the Edomites, set them up, worshiped them, and burned incense to them. What Amaziah did stirred God's anger and He sent to King Amaziah the prophet who said: "Why have you worshiped gods that could not even save his own people from your power?" "Since when," Amaziah interrupted, "have we made you adviser to the King? Stop talking, or I'll have you killed!" The prophet stopped but not before saying: "Now I know that God has decided to destroy you because you have done all this and have ignored my advice."

Obviously, the wonderful beginning of King Amaziah's reign and also that of the other Kings ended in pain and misery. There was confusion, anxiety, hardship, and pain among God's people during the reign of the disobedient Kings but evidently and gladly, the Wisdom of God was in King Hezekiah.

King Hezekiah was the son and successor of King Ahaz who brought his own destruction by worshipping the gods of the Syrian, closed the Temple in Jerusalem, built pagan places of worship in the cities and towns of Judah. But when King Hezekiah sat on the Royal Throne which his father occupied, he made the God of heaven and earth his priority. He ministered unto God by worshipping Him, and led the people to worship God with him by making the necessary religious reforms. King Hezekiah ministered unto God and then he ministered unto his men.

King Hezekiah's religious reforms were as follows:

- 1. He ordered the purification of the Temple.
- 2. He went around Judah and led the destruction of idols together with their altars, and all the pagan places of worship.
- 3. He led the Rededication of the Temple.
- 4. Reorganized and reestablished the Priests and Temple Ministers.
 - a. He put faithful priests on the position of High Priest.
 - b. He assigned Temple guards.
 - c. He ordered the reorganization and reestablishment of music ministers and other ministers in the Temple.
 - d. He ordered all his people to bring the tithes and offerings to which the priests and ministers were entitled, so that they could give all their time to the requirements of the Law of God.

Upon the order of the King, "all people brought tithes of their cattle, sheep, and they also brought large quantities of gifts (offerings) which they dedicated to the Lord their God.

"When the King spoke about the gifts, the High Priest said: 'Since the people started bringing their gifts to the Temple, there had been enough to eat and a large surplus besides....'" Surely, because King Hezekiah did what was right and pleasing to the Lord his God in a spirit of complete loyalty and devotion, he was successful in everything he did and the people of the land were peaceful and happy.

Are you a king or queen? Maybe not, but I'm sure everybody wants success, peace and happiness!

Another striking work of Wisdom in the life of King Hezekiah was when Emperor Sennacherib of Assyria decided to attack King Hezekiah. The Assyrians boasted of their might and power ridiculing King Hezekiah in the hearing of his own people, and enumerating to them their past victories in battles. The Emperor together with his army accused King Hezekiah of being a deceiver, deceiving his people that his God would save Jerusalem from the power of Assyria. At this, the Emperor was working to frighten and demoralize King Hezekiah's people and to make them surrender to him.

But, in this most trying times, the Wisdom of God in King Hezekiah shattered the army of Assyria. Wisdom directed King Hezekiah to consult Prophet Isaiah. The prophet led the King to pray, to cry to the Almighty, the I AM, the God of all creation for help. The merciful God comforted King Hezekiah through the prophet and assured him of victory.

After the prayer, King Hezekiah went to his army and said to them: "Be determined and confident, and don't be afraid of the Assyrians. We have more power on our side than he has on his side. He has human power but we have the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles." The people were encouraged, and the King ordered his army to do everything that should be done like strengthening the City's defenses, stopping of water supply, etc. in order to defeat the enemies.

Indeed, the enemies were miraculously defeated and disgraced because the God to whom King Hezekiah and Prophet Isaiah cried out for help, sent an angel to the Assyrian Camp and killed one hundred eighty five thousand (185,000) men, both officers and soldiers.

Anyone who has Wisdom, has divine power!

"Being wise is better than being strong, yes, knowledge is more important than strength. After all, you must make careful plans before you fight a battle...." Proverbs 24: 5

Chapter II

The Father The Son The Holy Spirit

Oneness Or Unity Of The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit

"I and my Father are one." (John 10: 30)

The author believes that the Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit are one but they are three distinct holy beings. Let us meditate on the following words and gain more enlightenment from it by the help of the Holy Spirit.

"Whoever accepts my commandments and obeys them is the one who loves me. My Father will love whoever loves me; I too will love him and reveal myself to him." John 14: 21

"Whoever loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and my Father and I will come to him. Whoever does not love me does not obey my teaching." John 14: 23-24

"If you love me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father; for He is greater than I." John 14: 28

I reiterate that though the Father and the Son are one, they are different holy individuals. Nevertheless they are one in virtues, qualities, and purpose. They are one in that just as the Father is holy, perfect, and powerful, so is the Son, and also the Holy Spirit. In other words, each of them the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit is holy and powerful, and they have the same goal and purpose for mankind, and the whole creation. However, each of them has different important functions, working hand in hand for the fulfillment of the Father's will for His whole creation. But as far as their nature is concern – their holiness and power, their aim for the creation, they are one. That is why Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) said: "I and my Father are one." This can be illustrated and understood better with the life and relationship of a loving family. A family with the father, mother, and children who are devoted to each other and harmoniously work together for the good and success of the whole family. Take note that the Messiah said, "My Father is greater than I." That is so because the Father is the Creator and the source of all that the Messiah (Christ) has.

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Matthew 28: 18

Like the Father, the Son is also powerful because the Father has given him all power and authority over his creation. What power? A divine power. The power to forgive sin and to raise the dead back to life. The power to heal the sick and to feed the hungry people miraculously. The power to heal the whole creation which has been groaning in pain because of sin. This power was manifested in the life and works of Yahshua the Messiah on earth. We can recall that when the Messiah fed the four thousand men, and seven thousand men another occasion, with few loaves of bread and little fish, the people were all satisfied and there were still baskets of extra food. On another instance Yahshua the Messiah also raised Lazarus to life though he was four days dead and buried. Another one, is the only son of the widow in Nain who was on the way to be buried. The Son, Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) therefore, has power over life and death that is why He said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11: 24-25). The Father has also given the Son the power and authority to judge everyone - to justify or condemn. The reason why Yahshua the Messiah could boldly say: "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me"(John 14:6). Therefore, the Son Yahshua the Messiah has power and authority to rule as the King of Kings over everyone and everything the Father has created, and of course, his faithful followers will also reign with Him forever and ever.

Take note that the Messiah's power and authority is limited only to everyone and everything the Father has created, not over the Father Himself who is the Creator. Let us ponder upon the succeeding words of St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians:

"Then the end will come; Christ will overcome all spiritual rulers, authorities, and power, and will hand over the Kingdom to God the Father. For Christ must rule until God defeats all enemies and put them under His feet. The last enemy to be defeated will be death. For the scriptures say: 'God put all things under his feet.' It is clear, of course, that the words "all things" do not include God Himself, who puts all things under Christ's rule, then He himself, the Son, will place himself under God the Creator and Father who placed all things under him: and God will rule completely over all" (I Corinthians 15: 24-28).

Clearly, the foregoing scriptures explain the statement of Yahshua the Messiah in John 14:28, "For my Father is greater than I."

From the book of the Prophets we can also see that the Father appoints anyone He wants to hold positions or sit on the throne to rule over His people. To Prophet Ezekiel for example, the Father said: "Mortal man, I am making you a watchman for the nation of Israel. You will pass on to them the warning I give. If I announce that an evil man is going to die but you do not warn him to change his ways so that he can save his life, he will die still a sinner, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If you do warn an evil man and he does not stop sinning, he will die, still a sinner, but your life will be spared." In the Book of Prophet Daniel, it is written:

"...So then, let all people everywhere know that the Supreme God has power over human kingdoms and that He can give them to anyone even to the least important of men" (Daniel 4: 17).

Likewise, the Son Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) has power and authority to appoint or commission anyone He wants. To the disciples the Messiah said:

"Listen, I have given you authority, so that you can walk on snakes and scorpions and overcome all the power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you" (Luke 10: 19).

After the resurrection of the Messiah, He also appeared to the disciples who assembled together behind locked door and said:

"Peace be with you. As the Father sent me so I send you." Then He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven" (John 20: 21-23).

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12).

The Holy Spirit:

"If you love me keep my commandments.

And I pray to the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever" (John 14: 15-16).

The Comforter that Yahshua the Messiah referred to is the Holy Spirit; the Spirit of truth. The Holy Spirit is the one that the Father sent to help, guide, and lead the followers of Christ into all the truth after Christ died on the cross, buried, resurrected, and ascended to the holy throne in heaven.

"The Holy Spirit does not speak of Himself but He speaks only the words that He hears from the Son. He does not glorify Himself but He glorifies the Son. On the other hand, Christ also upholds the Holy Spirit saying: 'Whoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, Jesus Christ, can be forgiven: but he that blasphemeth or speaks evil thing against the Holy Spirit, will not be forgiven'" (Luke 12: 10).

The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit love one another, have reverence for one another, and uphold each other. They work together lovingly and harmoniously as one for the good of everyone and everything the Father has created. The relationship of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit is the perfect model of every relationship on earth especially that of a family. Every family on earth or every member in the family must love one another, and uphold each other for the good of all and for the glory of our Father and Savior.

The Father

The Father

The Source Of Wisdom And Power

"In the beginning God made the heavens and the earth. God created man in His own image... male and female created He them." Genesis 1: 1; 1:27

The Father is the Creator of the heaven and the earth and every natural thing therein. He is the source, the giver, the sustainer of life, and the source of all good things which men cannot make and money cannot buy like wisdom, peace, joy, health and strength. Apart from Him, the creatures are nothing; nothing can exist apart from the sustaining grace of the creator. Though the Father remains unseen with man's physical eyes, He is not strangely unknown. His creation clearly manifests His love, wisdom, strength and power. "Ever since God created the world, His invisible qualities, both His eternal power and His divine nature, have been clearly seen; they are perceived in the things that God has made" (Romans 1: 20).

> "In Him we live and move and exist... we should not suppose that His nature is anything like gold or silver or stone, shaped by the art and skills of man" (Acts 17: 28-29).

Our Father is greatly alive, active, and powerful! He overrules the nations of the world and He is in control over

everything. "His words are holy, sharp, quick, and powerful." He cannot be compared with anything; He is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. All of creation must worship Him alone for He is not willing to share His glory with graven images or anything out of His creation. The Father commanded: "Worship no god but Me. Do not make for yourself images of anything in heaven and on earth or in the waters under the earth. Do not bow down to any idols or worship it, because I am the Lord your God and I tolerate no rival. I bring punishment on those who hate me and on their descendants down to the third and fourth generation. But I show my love to thousand of generations of those who love me and obey my laws" (Deuteronomy 20: 3-6). I am the Lord...and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images" (Isaiah 42:8).

