

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.

YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

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OAK HILL  
2115 GRAEFENBURG ROAD  
LAWRENCEBURG, KENTUCKY 40342

## "THE SIMPLICITY OF INTIMACY WITH JESUS CHRIST" (Part Three)

In the beginning God and man enjoyed an intimate relationship. It was not a complicated relationship filled with a lot of theology and religious doctrine. It was as simple as love and obedience. FATHER loving man with a perfect love and man in return loving his Father and showing his love by obeying Him. God and man walked together in a level of intimacy that is beyond my present ability to imagine. The heart of God and the heart of man were in unity. That unity was the result of a mutual love and affection for each other. "Obedience" was as complicated as it got in those early days in the garden. Simple, child like obedience, was all that FATHER required of His offspring. That was in reality, the beginning of a walk of intimacy with God. That relationship with God was broken by Adam when he chose as an act of his own free will, to disobey God. We all know the story and we know it well. Every generation of man has suffered as the result of man's having broken covenant with God.

Today, we Christians have made what God views as simple, very complicated. Our FATHER has never desired more from us than an intimate walk with Him on a One on one basis. Returning to an intimate walk with God is what this message is all about. Our FATHER is expressing His hearts desire, and that desire is that we be one with Him. In the days of Adam, He came down in the wind or the cool of the evening and His footsteps were heard. (Genesis 3:8) I boldly declare to you today that our God desires to do for you and me what He did for Adam – manifest Himself and walk with us. Above all things He desires to reveal His glory to us and to enjoy our company as He walks with us, and talks with us – Bless His holy name!

**"A little while longer and the world will see ME no more,  
but you will see ME. Because I live, you will live also.  
At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in ME, and I in you."**

**"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who  
loves ME. And he who loves ME will be loved by My Father,  
and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."**

**and We will come to him and make Our home with him."**

**(JESUS speaks in John 14: 19-21 & 23)**

If our Lord's words as recorded in John 14 are not describing an intimate relationship with Him then what are they describing? Why is it so hard for us to believe that God Himself desires to be in an intimate relationship with each one of us personally? What is holding us back? What keeps us from entering into His promise of John 14:19-23? Why do so many of us spend a lifetime practicing religion like a doctor practices medicine?

We have become quite skilled at performing our religious traditions. We know what to say and how we should act when we come together as a group. Our religious traditions are well established and we are now being held captive by those traditions. Spirits of religion that use the name of JESUS have very skillfully and over a period of time created a spiritual prison that is as real as any physical prison that we know of. The primary purpose of this prison is to deny JESUS CHRIST His desire of intimacy with you and I. You see, Lucifer hates JESUS more than he hates the followers of JESUS. Our enemy will do all he can to deny JESUS of His hearts desire to enjoy an intimate, personal walk with His offspring. (Acts 17:28) That's hell's plan and so far it seems to be working quite well, but I am here to proclaim that the King of all Kings and Lord of all Lords – Almighty God Himself has come to the prison door, and He is about to tear it off its hinges and set the captives free! Glory to God!!

As time for man winds down the King will once again raise a remnant unlike all before them and the result will be the largest prison break in the history of mankind-----  
---The TRUTH, JESUS CHRIST, (John 14:6) will prevail as He releases His judgement on His house (see 1 Peter 4:17), and at the same time exposes the lying spirits of religion. Pure, undefiled Truth will absolutely destroy the religious lie for what it is – the hiss of hell! For those who have ears to hear, freedom will follow.

**"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." (John 8:36)**

Today, JESUS CHRIST, the true Shepherd (John 10:11) is calling His sheep to follow Him. He is not calling you or me to follow another man or any institution. He is not calling His sheep to follow a certain doctrine, theology or creed. No! The true Shepherd is calling His sheep to come out and follow Him!

