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What is MAN?

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Introduction

Over the years, it keeps coming to me how important it is that we stay with the written Word of God in everything we believe. If it does not agree with the written Word of God then we should find out why?

Jesus went by the written Word of God whenever He said anything concerning God and man. When Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil, Jesus always quoted the written Word of God to the Devil. Jesus overcame the Devil by correctly quoting the written Word of God.

When the Devil used the written Word of God to tempt Jesus, he was not using the Word correctly. Jesus knew the correct meaning of the written Word, and came against the temptations of the Devil with the correct meaning of the written Word. To me that is very important that we know the correct meaning of the written Word, for the Devil will come to us, using the written Word, but not correctly. What the Devil says is written could very likely be a wrong interpretation of what the written Word truly says.

As an example, in Matthew 4:6, it tells us the Devil said to Jesus, **“...If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.”** The Devil was quoting Psalm 91:11,12. But the Devil was tempting Jesus with Psalm 91, and therefore using it incorrectly. Jesus said to the Devil, **“...It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God”** (Deu. 6:16).

When the Pharisees and Sadducees came tempting Jesus, He always used the written Word of God “correctly,” to answer them. This is very important for us in these days when Christians all over the world are being taken in the snare of the Devil. Many Christians are being deceived by not knowing the truth concerning the written Word of God. To be free of the deception of the Devil we need to know what the written Word of God truly says, not what some teach, not knowing the truth.

This is very important in these days, for there are many teaching things that do not agree with the written Word of God. Some have been blinded by the spirits of this world, so that, even when you show them the truth, beyond all doubt, they still will not believe the truth. They continue to teach things that should not be taught.

The Scriptures tell us that we should not add anything to the Word of God, and neither should we take anything away from the Word of God (Deu. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18,19). My desire is to see Christians stay with the written Word of God and not be deceived by the teachings of men.

In Psalm 8:4, it asks the question, **“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”** This is a very important question and we need to understand the answer from the Scriptures.

For those who know their Scriptures, they know that God’s plan for man is eternal, not temporal. God’s plan for man goes way beyond this world, into everlasting life in eternity.

God never planned that people should only live a short time and then die. Yet, throughout the world, many people die without ever knowing why they were born into this world. They had no idea of what God’s plan for their life was. Their life was taken from them before they knew God.

Where did these people go when they died (without even having an opportunity to know God)? There are many who have come up with “their idea” of where these people went. But, what

does the Bible say about where people go when they die? Unless we get our information from the Scriptures, we could easily be deceived by believing something that is not true.

When I was eleven years old, I had a brother that was at that time seventeen years old. He was in High School and was very advanced in his class. He was especially gifted with the ability to learn and know things beyond his age group. At the age of seventeen, he knew more about trigonometry than the principle of the High School. He could look at a tree, check the shadow of the tree, and know just how tall that tree was.

The principle of the High School asked to have him stay after school on Wednesdays to help him understand more about trigonometry. As intelligent as he was, with all the knowledge and ability he had, he became afflicted with a disease we called sleeping sickness. There were times when he would sleep up to forty-eight hours at a time. Sometimes when he awoke, his mind was confused. I recall one time when he jumped from one room to the other, thinking that the distance between the two rooms was a deep ditch.

After they determined what type of disease, my brother had, they said “at that time there was no known cure.” My brother only lived a short time after that and died at the age of seventeen. With all the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding he had, what good did it do him? Where did he go when he died? Did he go to heaven? Or did he go to hell?

I did not know where my brother went when he died. But I do know that he went to one or the other, heaven or hell. Everyone, when they die goes to one place or the other. They do not cease to exist. Following the death of my brother, I made a determination to know, beyond all doubt, that when I die I will go to heaven. There are only two places where people go when they die, either heaven or hell. I did not want to go to hell when I die.

The question the writer of Psalm 8:4 asked is, “**What is man...?** God is eternal. God will never die. God created man in His own likeness and image. If we truly study the Scriptures, we will see that God desires that we become like Him and live with Him in heaven forever. We must find out what God’s plan for our life is? We must find out what we must do to be where God wants us to be?