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55: 8-9).

Truly, wisdom comes from no one but from the Father alone. But just as there is truth and there is falsehood, there is something genuine and there is counterfeit; there is also the so called wisdom of this world. Nevertheless, the wisdom that comes from our Father is beyond compare. St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians said: "For what seems to be God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and what seems to God's weakness is stronger than human strength. And God purposely chose what the world considers nonsense in order to shame the powerful. He chose what the world looks down on and despises and thinks is nothing, in order to destroy what the world thinks is important" (I Corinthians 1: 25, 27-28).

The wisdom that comes from the world is worldly. It puffs up the person's pride and lead him to destruction, but the wisdom that comes from the Father is divine and it will lead the person to perfection. Some people boast of their wisdom, and in St. James' words, such wisdom is unspiritual and demonic. But the wisdom from above is pure first of all; it is also peaceful and gentle, friendly; it is full of compassion and produces a harvest of good deeds; it is free from prejudice and hypocrisy (James 3: 15 & 17).

The writers of Psalms and Proverbs say: "To have reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom. A good understanding have all they that do His commandments" (Psalm 11: 10; Proverbs 1: 7). This explicitly tells us that there's no place in the world, no school or university can provide man heavenly wisdom. School, people, even the best of them can only lead man to God that they may receive wisdom from above. No amount of money either can buy it because it is not for sale. It is God's gift to them who obey and honor Him. "Have reverence for the Lord and keep His laws; that is what wisdom is all about." It is however painful to note that wisdom is often misunderstood. The wealthy, the well-known and influential are always considered wise and listened to, regardless of their standing with the Lord who is the source and giver of wisdom. On the other hand, "...no one thinks of a poor man as wise or pays attention to what he says. But it is better to listen to the quiet words of a wise man than to the voice of a ruler at a council of fools," the writer of Ecclesiastes says.

Let us ponder upon King Solomon's meaningful and powerful words on wisdom:

"I realized that I would never receive wisdom unless God gave her to me – and knowing that only God could give her to me was itself a sign of understanding. So I prayed, begging God with all my heart."

"And so I thought it over: to be wedded to wisdom is to live forever, to love her is to be perfectly happy, to do her work is to be rich beyond measure, to share her company is to have sound judgment, to converse with her is to be honored."

"The Lord created the earth by his wisdom; by his knowledge he set the sky in place. His wisdom caused the rivers to flow and the clouds to give rain to the earth." Proverbs 3: 19 - 20

"Righteousness makes a nation great; sin is a disgrace to any nation." Proverbs 14: 34

The Father The One Who Said, "I Am Who I Am"

Exodus 3 tells us of the account when God met and spoke with Moses through a burning bush. God told Moses that He has seen how cruelly the Israelites were treated in Egypt. He has seen their sufferings, heard their groaning and decided to rescue them by bringing them to a rich and fertile land.

"Now I am sending you to the King of Egypt so that you can lead my people out of his country." God said to Moses. It sounds nice and it feels good to hear a story that God spoke to man as He did to Moses. But hearing a story and having an actual encounter is very different. Moses did not feel good about it; he was rather terrified. In response to God, sadly, Moses quickly enumerated as many reasons as he could think of why God should send someone else instead of him.

The following are Moses statements and God's answers:

- 1. I am nobody. How can I go to the King and bring the Israelites out?
- Lord, don't send me I have never been a good speaker. I am a poor speaker, slow and hesitant.
- 1."I will be with you and you will worship me on this mountain."
- 2."I will help you to speak and will tell you what to say. Who gives man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or dumb? Who gives him sight or make him

- 3. When I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors sent me to you,' they will ask me what is your name? So what can I tell them?
- 4. Suppose the Israelites do not believe me and will not listen to what I say. What shall I do if they say that you did not appear to me?

blind? It is I the Lord."

- 3.God said, "I AM WHO I AM. You must tell them: 'The One who is called the I AM has sent me to you.'"
- 4. "What are you holding?" "A walking stick." Moses answered. "Take this walking stick with you; for with it you will perform miracles." God said.

At one time or another, I believe, like Moses we were all guilty of presenting our reasons to God for not obeying Him or not answering His call. But from the account of Moses' personal encounter with God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God and Father of our Savior and King Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) we can learn that there is nothing that our God and Father cannot do. There is no problem that He has no solution. There is no question that our God and Father cannot answer. There is no need that our God and Father cannot provide. Indeed, our God and Father is the I AM. In other words, God was saying to Moses and is also saying to us now, whatever is your problem, whatever is your need, whatever is your fear, whatever is your concern, I AM.

Do you need wisdom, knowledge and understanding?

"I AM your wisdom, knowledge and understanding or I AM the source of wisdom.... and all that you need."

Do you need strength and protection?

"I AM your refuge and strength, your rock of safety, your fortress and deliverer, your shelter from every storm."

Do you need food and drink?

"I AM your great provider. I will even prepare a table for you in the presence of your enemies."

Do you need success and victories, peace and joy?

"I AM your success and victories, peace and joy."

Do you need health and life?

"I AM the source of abundant and eternal life. I AM the creator, the source, the giver, the sustainer of life; the source of all good things." God says."

Truly, our God and Father is the I AM. There is none like HIM. He is holy and glorious, loving and merciful. He alone is worthy of our worship, and we must worship Him in spirit and in truth, in the name of His Son Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ), with the help of the Holy Spirit who is the Teacher of truth.

The Father Is Holy

"Be holy, because I, the Lord your God, am holy." Leviticus 19: 2; 20: 7

The Father Himself declares that He is holy, and He commands that His people be also holy as He is. He added saying: **"Do not abandon me and worship idols; do not make gods of metal and worship them. I am the Lord your God."** "Keep the Sabbath, and honor the place where I am worshipped. I am the Lord." "If anyone goes for advice to people who consult the spirits of the dead, I will turn against him and will no longer consider him one of my people. Keep yourself holy....Obey my laws, because I am the Lord and I make you holy."

To the Priest, the Father said: "You must not bring disgrace on my holy name, so treat with respect the sacred offerings that the people dedicate to me.... This applies for all times to come, I am the Lord."

> "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5: 48

The Father Is Loving And Merciful

The Father loves His creation especially the people whom He created according to his own image. He looks upon them with mercy. He is not willing that any man would perish but that all should sincerely repent of their sins and have abundant and eternal life. The Father gave the Law – the Ten Commandments to guide His people. Later, He sent the prophets to correct and remind them until He gave His only begotten Son – Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3: 16).

The Psalmist described the love and mercy of the Father by saying: "Praise the Lord, my soul! All my being praise His holy name! Praise the Lord, my soul, and do not forget how kind he is. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He keeps me from the grave and blesses me with love and mercy. He fills my life with good things.... The Lord is merciful and loving.... Full of constant love.... He knows what we are made of; He remembers that we are dust."

Truly, our Father in heaven is loving and merciful in that while we were yet sinners, bound by the enemy, bruised, and filthy, He cared for us. He gave His begotten Son for our salvation, not because of any good thing we have done but simply because we are His creation.

Many people say, "We believe in Jesus Christ" but they do not obey His words and follow the examples he gave. To believe in the Son of God is to listen to him and obey His words. The faith that the Father honors is the faith that obeys his Lord and Master. The scriptures say: "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without work is dead also." And, "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (James 1: 22; 2: 26 & Hebrews 11: 6).

The Father gave us His Son, what shall we give to Him in return?

"Offer yourselves as living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him. This is the true worship that you should offer. Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind." Romans 12: 1-2

"See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great that we are called God's children – and so in fact, we are. This is why the world does not know us, because it has not known God" (I John 3:1).

The Father Is Just And Faithful

"For God will reward every person according to what he has done. Some people keep on doing good, and seek glory, honor..., to them God will give eternal life. Other people are selfish..., and follow what is wrong, on them God will pour out His anger and fury" (Romans 2: 6-8).

Nothing is kept from our Father in heaven. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. He sees things and knows everything, and with Him nothing is impossible. Whatever we do, whether good or bad, is clear before Him and surely, He rewards every man according to the thoughts and intents of his heart and according to what he has done. He is a faithful rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. He is determine to accomplish His promises, and the good things He has begun in our lives because He is holy; it is impossible for Him to lie (Hebrews 6: 18). He keeps His covenant with His people. In fact, until now He is still working to fulfill His covenant with Abraham, Moses, and David through the faithful followers of the Messiah. It may take long because of the people's shortcomings; the people concern could not respond perfectly all the time, but the Father will certainly fulfill His covenant and promises.

This truth should encourage us to hold on firmly and to do our best, knowing that "nothing that we do for our Father and Savior will be in vain," "Our Father is not unrighteous to forget our works and labor of love, which we have showed towards His name, in that we have ministered to the saints and do minister (I Corinthians 15: 58; Hebrews 6: 10). St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians wrote: The man who is being taught the Christian message should share all the good things he has with his teacher....A person will reap exactly what he plants. Yahshua the Messiah also said: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6: 21). If our treasure and our hearts are set on things above, our Father is faithful to open the windows of heaven and pour upon us His wonderful blessings at the right time. While the book of Malachi says: "Bring the full amount of your tithes, and offerings.... Put me to the test and you will see that I will open the windows of heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things" (Malachi 3: 10).

"What the Lord requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God" (Micah 6: 8).

The Father Tenderly Cares

The Father tenderly cares for His people. The giving of the Ten Commandments or the Law is one of the great manifestations of the Father's loving care for His people. I stress that the giving of the Law was not meant to make things hard for the people although the people found it really hard to perfectly obey them. It was rather an expression of the Father's love and concern for His people. It was meant to guide the people until they would receive the Messiah by faith and follow Him; follow His examples.

Let us refresh ourselves with the Ten Commandments, and pray for the help of the Holy Spirit that by our faith in Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ), we will be able to uphold the Law for the good of everyone and for the glory of our Father and Savior.

Ten Commandments

- 1. I am Yahweh your Elohim. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.
- Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. Thou shalt not bow down to them nor serve them...I will visit the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.
- Thou shalt not take the name of God in vain. I will not hold him guiltless that taketh my name in vain.
- 4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 5. Honor thy father and mother.