**"My sheep hear My voice, and I Know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27)**

Our Lord has never desired that His people follow anyone but Himself. Our Lord never taught those who could hear Him to rely on anyone's word but His Father's: (see Matthew 4:4) Our Lord never once taught His followers that they would be required to go through a third party, such as a pastor, priest, teacher or institution, to enjoy an intimate relationship with Him. Our Lord declared in no uncertain terms that His followers were

Why does there appear to be so little true intimacy between God and man today? Why is the institutional church so rich with religious form and at the same time so lacking in Biblical power? Why is there so little personal zeal for JESUS in the average believer today, but at the same time so much enthusiasm for their religious works? Why are those of us who claim to be followers of JESUS so split and divided? Why? As this writer has asked these questions before our Father, several things have been brought to my attention.

First, I must tell you that we did not arrive at our present condition overnight. Our trouble started shortly after our Lord returned home. Paul saw it coming and warned us in the third chapter of 2 Timothy so that we would not be caught unawares. John also saw trouble for the church and warned us of same when he wrote the first three chapters of the book of Revelation. Peter also warned us when he wrote his second letter that trouble was on the way. (see chapter 2) Finally, JESUS, Himself warned us that in the latter days, deception would be very great among God's people. (see Matthew 24:4,5,24,25 & 26) Our present condition should not be a surprise to any saint that has ears to hear. Our Father declared very early on, through the Spirit of Prophecy (Rev.19:10), JESUS, that our present condition would be – and so it is.

Secondly, I have been persuaded that the root cause of our present condition is a lack of love for JESUS above all else in life, and the loss of all fear toward the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It is an extremely serious thing when God's people lose their fear of Him. When the fear of God is lost, man's flesh will soon take over and man will follow the dictates of his own heart, rather than following God. The end result of man's having lost his fear of God is described in Psalm 36:1-4, listen –

**"An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes. For he flatters himself in his own eyes, When he finds out his iniquity and when he hates. The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise and to do good. He devises wickedness on his bed; He sets himself in a way that is not good; He does not abhor evil."**

Dear saint, if you will turn to a good concordance and look up "fear" and spend some quality time reviewing our God's word relating to the subject of fearing Him, you will find that He views those who do not fear Him as wicked. The fact that most of us no longer fear God and would reject any suggestion that our Father views us as wicked, shows just how deceived and wicked we really are. Are we not flattering ourselves in our own eyes? And we wonder why we are in our present condition and so powerless. May God have mercy on us all!

True intimacy with our Lord cannot be experienced as long as there is no reverential fear of Him in the heart. Otherwise the heart of man would soon consider himself to be equal with Him. Having no fear of God soon leads to thoughts of equality with God and those thoughts soon lead to "self" – "I" – above God. Lucifer is our example of what having no fear of God will do for you. My brothers and sisters, we need

to fall on our faces and repent for our wickedness and our religious corruption before it is to late!

There is another matter that should also drive us to our faces in repentance, and that is our failure to love our God above all else in life. (see Matthew 22:37) All else means "all else". Simply put, we are commanded to love our God more than we love our spouse, our children, our grandchildren, our friends, our church, our job, our hobby – or our self! This is not a suggestion given to man by God. No! This is a commandment that was first recorded in Deuteronomy the sixth chapter. May I suggest that you take a moment right now and read Deuteronomy chapter 6. JESUS CHRIST reaffirmed His Father's word in Matthew 22:36-38, making it perfectly clear that above all else in life, we are to love our God. This commandment to love God above all else is the very foundation of intimacy with Him. No man will walk in true intimacy with God unless he love Him above all else. I would suggest that today, we like the church of Ephesus (see Rev. 2:1-7), have lost our first love.

I am fairly confident that many of you would strongly disagree with me when I say that most of us do not love our God as we are commanded. Others might agree, but would attach little importance to this truth. After all they are believers, baptized and members of a church. To the latter group I would only say that you will never enjoy intimacy with God so long as you walk in rebellion to His word. Never! Not only that, but you will be spiritually powerless all of your days here on earth.

Now, for those of us who believe that we actually love our Lord and in fact are fulfilling His great commandment, let's examine our heart by looking into His word to see if we are being true to ourself or if we be deceived. Remember, FATHER'S word is our final authority. Our personal opinion matters not, except that opinion be in total agreement with FATHER'S word.