The LORD God created man in the beginning. Now, we should find out why the LORD God created man? In 1 Corinthians 15:49 it says, “**And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.**” The image of the heavenly includes everlasting life (living forever).

God is love. Love does not destroy life. Love gives life. Death and life are opposite of each other. Death is cruel. In death there is no love. These two are opposite of each other. Christians especially, should know God by His love.

In Psalm 8:4, it asks the question, “**What is man, that thou art mindful of him?**” Why is God so interested in man? What was God’s plan for creating man in the beginning? Everyone should desire to know why God created them, and why is God so interested in them?

The only way we can know the answers to these questions is to get our information from God. Only God knows what He does and why He does what He does? God has a plan for man, but if we do not know what His plan is, we could easily be destroyed for a lack of knowledge.

The first thing everyone should do, is to find out why they are here on this earth? Then find out what God desires for them to do? Therefore, let us find the answer to the question that is asked in Psalm 8:4.

What is interesting about Psalm 8:4 is, that it also says, **“...and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”** Who is this **“Son of man,”** that Psalm 8:4 is speaking of? Adam is not the Son of man.

This is where many Christians have been misled by the teachings of men. Adam was not “born into this world.” Adam was a created being, created by the LORD God. But there was One who was “born into this world” as **“the Son of Man,”** His name is Jesus.

If we study Psalm 8:4-9 carefully, we will see that this Psalm is speaking of Jesus, **“the Son of Man,”** and not Adam, the first man created in the beginning.

According to 1 Corinthians 15:45, Jesus came into this world as **“the Second Man.”** Jesus became **“the Son of Man,”** by “His birth into this world,” born of a woman (the virgin Mary), and the Holy Spirit.

Speaking of Jesus, Psalm 8:5-9 says, **“For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour...Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet...All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field...The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas...O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!”**

In Psalm 8:1 it said, **“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.”** It is **“the name of Jesus”** that God has exalted above all other names. Therefore, Psalm 8:1-9 is not speaking of Adam. It is speaking of Jesus.

In Philippians 2:5-11 it says, **“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus...Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God...But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men...And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross...Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name...That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth...And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

Therefore, it says in Psalm 8:9, **“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!”** In all things we need to glorify Jesus. Jesus is **“the Son of Man, the LORD over all creation.”**

To see this more clearly we need to look at Hebrews 2:6-9, where it says, **“But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?...Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands...Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him....But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”**

In the book of Hebrews, we can plainly see that Psalm Eight is not speaking of Adam, but it is speaking of Jesus Christ. God started with Adam, but the end is not in Adam. Some will die on this earth, not knowing who they are in (Adam or Jesus), or where they will spend eternity.

I would encourage everyone to find out “who they are,” and “where they will spend eternity?” For the Scripture says, **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive”** (1 Cor.

15:22).

Know this for a certainty. The word **“die”** does not mean **“cease to exist.”** Everyone will **“exist forever.”** No one will **“cease to exist.”** Therefore I would encourage everyone to find out **“beyond all doubt,”** where they will spend eternity?

The Son of Man

In Psalm 8:4, it asks the question, **“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”** What is interesting about Psalm 8:4 is that it says, **“...and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”** We know that Adam is not the Son of man, for Adam was a created being.

Keeping everything in context we can see when it says **“and the son of man,”** this indicates that the subject has changed from **“What is man, that thou art mindful of him?”** to **“the Son of man.”** Therefore, Psalm 8:4-9 is no longer speaking of mankind in general. It is not speaking of Adam. It is speaking of an individual person, called **“the Son of Man.”**

Whenever we study the Scriptures, we must include the complete Scriptures, not just a part of one verse or just a few verses. What is written in the Scriptures is a revelation of the knowledge of God from the foundation of the world. In Isaiah 46:9,10, it says, **“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me...Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”** The complete Scriptures are **“Declaring the end from the beginning...”** That is why they are called “the Scriptures.” The Scriptures are a hand written declaration of the knowledge of God from beginning to the end. Everything in the Scriptures agrees with what is written. God does not lie, neither does God ever deceive us.