- 6. Thou shalt not kill.
- 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- 8. Thou shalt not steal.
- 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.
- 10. Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbor's.

Another way by which the Father showed His care for His people is through the prophets. The Father spoke to the prophets and through them, He enabled His people to hear Him. He corrected the people, reminded, guided, disciplined, encouraged them through the prophets together with the priests, elders, and ministers. Take note that the prophets boldly spoke not only to the common people but also to kings and officials.

Years rolled and the time came when the begotten Son of the Father, Yahshua the Messiah was sent to the world. The Messiah or Christ was the fulfillment of the Law; the Living Word of the Father. Meaning, the Law or the Word now becomes a human being in the person of the Messiah. In effect, the people were no longer to fix their eyes on the Law but to look at the Messiah, and follow Him. The problem was, that the Messiah was not accepted, believed, and followed. On the contrary, he was opposed and mistreated even crucified. After the Messiah was crucified and buried what was left to us is, again the Word, the Old and New Testaments. So the process begins again. We have to look at the word and seek the help of the Holy Spirit to enlighten us, and help us obey the word. But there's another thing or problem to be considered, we cannot see or touch the Holy Spirit. So, the Father gives us again present-day prophets, elders, ministers, and teachers to help us. Somebody who is visible and available physically (Ephesians 4: 11-13).

One more thing that we should be happy about is the fact that though the Enemy may have the chance to hurt the believers because of disobedience, the Father is always in control of every situation. One author says, "Satan can only move up to the end of his chain."

"Can a woman forget her own baby...? Even if a mother should forget her child I will never forget you. I can never forget you! I have written your name in the palms Of my hands" (Isaiah 49: 15-16).

The Father Punishes And Forgives

The Father is loving and merciful, but He surely does not tolerate sin because He is Holy.

Let us have the Israelites as our example:

The Father wanted Israel to be blessed with all good things so that through Israel, all other nations would learn of the Father and worship Him in spirit and in truth together with the Israelites. This means that before anything, Israel would have to humbly obey the Laws of the Father and honor Him. But Israel rebelled against the will of the Father again and again by offering gifts to idols. As a consequence, the Israelites were punished many times through the invading armies from the surrounding nations. They were defeated; some were killed, some were carried away captives and made slaves in the land of their captors. There they groaned, gnash their teeth in pain as the Father ruled them in anger through the Kings of other nations. Sometimes they were punished through pestilence, famine, and calamities like storms, earthquakes, typhoons, flood, and even burned some cities like Sodom & Gomorrha. Read also Ezekiel 7 for more reference.

Apparently, you will notice that years later when the Israelites repented of their sins and beg to be accepted again, the Father willingly forgave them and sent them holy angels, anointed leaders from among themselves to save them from oppression, and lead them to worship the Father. "The Father is the same yesterday, today, and forever." The principle that He used and applied for His people in the ancient times is the same today and forever. The Father has given us everything that we need in order to do His will, like the Law, the Prophets, the holy Angels, the Ministers, and Teachers but if the people insist on doing things contrary to His will, He will certainly punish the people through civil wars, oppression, pestilence, starvation, and other calamities, until other nations will come to rule and make the people their slaves.

The order of events will always be like this until the Father finds leaders or Kings that have the will and power to lead the people to obey His words and worship Him alone in spirit and in truth or until the second coming of the Messiah.

Take note that when Israel enjoyed the leadership of good and faithful Kings, Israel was blessed and prosperous. For example, through the leadership of King David, the Father blessed Israel by defeating all their enemies. Consequently, Israel enjoyed peace and prosperity. It was also so during the time of King Jehoshaphat, and King Josiah who determined to destroy and stop idolatry in the land, and led Israel to worship the Father in the beauty of holiness.

The Father Warns And Destroys

The Father knows "What we are made of, He remembers that we are dust." Hence, the Father does not punish His people as they deserve, rather, He warns them again and again before He destroys them. He warns them through the prophets, holy Angels, and through dreams.

During the time of Noah, before the flood that destroyed the people came, Noah had been telling the people of the forthcoming destruction, but the people laughed at him with scorn and even judged him crazy.

Before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrha, two Angels were sent from above to survey the place and see for themselves how wicked were the people there. It was these Angels also who saved Lot and his family from the fire.

Prophet Ezekiel was appointed to be a watchman over Israel to warn every sinner. Prophet Amos declared: "The Sovereign LORD never does anything without revealing His plan to his servants, the prophets" (Amos 3: 7).

Prophet Jeremiah suffered so much in order to warn the people before the destruction of Jerusalem and captivity of the Israelites to Babylon.

In the New Testament: the book of Luke chapter two testifies that Joseph was warned by the Father through dreams not to break his engagement with Mary but to take her as his wife.

When the Magi came and inquired from King Herod about the Messiah whose star they had seen, Herod planned to kill the newborn baby. Again Joseph by this time was warned in a dream to leave for Egypt together with Mary and the baby. Joseph woke up and hurried to leave.

After a few years when Herod died, Joseph once again dreamed about it and was instructed to go back home, but finally settled in Nazareth, Galilee.

Today, do we also receive warnings? Do Angels come to give us warnings? Or shall we just ignore warning until destruction comes?

"Mortal man, I am sending you to the people.... They have rebelled and turned against me and are still rebels.... They are stubborn and do not respect me, so I am sending you to tell them what I the Sovereign Lord, am saying to them. Whether those rebels listen to you or not, they will know that a prophet has been among them." Ezekiel 2: 3-5

The Father

Hears And Answers Prayers

Like a human father who is excited to hear his little child talk, our Father in heaven is also eager to hear our prayer. In fact, He Himself said: "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33: 3). In a parable, the Messiah also encourages the people saying, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18: 1). While St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians said: "Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4: 6).

The story of Hannah and Elkanah can be a source of inspiration for all of us. In the Old Testament times, a couple who had no children or child, was so embarrassing to the said couple. An outcast in the society, even thought of or considered cursed by God. Hannah and Elkannah had none, and Hannah was constantly mocked by some people especially by Pinninah. But Hannah kept her faith and never gave up praying to God, begging Him to give her a son. In due time, God looked upon Hannah with mercy and answered her prayers. Hannah then bore Samuel who became a prophet and a judge over Israel for a long time. The answer to Hannah's long time prayer was not only an ordinary son but a son, and a man of God for all time and for everyone.

Brethren, the Messiah said: "If a sinful father knows how to give good gifts to his children, how much more the Father in heaven? Surely, our Father hears and answers prayers in many wonderful ways! So, "Pray without ceasing." Another touching story about answered prayers are the prayers of Habbakuk, and Jonah.

In his prayers Habbakuk complained to God of the injustices and violence that were done around him. "Lord, how long must I call for help before you listen or save us from violence? The Lord answered Habbakuk by saying: "Keep watching the nations around you, and you will be astonished at what you will see. I am bringing the Babylonians to power and let them rule the nations...." Habbakuk saw it happened and later he again complained to God, "Lord, why do you allow these people to rule and destroy other people who are more righteous than they are?" The Lord's answer was: **"The wicked shall be destroyed but the just shall live by faith." In another version, "Those who are evil will not survive but those who are righteous will live because they are faithful to God."**

I suppose Habbakuk did not expect the kind of answers he received. He must have longed that God would clear the world of every injustice, oppression, and violence the way he wanted. But have you noticed that every time God answered Habbakuk's complaint and prayers, the situation became worse until God finally said, "The wicked will die but the righteous will live..." Do you see the paradox here? The prophet prayed for peace, but the more troubles he saw, until the wicked will all die as the scripture says.

We are quite familiar about the story of Jonah. Jonah was called by God to do a mission in Nineveh but Jonah disobeyed. He instead set out to another direction in order to get away from God. But God sent a strong wind on the sea, and the storm was so violent that the ship was breaking up. The sailor were terrified, and to cut the long story short, they threw Jonah into the sea. "At the Lord's command a large fish swallowed Jonah, and he was inside the fish three days and three nights. From deep inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord. 'In my distress, O Lord, I called to you, and you answered me....' The Lord ordered the fish to spit Jonah on the beach, and it did."

Are you in distress? Keep praying and watching at all times, the Lord hears and answers prayers anytime!

"Rejoice ever more. Give thanks to the Father in every thing. Pray without ceasing." I Thessalonians 5: 16-18

The Father Helps And Strengthens

"Those who trust in the Lord will find their strength renewed" (Isaiah 40: 31).

When the Israelites complained that the Lord doesn't care if they suffer, the Lord spoke through Prophet Isaiah saying: "Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God; He never grows tired or weary....He strengthens those who are weak. Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak."

The Father helps, rescues, and strengthens the weak and the oppressed who patiently wait upon Him. The Lord sends to the weak and oppressed capable people to help them. Through Prophet Ezekiel the Lord said to his flock, "Some of you are not satisfied with eating the best grass; you even trample down what you don't eat! You drink the clear water and muddy what you do not drink! My other sheep have to eat the grass you trampled down and drink the water you muddy....but I will rescue my sheep and not let them be mistreated anymore. I will judge each of my sheep and separate the good from the bad. I will give them a King like my servant David to be their one shepherd, and he will take care of them. I, the Lord, will be their God, and a King like my servant David will be their ruler....I will make a covenant with them that guarantees their security....I will bless them!" When sad, weak and weary, remember that no one who puts his trust in the Lord, will be disappointed. The Father will send capable people, holy Angels to help you at the right time. In the mean time, strengthen your faith, keep your hope high, and be patient. "Those who wait and trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed."

In keeping our spirit and hopes high, let us make this Psalm our inspiration: "Why am I so sad? Why am I so troubled? I will put my hope in God, and once again I will praise Him, my Savior and my God" (Psalm 43).

> "Blessed are the merciful to others, God will be merciful to them." Matthew 5: 7

The Father: Our Refuge And Defender

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" (Psalm 27: 1).

It is common knowledge that life in this world is not easy. No matter how much you try to be good, kind, and helpful, you cannot expect everybody to be with you and to be grateful for what you do. The writer of Proverbs declared: "The righteous hate the wicked, and the wicked hate the righteous." In other words, as long as there are wicked people, there will be problems and troubles in the world.

In situation like our situation today when you could hardly determine who is for you and who is against you, our safety is at stake. But the Psalmist who was an experienced warrior boldly declared: "The Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." The Psalmist and warrior who fought and won many battles knew from the depth of his heart that victories come from the Lord who is our great protector, our refuge and strength, our mighty defender.