**"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)**

When we consider wether or not we love our Lord, we must first define what love means. Webster defines love, when used as a verb as follows: "To cherish, to feel a passion, devotion or tenderness for". Now, if we use only Webster's english definition for love, I suppose that a great many of us might be able to say that in fact we do love Him. However, with so much at stake, I would suggest that we should not rely on Websters definition. Would it not be safer to see if JESUS defined the word love and described those of us who truly loved Him? I would rather rely on JESUS rather than a man of the flesh and I trust that you would agree.

**"Lord, how shall we know that we truly love you?"**

And JESUS said:

**"If you love Me, keep My commandments. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves ME. And he who loves ME will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love ME does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."**

**(John 14: 15, 21, 23 &24)**

There you are – Our Lord makes it so clear that even a child can understand. Those who love Him keep His word. If they do not keep His word, they do not love Him. Our brother John, the Apostle, went a step further by declaring that those who did not keep His word did not even know Him, much less love Him. Listen –

**"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him", and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him.**

**By this we know that we are in Him." (1 John 2:3,4,& 5)**

Who among us can say that we do not have His word? (John 14:21) Most of us have read and heard His word over and over again and certainly we are covered up with Bibles. I seriously doubt if any of us can say that we do not have His word. The issue is, do we keep or obey His word? Obeying Him is the only true test of whether or not we love Him. At least that is His only test.

Now let me make one thing perfectly clear. Keeping His word to the letter in absolute perfection, while possible, is not probable. Most of us are not perfect yet. We are all a work in progress – maturing in harmony with His word. (see Philippians 1:6) As a result, we should feel no condemnation as we acknowledge our spiritual weakness and our spiritual struggles. God looks at our heart (see 1 Samuel 16:7) and if our heart has His word in it and the sincere desire to obey that word, our Father looks on us with favor, regardless of our level of maturity. That is God's grace and I for one thank Him for it. However, there is another side to this coin.

When a christian has our Lord's word and as an act of his or her own free will chooses to disobey or ignore that word, that christian does not love our Lord. They may think they do. In fact, they may be very religious and active in a church. They may be known far and wide for their good works and kind deeds – but if in their heart they choose other than to obey our God down to the last jot or tittle of His word, they deceive themselves to think that they love Him. They may fool themselves. They may fool everyone else around them, but they cannot fool God. God has clearly labeled them liars, and as hard as that is to hear, all of us had better pay attention.

I could give dozens of examples of how many of us choose to ignore or disobey His word, but for the sake of time and space let me cite but one example.

In Matthew the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter our Lord gave us some very specific instruction relating to spiritual leadership. He was speaking to the Scribes and Pharisees of that day. The very same religious spirits that influenced or controled those Scribes and Pharisees then are very much in our midst today. Listen to the words of JESUS –

**"But you, do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."** (Matthew 23:8-12)

JESUS CHRIST clearly denounces and condemns a religious or spiritual class system. He does not denounce or condemn the gifts that He will give man such as teaching, preaching, prophesy etc. NO! He condemns a spiritual class system that clearly exalts man and places one man above another. What is it about "DO NOT" that we don't understand? What is it about "YOU ARE ALL BRETHREN" that we don't understand?

If you have never heard these words before, you have now, and if you choose to disobey them and continue to do what our Lord said not to do, don't fool yourself, you do not love Him with all of your heart. If you say you do, you are before God a liar. If you fall into this category, I must tell you that your first love is for your denomination, your church, your doctrine, your traditions – your idols. I must also tell you that you will not enjoy an intimate walk with JESUS CHRIST. You will not!

**"Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" (Amos 3:3)**

Dear friends there is a storm of God's holiness that will soon make landfall and that storm is beyond anything that we can imagine. Those who will overcome and prevail when our God says "Enough" are those who's hearts are seperated totally unto Him and who are walking in a place of true intimacy with Him. True intimacy is available to you and to me, but not on our terms. I beg you to turn your ears and heart toward heaven, forsake your religious idols and plead for mercy. Your FATHER will then lift you up to walk in a place of intimacy that few will ever find.

We will continue on this same subject of intimacy with JESUS very soon. It is much on His heart!

Your Brother



Tom