When God calls someone **“the son of man,”** He is speaking of a person who “was born” into this world. In the Old Testament there are times when God called certain people **“son of man.”** In Ezekiel alone, close to ninety-three times the LORD God called Ezekiel **“son of man.”** In Ezekiel 1:3, it says, **“The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.”** Ezekiel was a man. Ezekiel was also a **“priest, the son of Buzi.”** Therefore, Ezekiel was born into this world. He was not created as Adam was created.

God establishes His ways in the Scriptures. God is consistent in the way He does things. In many of the English versions of the Bible there is an error in Luke 3:38 where it says, **“...Adam, which was *the son of God.*”** The words **“*the son*”** is in italics in the King James Version, meaning they were added by the translators and are not in the original Greek text. Adam was a created being. Adam and Eve did not have a father and mother like everyone else. They were created, “not born” into this world.

Ezekiel and Daniel were born into this world. They had parents and therefore, they are called **“son of man.”** When the LORD God called them a **“son of man,”** they were truly a son of man (born into this world). They had a father and a mother.

In this, we know that Psalm 8:4-9 is speaking of someone who is “born into this world.” That person whom Psalm 8:4-9 is speaking of has a father and a mother and was born into this world. Therefore, what God is speaking is truth, and it is not a lie. As the Scripture says in Numbers 23:19, **“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”**

When God calls someone **“the son of Man,”** we know God is speaking of someone who “was born” into this world. We must keep everything within its context, knowing that God never changes. In Malachi 3:6, it says, **“For I am the LORD, I change not...”** In the New Testament we

see that Jesus called Himself **“the Son of Man,”** many times. In the four gospels alone, Jesus called Himself **“the Son of Man”** many times.

Why did Jesus call Himself **“the Son of Man?”** Jesus knew who He was. Jesus knew the Scriptures. Jesus knew that the **“Son of Man,”** would destroy the works of the Devil.

There are many times when Jesus called Himself **“the Son of Man,”** (while speaking of the very purpose for His coming into this world). Listed below are just a few of the statements that Jesus made concerning Himself. In Matthew 9:5,6, Jesus said, **“For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?...But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.”** In Matthew 12:8, Jesus said, **“For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.”** In Matthew 12:32, Jesus said, **“And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”** In Matthew 12:40, Jesus said, **“For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”** In Matthew 16:13, it says, **“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?”** In Matthew 17:9, it says, **“And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.”** In Matthew 17:22, it says, **“And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men.”** In Matthew 18:11, Jesus said, **“For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.”** These are just a few of the times in the Gospel of Matthew alone that Jesus called Himself **“the Son of Man.”**

In John 3:14, Jesus said, **“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.”** In John 5:26,27, Jesus said, **“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.”**

When Jesus was taken before the Chief Priests' and elders of the council, they asked Jesus **“Art thou the Christ?”** (Luke 22:67). Jesus answered them, **“...If I tell you, ye will not believe...And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go...Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God”** (Luke 22:67-69).

For my part, if anyone knew what they were talking about, Jesus would be the one that I would believe. If Jesus said, He was **“the Son of Man,”** I believe He is **“the Son of Man.”** I also believe that Psalm 8:4-9 is speaking of **“Jesus.”**

Would Jesus lie? I do not believe He would. If Jesus called Himself **“the Son of Man,”** I would believe that He is **“the Son of Man.”** This is made very clear in Hebrew 2:6-18, where it is speaking of Jesus as **“the Son of Man.”** In speaking of Jesus in Hebrews 2:6-9 it quotes Psalm Eight, saying, **“But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?...Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands...Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him...But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for**

every man.”

Being that the subject of **“who is the Son of Man?”** is so important, the Holy Spirit had the Apostle Paul write the complete Epistle of Hebrews to give us “complete details” of what Psalm 8:4-9 is speaking of? It would be very helpful if Christians understood the Epistle of Hebrews.

The evidence of Hebrews 2:6-9 and the evidence of Jesus Himself calling Himself **“the Son of Man,”** should make it very clear that He is **“the Son of Man”** spoken of in Psalm 8:4-9. Therefore, Psalm 8:4-9 is not speaking of Adam. It is speaking of Jesus Christ, the Creator and redeemer of man.