At the time when the Israelites were extremely oppressed, the Maccabeus family and some men with them decided to fight against a powerful king with a huge army. The men with the Maccabeus were terrified and frightened but Judas stood in faith and encouraged his men saying: "My fellow Israelites, do not be afraid, let us fight for our families, our children, our nation, and for our faith. Success and victories in battles do not depend on who has the large army. But upon the Almighty who is just and holy, and who gives victory to those who deserved it. "Indeed., fighting with their hands and praying to God in their hearts, the Maccabeus succeeded, "not by might nor by power of human beings, but by the Spirit of God the Father" who is a very present help in trouble.

> "Let not your heart be troubled... I will never leave you nor forsake you." John 14:1 & Hebrews 13:5

The Father "Inhabits The Praises Of His People"

Sadly, some people are being deceived into thinking that murmuring, complaining and grumbling are just light things; immaterial and negligible. Not realizing that this can become a habit, and very destructive. The reason why, the Holy Scriptures teach us, "Be ye angry, and sin not." "Give thanks to the Father in everything." "Pray without ceasing." If we give ourselves and our time to prayer, giving thanks to the Father in everything, we won't have anymore time to murmur, grumble, and complain.

Let us recall that when Moses led the Israelites from slavery to the Promise Land, the Father destroyed thousands of them because of murmuring, grumbling and complaining. Instead of praying and thinking how they could help Moses, they grumbled and complained against him and of course, against God Himself who appointed Moses their leader. They constantly complained about their food, their difficult situation, instead of keeping their spirit and hope high knowing that God cares for them and soon they would be free from the usual troubles that they had in Egypt.

Complaining can be an expression of discontentment or dissatisfaction, lack of faith in the Father and Savior, and insubordination. As far as the Israelites were concerned, one day the Father let the quails flew to the camp for food to the Israelites who complained of not having tasty food. The Father gave what they wanted, but after they had eaten, He also killed thousands of them. The history and spiritual journey of the Israelites can serve as lessons for us today. The Father is holy, He certainly does not dwell in a filthy place; a place where complaining, murmuring, shouting of harsh and insulting words are commonly heard nor can we expect the presence of the Holy Spirit in a place where there are shouting and cursing. But the Father is pleased to manifest His presence in a pure place; a place where there are prayers of thanksgiving and praises for Him.

Do we remember the beatitude that the Messiah spoke to the people on the Mt. of Olives? He said, "Blessed are the pure in hearts for they shall see God." We may not see our Father & Savior clearly now, how big and tall He is, but we can surely feel His presence and see His glory (glorious light) as He manifests Himself to us, when He finds us clean and pure through humble and faithful obedience.

"Come, let us praise the Lord! Let us sing for joy to God, who protects us! Let us come before him with thanksgiving and sing joyful songs of praise." Psalm 95: 1-2

The Father Speaks To His People

"Speak Lord, I am listening" (I Samuel 3: 10).

There have been shows or movies made out of the life and experience of Moses with our heavenly Father, and I'm sure we are all familiar with it. From it, we must have realized that God spoke to his people, not only to Moses but also to Abraham, to Samuel and other prophets, to some kings through dreams, visions, and revelations.

If there were prophets in the ancient times through whom God spoke and made known His will for His people, there are also prophets today, and if God spoke in the past, surely, he does the same thing today. "It was He (God) who gave gifts to mankind. He appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service in order to build up the body of Christ. And so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become mature people, reaching to the very heights of Christ's full stature" (Ephesians 4: 11-13). Our God is alive, active, powerful, and talking God. He talks to His people in many wonderful ways.

To Abraham, the Father spoke through dreams and visions, and through the holy angels who appeared to him. To Moses, the Father spoke through the burning bush, and through the thunder and lighting, that is, the giving of the Ten Commandments. To Prophet Samuel, the Father called Samuel while he was sleeping as a young lad who lived in the Temple.

The Father called saying: "Samuel, Samuel." This happened three times and Samuel woke up and went to Priest Eli every time, thinking that it was the Priest who called him. Surprised, Priest Eli advised the boy to say, "Speak Lord, I am listening." Samuel did according to the advice, and the Lord spoke to Samuel concerning Priest Eli's family.

During the time of Abraham, take note that there was no Bible yet. Even the Torah was not yet in existence. But today, the Father speaks with every one of us through the Holy Scriptures or the Holy Bible. However, He does talk uniquely to some individuals - to the prophets.

Do you want our Father & Savior to speak with you in a special way? If He does, what message do you want to hear from Him? Are you prepared to obey Him if He asks you to do something contrary to your wishes?

"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

James 1:22 & 2:26

The Father Loves Righteousness

"He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6: 8).

First and foremost, I would like to say that to humble before the Lord is to willingly obey Him. "To do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly...."

Not everyone is called to serve in the Temple as Priest and Ministers. In fact, of the twelve sons of Jacob, only Levi was set apart to serve in the Temple and to minister his brothers' families, and to the following generations. The eleven brothers were free to choose their own profession and occupation, to earn as much money as they wanted in a proper way. But the Father also commanded them to give a tithe or ten percent of their earnings plus offering to the heavenly Father through Levi, for Levi's family and for the ministry. The Tithe according to the Holy Scriptures belong to the Father, He, being the 'landlord' and we, the people as tenants. Remember that no landlord will be pleased with tenants who do not respect and honor their master.

Yes, not everybody is called to be priest and ministers but everybody is required to participate in the ministry by giving their tithe and offering, and by living according to the will of the Father, so that each will be a good example to one another. The commandment concerning the tithe is not optional or something that can be taken for granted. In fact, through Prophet Malachi the Father reminded the Israelites that those who do not give their tithe are robbers and are cursed.

The tithe & offering that we give is an expression of love, gratitude, and respect for the Father in heaven. Aside from the tithe & offering, our Father requires that His people should be humble, and kind to one another because the Royal Commandments say: "Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as you love yourself." In the book of Mark chapter 9, we can find that the Messiah said: "Whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name because you belong to me, verily, he shall not lose his reward." If he who gives a cup of water is greatly rewarded, how much more do you think, are those who give more than a cup of water? On another instance, the Messiah asked, "Who are my brother, sister, and mother? Then He showed His disciples to the crowd and said, whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, sister, and mother." Let us remember that those who do the Father's will are not only those who belong to our denomination. There are also many others, and they are all our brothers and sisters.

Matthew 24 also tells us that "When the Son shall come in His glory, and all the angels with Him. He shall sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations, and He shall separate them from one another as a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats....then the King shall say to them who are separated as sheep, 'Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of world! For I was hungry and ye gave me food, I was thirsty and ye gave me drink..., the righteous will then say, Lord, when did we see thee hungry and fed thee? When did we see thee thirsty and gave thee drink? The King will answer, 'verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.""

Perhaps, some of us sometimes wonder why the Lord manifests His presence and glory to some believers more intimately than others who are even more active in church activities. Some believers intimately experienced the presence of God because they constantly seek to do His will. They are more sensitive to the needs of other people; they are humble, and kind to the poor brethren.

"If anyone wants to boast, he should boast that he knows and understands me, because my love is constant, and I do what is just and right. These are the things that please me." Jeremiah 9: 24

The Father "Blesses The Habitation Of The Just"

Let me tell you of my experience concerning grandparents' blessing!

As a weanling, I was in the care of my paternal grandparents, grew up with them until both died. My grandfather was tall, handsome, hardworking. My grandmother was cute and pretty, literate enough to read and write the dialect and speak Spanish. While my grandfather worked on the farm, my grandmother gladly took the task that was required of the situation even to consult lawyers and physicians in far places for legal and medical advices. My grandfather raised a huge flock of goats, the biggest goats I've ever seen (they carried carts with some loads), few cattle, and parcel of land which he planted with coconuts, fruits, and vegetables.

They were very simple folks but I've learned a lot from them. Learned valuable things rarely taught in other places but in godly homes. They taught me moral values and spiritual principles.

Both grandparents were kind and disciplinarian, devoted to the Lord although they never had a Bible to read. However, in our home we had an altar with a small lamp which we called 'quinquilla', and kept the altar lighted day and night. I often saw my grandmother knelt before the altar and prayed silently. She also taught me to do the same especially in the evening. Since we lived on the farm our neighbors were quite far. So, when I played with our neighbors in the afternoon and I realized that it's almost six o'clock P.M., I had to run fast in going home, and immediately kneel before the altar quietly for few minutes upon arrival. My grandmother used to tell me that man's ways must be better than animals' ways. If the animals, the fowls, know when to go home and rest, and when to rise; if the animals recognize their master and honor Him, men must be far better than animals and fowls, she said.

Whenever my grandparents went to town to sell some fruits and vegetables; to buy dried fish, kerosene, and other things, they would sit in the living room upon arrival. Immediately, I would appear before them and say: "Tenga Usted, Buenos Dias, Tatay and Nanay." Then they would lay their hands on my head, prayed for me and blessed me. These are things I greatly cherish and value, and faithfully carry them to my children; blessing them everyday and night. After the death of both grandparents, many things have changed and happened, some things are forgotten but I will never forget the blessings.

Some people do not understand or realize the importance of the 'blessing' in the name of the Lord. But the Lord commanded Moses to tell Aaron the Priest and his descendants saying, "If they pronounce my name as a blessing to the people of Israel, I will bless them."

Do we remember Isaac's blessing on Jacob before he died? Esau, the twin brother of Jacob cried bitterly because he also wanted to be blessed. Truly, "the froward is abomination to the Lord: but His secret is with the righteous. The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked: but He blesses the habitation of the just" (Proverbs 3: 32 - 33).

The Father's Name

A name is very important! Without names, it would be very difficult to identify somebody or something. In the book of Genesis you will notice that after the Father created man and woman, "He blessed them, and said unto them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowls of the air, and to every living creature, that was the name thereof."

Everybody knows that even our Government's Law is very particular on people's name. What we may consider minor or slight difference in spelling for example, is not a minor thing to the authorities. People concerned have to go through the process of correcting their names, through the court. It is common knowledge also that to destroy or ruin a person's name is tantamount to destruction of the person's reputation, and it is of course, punishable by law.

We are particular and concern on people's name, and the names of things around us, how about our Father's name? One of the Ten Commandments that our Father gave to us is to honor his holy name. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain." The commandment says we should honor the name of our Father, but most of our Bibles rarely mention the name of our Father. Sad to say that in my experience, there are several ministers who did not care about the Father's name, and they were not familiar with it. Some time in the past, I attended a seminar about the Father's name. During the break, I myself have heard some of the participants said: "Praise God! It's only now that I have formally heard about the Name of the Father. I am not familiar with it."

One more thing that tragically happened was when an official of a religious organization was preached about the name of the Father. The said official was furious and ignorantly blasphemed the Holy Name. At other times, some people laughed with scorn. May our Father and Savior forgive them.

The Messiah (Christ) in his model prayer or the Lord's prayer said: "Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come in earth as it is in heaven." How do you think will one be able to hallow a name that he does not know or he has not heard?

One author wrote: "It is the name of a person that separates him from the rest of his fellows into a category of distinctiveness that he creates for himself by his character and activity. Throughout the Bible God is very careful to point out the distinctive that are associated with His name and that separated Him from everyone else. Because God is exceedingly jealous for His Name, He insists that nothing be allowed to dim its glory or cheapen its distinctiveness. Each time God speaks His name in Leviticus, He adds a reminder that His Name is to be hallowed. It is the value of God's name that satan is out to cheapen. Therefore, to pray "Hallowed be Thy Name" is right in line with the will of God and a blow to the ambition of satan."

According to research and discoveries the Name of our Father in heaven is the Tetragammation **YHWH** which is read or pronounced as **Yahweh**. This name has been substituted for some reasons to El or Elohim which means Almighty, Lord or God as it is in most of our Bibles. It is believed that one of the reasons for substitution is that, the name of our Father is holy, and in ancient times, the penalty for misusing the name of the Father was death. Sometimes later, the Tetragammation YHWH was transliterated to JHVH from which the name Jehovah derived. On the other hand, **Yahshua the Messiah** is the Hebrew name of our Savior and King, the begotten Son of the Father, popularly known as Jesus Christ. Yahshua means Yahweh is my/our salvation. Messiah means the Anointed. Therefore the name of our Savior and King means: the Anointed of Yahweh for our salvation.

> "Do not use my name for evil purposes, for I, the Lord your God, will punish anyone who misuses my name." Exodus 20:7

The Son

The Hebrew name of the begotten Son of the Father popularly known as Jesus Christ is Yahshua the Messiah. Meaning the anointed of Yahweh is my/our salvation. His coming to the world was prophesied by the Prophet Isaiah and Prophet Micah hundreds of years before His birth. Prophet Isaiah said:

"The Lord (Father) Himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanu El (Immanuel), which means the Elohim is with man (God is with man). Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse evil, and choose the good. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his Kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever." (Isaiah 7: 14-16; 9: 6-7).

"Bethlehem Ephratah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times.... When He comes, he will rule his people with the strength that comes from the Lord God Himself. His people will live in safety because people all over the world will acknowledge his greatness, and he will bring peace. He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations a far off; and they shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Micah 4: 3; 5: 2 & 4).

The Birth of Yahshua The Messiah

The angel Gabriel came to Mary who was promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, and said: "Peace be with you, the Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you! "Mary was deeply troubled but the angel said: "Don't be afraid Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son,.... He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God.

The Lord will make Him a King, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the King of the descendants of Jacob forever; His Kingdom will never end!"

> Mary said to the angel: "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?" The angel answered: "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God... There is nothing that God cannot do."

> > Luke 1: 34,35,37

The Anointing of Yahshua The Messiah

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord or to announce that the time has come when the Lord will save His people." (Luke 4: 18; Isaiah 61: 1-2).

"God anointed Jesus Christ of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power and how He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him" (Acts 10: 38).

As a confirmation of Prophet Isaiah's prophecy, Yahshua the Messiah Himself declared that the Almighty Father anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. "To preach the acceptable year of the Lord or to announce that the time has come when the Lord will save His people."

"The time has come when the Lord will save His people", means that the time has come when the Almighty Father will save His people-the Israelites through Yahshua the Messiah. And, Israel in turn, as a nation, will save the world from groaning and decay. But, until now the world is still groaning because Israel did not believe and accept Yahshua the Messiah as Lord, Savior and King.

The creation is still waiting for its perfect redemption (Romans 8: 19-23).

The Miracles

Although the Bible records several miracles done by Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ), it also reveals at the same time that the works of the Messiah were limited by the unbelief of the people, he, being the Christ or the Anointed of the Father. Proof to this, the Messiah Himself testified: "A prophet is not respected in His own country" (John 4: 44). Let us listen to the following accounts:

"On the Sabbath He began to teach in the synagogue. Many people were there and when they hear Him, they were all amazed. 'Where did He get all this? What wisdom is this that has been given Him? Isn't he the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? Aren't His sisters living here? And so they rejected Him.' Christ said to them: 'A prophet is respected everywhere except in His own hometown and by relatives and his family.' He was not able to perform miracles there, except that He placed His hands on a few sick people and healed them. He was greatly surprised, because the people did not have faith"(Mark 6: 1-6).

There were many people who needed healing but Christ healed only a few because the people did not have faith in Him. The Holy Spirit works by faith, so the Holy Spirit led Jesus Christ to the men who were ready to receive healing by faith in the Son of God, Jesus Christ. In other words, only those who had faith in the Messiah were healed.

Greater Than Any Man On Earth*

Yahshua the Messiah is unlike any man who had walked on earth because He is holy. In fact, ever since He was in the womb of His mother Mary, he was holy.... The following are Biblical truths I have gathered which will introduce the Messiah and prove the facts that He is indeed greater than any man on earth.

Yahshua the Messiah is the word of the Father Yahweh which became flesh (John 1: 1 & 14). To Him the Father said: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am pleased." He is the begotten Son of Yahweh Almighty, and He alone has manifested the fullness of the Father. The Messiah Himself strongly confirmed the aforesaid declaration saying, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." "All things are delivered unto me of my Father." "I am the way, the truth, and the life. I am the resurrection and the life. I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall never hunger and he who believes in me shall never thirst. I am the Good Shepherd.... If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you. If you believe in me, the works that I do shall ye do also; and greater works than these shall ye do...." The book Hebrews also tells us that He is greater than Moses and all the prophets, greater than all the high Priests, and greater than all the angels. Colossians 1: 15-16 says: "Christ is the visible likeness of the invisible God. He is the first born Son, superior to all created things. For through Him God created the seen and the unseen things, including spiritual powers, lords, rulers and authorities. God created the whole universe through Him and for Him." He is indeed, the Savior of the world, the King of kings, and he who comes to Him in

faith will never be disappointed but will have abundant and eternal life. He is the One whom the Father anointed to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to open the eyes of the blind, to set the captives free.

He is the One who said in the garden of Gethsemane, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death", and prayed for three times the same prayer, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will but as thou wilt." He is the One whom the high Priest asked, "Are you the Christ, the Son of God?" "Yes, it is as you say", He answered. The high Priest tore his clothes and said: "He has spoken blasphemy. He is worthy of death."

He is the One whom Governor Pilate asked, "Are you the King of the Jews?" "Yes, it is as you say", He replied. He is the One whom the crowd of Jews wanted to crucify. "Crucify him! Crucify him!" they shouted. While the Chief Priest, and the teachers of the Law mockingly said, "He saved others, himself he cannot save.... Let God rescue him now, for he said, 'I am the Son of God!'"

He is the Anointed of the Father who made the New Covenant sealed with His own precious, holy, and powerful blood. In Him and through Him alone can man find a meaningful, peaceful, fruitful, and everlasting life. For He says, "No man can go to the Father except by me." He is the One who said to the lawyers who attempted to trap Him with his questions, "Thou shalt love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and strength. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." He is the One who said to His disciples, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another." "Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, my sister, my mother." The One who said: "Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; he who humbles himself shall be exalted. The last shall be first, and the first shall be last for many are called but few are chosen. Fear not little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." The One who said: "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consist not in the abundance of the things which he possesses." "How hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter the Kingdom of God." He is the One who said: "Repent for the Kingdom is at hand. Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." "I am coming soon and my reward is with me, to give to everyone according to what he has done."

Yahweh Almighty is holy, just, and faithful His promises are surely true and beautiful. His words are true and sharper than any two-edged sword A good warrior can ever find in this world.

By the Same Author

Who Is Jesus Christ*

Jesus Christ: The Son of God

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily... the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live" (John 5: 24-25).

Many have been troubled about the identity of Jesus Christ. These troubles have gone to the extent of causing division among Christians instead of embracing one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

As a baby, Jesus Christ grew up under the care of Joseph and Mary, his parents. I believe like His brothers and sisters, Christ ate the same food the family had, slept with them, played with the children in the neighborhood, and helped in the daily task of His mother and father though the scriptures are silent about these details.

The Bible shows that Jesus' brothers disbelieved His being the Son of God (John 7: 3-5). I think the brothers' disbelief can be attributed to the mere fact that they grew up together, they had the same parents, and they were together in almost all ways. "How could he be? He must not be different from any of us", the brothers must have thought and said. While the Pharisees and Scribes who studied the Law had already established a fixed interpretation of the Law or 'Mindset' which led them to believe and conclude that Jesus Christ did not really qualify to be the Son of God.

But the Bible reveals that when Jesus Christ was twelve years old, He began to shine brightly, causing many people to wonder who He was, while He was talking intelligently with the great men in the Temple. Most of all, He is the Son of God because God the Father Himself declared: "This is my Son in whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him." Christ Himself said: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3: 16).

Having learned then from the history of God's people, let us keep our hearts and minds open to receive God's messages especially revealed to meet the challenges of our changing time and situation.

"Son, when the Lord corrects you, pay close attention and take it as a warning. The Lord corrects those he loves as a father corrects a son of whom he is proud." Proverbs 3: 11-12

Jesus Christ: The Son of Man

"For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself. And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man" (John 5: 26-27).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life (John 1: 1 & 14; 6: 63).

It must be noted that Christ Himself affirmed that He is both the Son of God and the Son of man. For instance, "...the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins..." (Matthew 9: 6).

In the beginning God is God; He is a Spirit (John 4: 24). Meaning, God has no flesh like man's, but God has an ideal. His ideal was made into words both spoken and written. Since this very Word represents God's Heart and Mind , the Word has authority and power. Please note John 6: 63, "...the words which I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." Then later, this very Word became flesh which is Jesus Christ. Christ then who was the Word, now becomes the walking visible God. That is why although Jesus Christ said that He is the Son of God, to many of us, He is God Himself which is true, God the Son because He has the love, power, and authority that come from God the Father. Let us remember that Jesus Christ has the fullness of the Spirit of God, therefore He is both God and man.

Jesus Christ: The Way, The Truth, And The Life

"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me." John 14: 6

THE WAY:

When God created man and woman, He desired that they would bear His perfect image, but man and woman or Adam & Eve had sinned and fell from the glory of God. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3: 23).

Because of sin men and women were lost, but God in His mercy and faithfulness, provided them the Way. That Way is the Son of God who died to pay the penalty of man's sins. Through Christ's death and resurrection, every sinner who believes in Him and follow Him has found his Way back to God the Father.

THE TRUTH:

Basically, truth is the opposite of lie, and even little children know what is lie. But knowing the truth of our relationship with the Father in heaven, and other spiritual truth is not as easy and simple as recognizing a lie, because man's spiritual senses have been darkened by sin and filth that is in the world. In fact, the Lord declares: "You are doomed! You call evil good and call good evil. You turn darkness into light and light into darkness. You make what is bitter sweet, and what is sweet you make bitter" (Isaiah 5: 20).

Prophet Isaiah also says: "Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save, neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have separated between you and your God and your sins have hid His face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands and fingers are defiled.... Your lips have spoken lies, your tongues hath muttered perverseness" (Isaiah 59).

But because of God's love and mercy, at the fullness of time, He gave us His Son who was and is the Word of Truth for our salvation.

THE LIFE:

Everybody knows that a child should eat and drink in order to live and grow. That is one of the natural laws of this physical world. If there are natural laws for the physical world, there are also spiritual laws for the spiritual world.

Man is both physical and spiritual. He is an embodiment of both the earthly things like dust, water, and minerals as well as the spiritual. Man does not have trouble believing that the physical body must be clothed and fed because he can see it. In fact, man can easily notice when one is well dressed, has good shelter, and is well fed but the spiritual is different.

In most cases, the victims do not realize that they are spiritually malnourished and sick. When help is offered, he resents it and refuses to believe. St. Paul confirms this by saying: "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him. Neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Corinthians 2: 14-15). That is always the trouble, the spiritual needs are not easily discerned. So, it is often neglected. Much time and energy are invested in things which are seen but temporal. The more and more time, energy and resources spent for them, the less time, energy and resources left for the spiritual which is not seen but eternal.

Man has physical and spiritual bodies. Both bodies therefore must be properly nourished and taken cared of, so that man will have a truly meaningful, abundant, and eternal life.

"Son, don't forget what I teach you. Always remember what I tell you to do. My teaching will give you a long and prosperous life" (Proverbs 3: 1-2).

Jesus Christ: The Bread of Life

Normally, in order for a man to have strong and healthy body, he has to eat a balanced diet plus physical exercises. What is a balanced diet? I think a nutritionist or a mother would say, eat vegetables, eggs, milk, fish, meat, cereals, and fruits.

But was Christ content with all these? One can easily recall that when Christ fasted for forty days and nights, satan tempted him to turn the stone into bread. But Christ rebuked satan saying, "It is written that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4: 4; Luke 4:4).

Indeed, a very spiritual man, wise and sensible one, knows that bread and butter, eggs, milk, vegetables, etc. are not enough to make him truly healthy. Man has flesh and spirit, and both must be properly nourished. That is what Christ meant when He said, "Man shall not live by bread alone...." Man's need of bread, clothing, shelter, etc. must not be denied except for valid reasons and noble purposes like fasting, but to have them only is surely not enough.

Quite unfortunately, we all become victims of this so called "Materialistic World and Materialistic Age" for, even those who seem to be dedicated Christians tend to invest more time and energy trying to acquire luxurious material things. They leave very little time and energy for the nurturing and development of the spiritual life of their family. Also, because of man's quest to possess the best of material things, man's motivation for work becomes too personal. It is mainly for personal advantage or one's own group rather than for the benefit of the whole world, and for God's joy and glory. But Christ said: "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consist not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12: 15). What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8: 36).

Three times a day (some, five times including mirienda) in the morning, noon, and evening, we all seek to serve the best food or bread in the best plates, on the best furniture. But brethren, is the true bread not missing? The words of God are perfected in Jesus Christ, therefore, Christ is the true Bread. The Bread that gives us eternal life!

> "Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts." Proverbs 4: 23

Jesus Christ The Light of the World

When does one need light? Surely, we need light when it is dark. We need light to see, to recognize something very clearly. We need light to do everything properly. Don't we?

Since the fall of Adam and Eve, the world has been in darkness. It cannot recognize clearly the things of God, neither can it do things so well. What a miserable life! For who is there so great among us who would say that life in darkness is fine? Visualize yourself in a very dark room for a few days, not being able to do any good thing except perhaps to close your eyes and pray. Miserable!

But, that was what happened for a long period of time. There were God's champions like Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, David, and we are thankful to God for their lives, yet they were but a glorious dawn that prepared the rising of the brightest Light.

Jesus Christ who is the Light, came not by magic but after a long period and hard work of preparation with God. Indeed, our godly fore-parents like Noah, Abraham, Joseph and Mary, and many others had painfully laid the foundation for us to have the true Light. But did the people prefer the Light? They rejected Him, shamed Him and crucified Him. Was ignorance the reason? The people who condemned Christ to death saying, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" were not uneducated people. They were the people who were nurtured by the Law and the prophets. They were not also Samaritans, Buddhist, Muslims or any Gentile. But they were Israelites like Jesus. Why? They did not recognize Jesus as the Christ because they sought God by their worldly wisdom, not by faith of a truly repentant heart.

Now, we are Christians and we love to be involved in church activities, which is good. But let us at the same time learn some lessons from the past. Let us change the course of Church History by practicing always what Christ said to His disciples: "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14: 15). Which commandment? "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, with all thy strength. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22: 37 & 39).

True love does not crucify the loved one. True love cares and ready to defend, support, and uphold the beloved.

By the Same Author

Jesus Christ The Savior of the World

First of all, I think we have to recognize why we need or why the world needs a Savior. We can begin by asking ourselves the following questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? What do I really need?

A person who honestly answers these questions will understand why he or why the world needs a Savior. No doubt, we are men and women created by God out of His Heart's longing, desire, and ideal. And by His immeasurable wisdom and power, He molded us and gave us breath that we may live to give Him joy and glory by living in His love. Sadly, we have broken our Father's Heart by living according to our own will. Why is this so? It is because since the fall of Adam & Eve, satan has invaded the human heart. He has infected the human race with his own nature like deception, rebellion, idolatry, lying, greed and selfishness, pride, murder, etc.

Now, what can we say about this life? Can we free ourselves from sin and from the power of the enemy? Can we change the condition of our world completely? We can't by ourselves, but Christ can, for He has all power and authority in heaven and in earth. The scripture says: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Christ is indeed the Savior of everyone who believes in Him, and of the whole world. In union with Jesus Christ we will completely overcome the world!

Jesus Christ: The Servant

Have you ever heard of a Master or a King who is at the same time a servant? It is commonly said: "A public official is a public servant." Is it really true? Well, only God really knows.

We know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The Lord of lords, the King of kings. But is it because He had power to conquer other nations? Though Jesus Christ had all these power, certainly, these are not the qualities that made Him Lord of lords or King of kings. Jesus Christ is Lord and will be Lord forever because of only one great power. The power of love and the spirit of humility and servant hood. He loves the Father so much that He willingly offered Himself for the fulfillment of the Father's plan and purpose. "The Son of man came not to be served but to serve. If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and the servant of all" (Matthew 20: 28; Mark 9: 35).

Many of us cling to our small position and do things as we like, forgetting that we are followers of Christ. Christ had all power and authority over everything the Father has created; He is the King of kings yet He gave up all that He had, lived as servant so that we might have life and be kings together with Him in due time.

Jesus Christ Is Love

"God is Love." The reason Jesus Christ came to the world is because of the Father's love for man. He walked on earth to show no greater thing than love. He loved the righteous as well as the sinners that he even gave Himself for them. He loved the strong, the weak, the sick, the poor and the rich, youth and children, the old, the crippled. He loved all peoples that He gave up everything for them.

His teachings were all about God's love for man. In fact, He transcribed the Ten Commandments into just one word – Love. Love for God and love for man. Every relationship then should be founded on God's love. Whether it is between God and man or between individuals or groups of people. Everything must be dealt with God's love even the lower forms of creation. "For love alone is the force that meets every need." Since Jesus Christ is the perfect love of God the Father revealed to mankind, we all need Him in order to live in God's love.

Love must be true and sincere. Let us love one another not only in words but in words and in deeds.

By the Same Author

Jesus Christ: The King of Kings

I would like to recall with you that the first King the Israelites had was King Saul. This happened when the Jews or Israelites demanded for a King to lead them. Although Prophet Samuel believed that God Himself should be their King, he was forced to talk to God about it because of their insistent demand (I Samuel 8).

When Prophet Samuel communed with God about this, God answered him and appointed Saul for their King. King Saul reigned over them until David a shepherd boy and a son of Jesse, succeeded him. David was known as the greatest King in Israel's history. When David died, his son with Bathsheba, Solomon succeeded him. Kings from that time became very important in the lives of God's people to lead them and to rule the land in which each of them became the supreme ruler in their own time. That is how kings came in the lives of God's people.

There were wise and great kings who ruled Israel like King David but no one was as great and perfect as the Son of God Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ alone is the very King who deserves the title: The Lord of lords, the King of kings! For, He alone has completely defeated satan and all the forces of evil, and has overcome the world.

Jesus Christ: The Healer

The Bible holy as it is, records all kinds of sicknesses known to man. Some of these sicknesses are leprosy, demon possession, bleeding, blindness, deafness, fever, etc. not only does the Bible record them but mankind as a whole has felt and experienced them even in our own times. If Jesus Christ then came to heal, why are all these sicknesses still existing today? What causes them? I think only our Father and Savior has all the answers.

Although I do not know all the answers, I'd like to share with you some insights. I believe sickness or pain of all kinds are foreign to God's plan in His creation. But from the day Adam and Eve broke God's heart by disobeying Him, curse came upon mankind and upon the whole earth. Sorrows and all kinds of pain began. From that time, physical and spiritual sickness have invaded the human race and the world, for, God said to Eve, "I will greatly multiply thy sorrow...." And to Adam, He said: "Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life" (Genesis 3: 16-17).

Mankind has been eating the fruit of his own doing. But praise be to our Father in heaven who gave us the Healer, Jesus Christ, that we may enjoy abundant and eternal life with Him!

Believe in Jesus Christ and follow Him, live a humble and faithful life, you and our land will be healed. God said: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7: 14).

Yahshua, The Greatest Healer*

Yahshua, there is no ill that You cannot heal. You are the comfort of an aching heart. You are the peace of a troubled mind. You are the light of a darkened soul. You are the wealth of the poor. Yahshua, there is no ill that You cannot heal You are the greatest healer of all!

You are the joy of the bereaved. You are the release of the oppressed. You are the strength of the weak. You are the Savior of the captives. You are the support of the lowly. Yahshua, there is no ill that You cannot heal You are the greatest healer of all!

You are the teacher of the unlearned. You are the wisdom of the humble and simple. You are the eyes and ears of the blind and deaf. You are the hands and feet of the maimed and lame. You are the defender of the helpless. Yahshua, there is no ill that You cannot heal You are the greatest healer of all! You are the refuge of the troubled. You are the victory of the forsaken. You are the success of the depressed. You are as husband to all widows. You are the Father of the orphans Yahshua, there is no ill that You cannot heal You are the greatest healer of all!

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God (the Father), believe also in me." John 14: 1

Yahshua, You Are Wonderful*

Yahshua, You are my Savior and my all. You suffered so much to give life to my dead soul. You did many things great and small for all people, You are dearest, sweetest to me, my all. You are really, really, great and wonderful!

Yahshua, You called us all to Yourself, You said: "Come to me all of you who are tired Take your rest, eat my bread and drink the water of life." You are dearest, sweetest to me, my all. You are really, really, great and wonderful!

Yahshua your love for us is beyond measure Your kindness brings comfort to poor people, Your mercy is more precious than all stones valuable You are dearest, sweetest to me, my all. You are really, really, great and wonderful!

Yahshua who would ever fully comprehend the beauty of Your Soul, Your love and mercy to the unfaithful is beautiful; Your care is upon the good, the bad, the ugly after all. You are dearest, sweetest to me, my all. You are really, really, great and wonderful!

Yahshua, My Loving Savior And King

My Savior and King is glorious and powerful, so loving and merciful The delights of His love and mercy are complete and immeasurable. He saved me, cleansed me, and made me pure and holy. My Savior and King takes delight in me, He whispered: "Now, my dear, you will grow to be a magnificent lady. I love you and you are ever dear to me."

There are many strong and handsome men in the world Who, like experienced soldiers, they conquered cities for treasures like silver and gold. My Savior and King is unique and wonderful! With few frightened disciples who secretly prayed in the room He conquered the whole world through the cross all alone. My Savior and King is the best of them all The rarest, the greatest, and the most wonderful!

My Savior and King is my lover and provider I want the world to know how tender is His love and care. He made my body, soul, and spirit lovely and beautiful As beautiful as the carefully tended garden of flowers, With a fountain that captures the hearts of innocent viewers. My lover loves everyone – great and small, young and old, rich and poor But I'm sure His love for me is the sweetest of all. He crowned me with His glory And made me a magnificent lady For all women to see and enjoy A Glimpse of heavenly beauty.

He made me bright and dazzling like stars, shining as the sun or the moon also, like a glittering precious diamond. I love my lover and my love for Him is beyond compare, He is glorious, and majestic forever My dearest, sweetest, and wonderful lover. My lover is mine and I am His forever Forever my darling, my King, my provider and defender.

^{*}Yahshua is the Hebrew for Jesus

^{*}means adapted from the books written by the same author.



The Holy Spirit

Let us recall that Isaiah 61: 1-2 and Luke 4: 18 said that Jesus Christ was anointed with the Spirit of God to do His will in earth.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

The Holy Spirit is also the promised power and Comforter/ Helper that Jesus Christ said to His disciples. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1: 18). "But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you" (John 16: 7). "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24: 49). Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1: 4-5).

The Coming Of The Holy Spirit

"When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky, which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enable them to speak" (Acts 2: 1-4).

Acts Chapter 5 also tells us that when the apostles of Jesus Christ were arrested and made to stand before the council and the high Priest, Peter and the other disciples answered them saying, "We must obey God, and not men.... God raised Jesus Christ to His right side as leader and Savior, to give the people of Israel the opportunity to repent and have their sins forgiven. We are witnesses to these things – we and the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to those who obey Him."

Purpose for the coming of the Holy Spirit:

- To Baptize The Holy Spirit baptizes us into the body of Christ. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles....and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (I Corinthians 12: 13).
- To Indwell The Holy Spirit came to indwell the faithful believer. "We are witnesses to these things – we and the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to those who obey him" (Acts 5:32).

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever.

Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him, for he dwelleth in you. If any man defiles the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (I Corinthians 3: 16-17).

3. **To Empower** – He came to empower the believers to become witnesses (Acts 1: 8).

To have dreams and visions; to prophesy (Acts 2: 17-18)

- 4. **To Enlighten** He enlightens the believers. He gave them wisdom, knowledge, revelation (Ephesians 1: 17-23).
- 5. **To convict sinners of their sins** (John 16: 8 10).
- 6. To give glory to Jesus Christ (John 15: 1-4).

Functions of the Holy Spirit:

- 1. He will teach you and guide you into all the truth;
- 2. He gives revelation; He will tell you what is yet to come (John 16: 12-13).
- 3. He gives instruction what to do (Acts 8: 29; 10: 19-21).
- 4. He comforts and helps the believers, for, He is the Comforter and Helper (John 16: 7).
- 5. He chooses and reveals truth (Acts 1: 24-26).
- 6. He strengthens and encourages the believers(Acts 9: 31)
- 7. He gives power to do mighty things such as miracles (Acts 2).

At Creation

"In the beginning God created the heaven and earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (Genesis 1: 1-2).

"Thou sendest forth Thy Spirit, they are created: Thou renewest the face of the earth" (Psalm 104: 30).

During the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit did not dwell in men. He came upon them to anoint them for a special service (I Samuel 10: 6-7; Exodus 28: 3).

In the Gospel

1. To John the Baptist

"For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God" (Luke 1: 15-16).

2. To Elizabeth

"And it came to pass, that, when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. And she spoke out in a loud voice, and said, "Blessed thou art among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb" (Luke 1: 41).

3. To Zechariah

"And Zechariah was filled with the Holy Ghost and prophesied, 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people, and hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David" (Luke 1: 67-69).

In the Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matt 1: 20-24).

Jesus Christ was anointed with the Holy Spirit (Luke 4: 18).

Jesus Christ drove out devils by the Holy Spirit.

"But if I cast out devils by the Holy Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God is come unto you" (Matthew 12: 28).

Jesus Christ was resurrected by the Holy Spirit.

"But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus Christ from the dead dwells in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Romans 8: 11). In several instances, men were compared to a tree in the Holy Scriptures. In Psalm, for example, the Psalmist says: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the Law of the Lord.... He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season..."

When a person is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, he naturally bears fruit like a fruit bearing tree.

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: (A bunch of Fruits)

- 1. **LOVE** The word love is used by many people in many different ways. Sometimes, it is even misused. But the fruit of the Holy Spirit is certainly love for God and love for man in truth and righteousness. A divine love.
- 2. JOY This is quite different from happiness, though, sometimes people interchange them. Joy springs from within because it comes from the Holy Spirit. A person can experience joy even if he does not have much money and material possession. Joy is not dependent on visible or tangible things like happiness. That is why Apostle Paul said: "Rejoice ever more. Give thanks to the Father in everything."
- 3. **PEACE** This is peace in the inner being or peace of mind in spite of hardship. This is so, because the person who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit has the assurance that God loves His children and He is in control of

everything and every situation. He can turn adverse condition into great blessings. "My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14: 27).

- 4. **PATIENCE** A person who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit has the patience to endure doing the will of the Father, e.g. the Apostles of Jesus Christ, because he is blessed with faith and hope that someday, things will be beautiful. The Psalmist said: "Wait upon the Lord and He shall strengthen thine heart." Prophet Isaiah also said: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength...."
- 5. **GENTLENESS & KINDNESS** Is an attitude that is so admirable; the attitude of being understanding, considerate, and helpful.
- 6. **GOODNESS** Means living the way of life that is right and pleasing to God.
- FAITHFULNESS Being faithful in all circumstances; steadfast and enduring to the end. A person who is faithful is trustworthy or one who can be relied on; a truly responsible person.
- 8. **HUMILITY** The spirit of humility is evidently seen in a person who submits to the authority and will of God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit. One who is honest with himself and with God. A humble person is not arrogantly showy of his possession and position. He is also very respectful.
- SELF-CONTROL A person who has self-control is a disciplined person. One who has control over his bodily desires and actions; he has control over his temper and mouth.

The fruit of the Holy Spirit is our responsibility. We have the responsibility to make ourselves fruitful. After we have been saved through faith, we must grow in our knowledge and understanding of the truth, we must mature spiritually so that we will become fruitful person like a mature, healthy tree that bears fruit.

"A tree is known by the kind of fruit it bears" (Matthew 12: 33).

Spiritual Gifts

"Spiritual gifts or spiritual abilities are given to every believer. They are to be discovered, developed and distributed for the purpose of serving others. The truth is that God has placed a primary gift inside of every believer."

Primary Gifts:

 Gift of Prophecy – "It is a supernatural utterance in a known tongue. The Hebrew word for 'to prophesy' means to 'to flow forth'. The Greek word that is translated 'prophesy' means 'to speak for another'. It means to speak for God or to be His spokesman."

"The simple gift of prophecy should not be confused with the prophetic office. In the simple gift of prophecy there is no revelation. He that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, exhortation, and comfort (I Corinthians 14: 3). In the office of the prophet, we often find revelation coming forth even by prophecy.

"A prophet would prophesy, but one who prophesies wouldn't necessarily be a prophet. A prophet would have more of the gifts in operation than just the gift of prophecy. He would have revelation gifts along with prophecy.

"To constitute the office of the prophet a person would have to have at least two of the revelation gifts operating in his ministry plus the gift of prophecy: the word of wisdom and or the word of knowledge and the gift of discerning of spirits. Otherwise, he would be a preacher in the same sense that others are preachers."

- 2. **The Gift of Tongue** "It is a supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in languages never learned by the speaker, not understood by the mind of speaker nor necessarily always understood by the hearer."
- 3. **The Interpretation of Tongue** "It is the supernatural showing forth by the Spirit the meaning of an utterance in other tongues."
- 4. **The Gift of Faith** "It is a supernatural endowment by the Spirit whereby that which is uttered or desired by man or spoken by God shall eventually come to pass. Those who possess the gift of faith believe God in such a way that He honors their word as His own and miraculously brings it to pass."
- 5. **The Gift of Miracle** "A miracle is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature, a temporary suspension of the accustomed order through the Spirit of God."
- 6. **The Gift of Healing** "The purpose of the gift of healing is to deliver the sick and to destroy the works of the devil in the human body."
- The Gift of the Word of Wisdom "The word of wisdom is a supernatural revelation by the Spirit of God concerning the divine purpose in the mind and will of God."
- The Gift of the Word of Knowledge "The Word of Knowledge is the supernatural revelation by the Holy Ghost of certain facts in the mind of God."
- 9. **The Gift of Discerning Spirits** "The discerning of spirits gives insight into the spirit world."

"Three Categories Of Gifts"

"The simplest way to describe these nine gifts is that three of them say something, three of them do something, and three of them reveal something."

The three gifts that say something are the gifts of utterance. They are the following:

- 1. Prophecy
- 2. Diverse Kinds of Tongues
- 3. Interpretation of Tongues

The three gifts that do something are the gifts of power. They are the following:

- 1. Gift of Faith
- 2. Working of Miracles
- 3. Gift of Healing

The three gifts that reveal something are the gifts of revelation. They are the following:

- 1. The Word of Wisdom
- 2. The Word of Knowledge
- 3. Discerning of Spirits

The Bible tells us to seek earnestly the best gifts, the gifts that edify the body of Christ or the Assembly of believers.

"Of the three gifts of revelation, the gift of the Word of Wisdom is the best gift. Of the three gifts of power, the gift of faith is the best gift. Of the three gifts of utterance, the gift of prophecy is the best gift."

> Worldly gifts, and bribes can make sensible people blind. But the gifts of the Holy Spirit can make blind people see, and bring life to dying people.

> > Segundina T. Valenzona

"Word Of Wisdom And Word Of Knowledge"

"The word of wisdom and the word of knowledge often operate together. The difference between these two gifts is that the revelation that the word of knowledge brings is always present tense or something which happened in the past. The word of wisdom always speaks of the future.

"The Gift of Knowledge Manifested Through Visions & Revelations"

- 1. Visions some examples to this are the following:
 - a. John while on the isle of Patmos (Revelation)
 - b. Ananias when the Lord spoke to him (Acts 9: 10-12)
 - c. Peter while praying...., he fell into a trance, and saw heaven opened.... (Acts 10: 9-20).
- 2. An **Inward Revelation** an example to this is the account in John 4, the Messiah and the Samaritan woman.

"The gift of the word of knowledge can be manifested in a number of different ways. It may come through the gift of prophecy, or an angel might come to deliver a word of knowledge. God has many ways of doing things."

"Natural Wisdom And The Gift Of The Word OF Wisdom"

"The natural wisdom is available to everybody who will ask for it. God will impart wisdom, but that is not a supernatural manifestation of the word of wisdom (Read James 1:5 & Joshua 1:8).

"The wisdom James is talking about is the wisdom to deal wisely in the affair of life, wisdom to know how to conduct oneself as a Christian.

"When God sees fit to reveal His own mind and purpose and plan to man in a supernatural way, he does so by the supernatural manifestation of the word of wisdom."

"The word of Wisdom like the word of Knowledge can be given by:

- 1. An audible voice
- 2. A vision
- 3. A dream
- 4. Vocal gift of prophecy
- 5. It can come with tongues and interpretation of tongues."

For Examples:

1. Joseph received a word of wisdom through a dream which revealed God's plan and purpose of his future.

- 2. Moses received the revelation of the Law in an audible voice. The Law concerning God's purpose for Israel.
- 3. The prophets who prophesied many things concerning Israel's future, like the coming of the Messiah.

"The gift of the word of wisdom has been used to reveal God's plan to those He wanted to use in ministering" (Read Acts 9: 15).

"The word of wisdom is also given to assure of coming deliverance in the time of calamity" (Read Acts 27: 10).

"Word OF Wisdom Can Be Conditional"

"There were some prophecies in the Old Testament when the prophet received a word of wisdom from God which did not come to pass. Some things are conditional." Read II Kings 20 and Jonah.

"The Difference Between The Fruit Of The Spirit And The Gifts OF The Spirit"

"God determines what gifts we possess. We determine what fruit we will bear, based on our obedience and faithfulness. We will be judged by the fruit we bore, not the volume of our gifts. Gifts are temporal, but fruit is forever. Don't compare or judge others' gifts; that is up to God. We should be focusing on bearing fruit and glorifying our Father in heaven."

"Steps To Discover And Develop Your Gifts"

- 1. **Explore the possibilities.** Get familiar with what the scripture teaches ...and recognize that your gift may be the way God will allow you to impact your world in the most profound way.
- 2. **Experiment as much as possible**. Make your assembly or church a safe place to try out ministry opportunities.
- 3. **Examine how you feel**. When you try out new ministry...do you sense that it fits your abilities and skills? Does it satisfy you down in your soul?
- 4. **Evaluate your effectiveness**. As you reflect on what you did, using your gift, how did you do? Were you good at it?
- 5. **Expect confirmation from the Body of Christ**. As you serve, do other Christians confirm that you are gifted in that area? Listen for the response of others.

"Spiritual Gifts And Natural Talents"

"Most of us possess natural talents as well as spiritual gifts. We receive natural talents at our first birth, our natural birth. We receive spiritual gifts at our second birth, our spiritual birth (Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of heaven. John 3: 3). Both are abilities that are God-given, but the sole purpose for spiritual gifts is not to make money or entertain people, but to advance God's rule and reign on earth."

"Hindrance To The Discovery Or Development Of Gifts"

there remains an unresolved difference between you and God.
you never step out and do something in obedience to God.
you are attempting to imitate someone else's gift.
you are constantly living in the flesh. (living in the flesh means living in sin).

Counterfeit Gifts

I believe that in every plan and work of God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, the enemy has a counterfeit plan and work. The scripture says: "Satan is roaming around seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5: 8). Satan is a grabber, and a destroyer of God's plan and works in earth through the faithful believers. Hence, every believer must be alert and on guard always against the enemy.

Conclusion

Faithful believers of Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) should recognize and exercise the gifts that they have received from the Holy Spirit for the good of the Body of Christ.

Apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians said, in my own words: the Assembly of Believers or the Body of Christ is like a human body with different parts like the head with the eyes, ears, nose, mouth; the arms and hands; the legs and feet, etc. when one part aches, the whole body is affected and the body cannot function well. So, each part should take care and uphold the other for the good of the whole body.

Which part are you in the body? Remember, you cannot function well without the others. Some parts may even be useless without the support of the other parts of the body. Above all, the body may be paralyzed or die when one or more parts like the spinal column, the lungs, the liver are destroyed. So, each part should make sure that he is not the cause of the destruction of the other parts of the body. The scripture says:

God will destroy those who destroyed His temple and the body of the faithful believer is God's temple. "Surely you know that you are God's temple and God's Spirit lives in you!" (I Corinthians 3: 16).

"By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." John 13: 35

Prayer of Repentance and Confession

Prayer Of Repentance And Confession

Most gracious Father in heaven Yahweh, I confess that I have sinned against You in words, in thoughts, and in deeds; sin of commission and sin of omission. With all my heart, I now repent of all my sins. Have mercy upon me and forgive me I pray.

Father God, You gave Your Son, Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) to the world so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Father, I believe in Yahshua the Messiah and accept Him now as my personal Savior, my Lord, and my King.

Thank You Father for saving me through Your Son. Lord, thank You for Your sacrifices that paid the penalty of my sins. Father, I pray, teach me the truth through Your Holy Spirit and guide me always to the path of righteousness.

In the name of Yahshua the Messiah my Savior, my Lord, and my King, Amen.

The Principle Of Binding & Loosing

Yahshua the Messiah said: "Verily I say unto you, whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 18: 18).

Applying the principle of binding and loosing, the following are steps to personal freedom which are so vital for spiritual development, spiritual strength and defense.

- We Renounce complacency and contentment. We Announce that in the Name of Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) we will step out in faith to do the Father's Will.
- We Renounce a critical and judgmental spirit.
 We Announce that we accept our differences as challenge for greater love, strong faith, and unity.
 - We Announce that in the Messiah we have love and acceptance for one another.
- We Renounce our passivity in spiritual discipline.
 We Announce that we have spiritual hunger for intimacy with our Creator and Father.
- We Renounce gossip and pettiness.
 We Announce that we speak the truth in love.

- 5. We Renounce corporate sins, conflicts, and weaknesses. We Announce that we are all one in Yahshua the Messiah.
- 6. We Renounce all previous and current involvement in occult practices, and false religions.
 - We Believe and announce that Yahshua the Messiah is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- We Renounce and rebuke all deceiving and lying spirits.
 We Believe and announce that the Holy Spirit is the Teacher of truth and He will lead us into all the truth.
- 8. We Renounce and rebuke the spirit of bitterness and resentment.
 - We Choose to obey the Father by releasing forgiveness to those who have wronged us, hurt us, rejected us.
- 9. We Renounce and rebuke all rebellious spirits against the Will of the Father.
 - We Announce that we submit ourselves to our Father and Savior, and resist the devil.
- We Renounce and rebuke the spirit of pride and arrogance.
 We Release the spirit of humility and confidence in the Messiah.
- 11. We Renounce and rebuke all fleshly lust that wage war against our souls and keep us in bondage.
 - We Renounce and rebuke the spirits of idolatry, impure thoughts, and indecency.
 - We Announce our faith and freedom in Yahshua the Messiah who shed His blood to pay the penalty of our sins and cleansed us from all iniquities.

- 12. We Renounce the sins of our ancestors and all curses that may have been passed on to our generation.
 - We Renounce and rebuke all past evil influences, and all demonic workings that may have been passed on to us.
 - We Announce that Yahshua the Messiah has become a curse for us when He died on the cross.

Galatians 3:13

- 13. We Renounce & rebuke all satanic assignments that are directed toward us and our ministry.
 - We Announce that Yahshua the Messiah is our Lord and Savior, and He will never leave us nor forsake us.
- 14. We Command all evil spirits to leave our presence.
 - We Loose the Holy Spirit, the holy angels, holy armies, heavenly host for our guidance, protection, and help in the Name of Yahshua the Messiah. Amen!

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