Jesus is God with the Father and the Holy Spirit (1 John 5:7). All things were created **“by Him and for Him”** (John 1:3, Col. 1:15-17). Jesus created man in the beginning. Jesus died on the Cross for man, taking all our sins, iniquities, infirmities, sicknesses, and diseases upon Himself. Then, as Christ, Jesus arose again from the dead. Jesus is the Head of the body of Christ.

Being Christ, Jesus is now the beginning of a whole new creation of mankind. Not like the first Adam in the flesh, but a new creation of mankind in the Spirit (John 3:6).

The very life of God that was in the Son of Man, is now in every person that is a part of the body of Christ. This is the new creation spoken of in 2 Corinthians 5:17. Christians are **“One Spirit with the LORD”** (1 Cor. 6:17).

The Name of Jesus

When did God set the name of Jesus above all names? The Scriptures tell us that all things were finished from the foundation of the world (Heb. 4:3). According to Philippians 2:5-11, it tells that Jesus humbled Himself, and did the will of God the Father. Jesus defeated the Devil in His death and resurrection from the dead. Therefore, God gave Him a name which is above all names. The name that He was given is the name, **“Jesus.”**

Being that all things were finished from the foundation of the world, when Mary agreed to become the mother of Jesus, she was told to call His name **“Jesus”** (Luke 1:31). In a dream, the angel of the LORD told Joseph that the child that Mary was carrying was of the Holy Spirit, and he should call Him **“Jesus”** (Matt. 1:21). Therefore, God had already given the name of Jesus to Jesus at the time of His birth.

Even before Jesus went to the cross, while teaching His disciples, they were amazed, **“...saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name”** (Luke 10:17). The demons knew who Jesus was. They knew the name of Jesus was exalted above all other names. At the name of Jesus, the evil spirits had to bow.

Jesus did the will of God the Father. When Adam was created, he was without sin. Adam was not spiritual, but natural (earthly, of this earth) (Gen. 2:7, 1 Cor. 15:45-48).

When Adam was created, man became **“a living soul”** by the breath of the LORD God (Gen. 2:7). Adam submitted mankind to obey the Devil when he sinned in the garden of Eden. The Devil became “as a slave master” over mankind, when Adam sinned in the beginning (Rom. 5:12).

In Psalm 8:4 it asks the question, **“What is man, that thou art mindful of him?”** With the help of the complete Scriptures, we can know the answers to these two questions. Question one is, **“What is man?”** Question two is, **“that thou art mindful of him?”**

Man is one of God’s created creatures. The LORD God created man for a purpose in all of eternity. Man was not created to simply live on this earth forever. Man was created to be in the likeness and image of God, and live with God forever.

Before man was created, God only had one Son. God had angels, but angels were only created beings. Angels were not “children of God,” neither were they “Sons of God.”

God is love, and love has a desire to have fellowship with others who are like themselves. Eternity is a very large place to be alone with only One Son to have fellowship with. God loved His Son, but God desired to have more “sons, like His Son.”

God had a plan before man was created. God’s plan included “sons of God,” reigning with His Son for all eternity.

When Jesus came into this world He was a **“life giving Spirit”** (1 Cor. 15:44). In John 1:4, it says, **“In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”** Jesus came to give to mankind eternal life. Jesus did not come as a descendant of Adam. Jesus was not born of the bloodline of Adam.

When Jesus came into this world, He came as the second Adam (Man). Jesus became the Head of a new creation of mankind. In John 1:13, it speaks of this new creation of mankind, saying, **“Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”**

Jesus was the beginning of a new creation of mankind. Jesus was born of God and of a woman. Jesus’ birth was not by **“the will of man, not by the blood of man, and not by the flesh of**

man.” This new creation of man came by the will of God, born of the Holy Spirit and a virgin woman.

The birth of Jesus was planned already from the foundation of the world. Even before Adam was created, God had already planned for Jesus to come into this world as **“the Son of Man,”** born of a woman and the Holy Spirit. This was God’s plan from the foundation of the world.

When the angel spoke to Mary concerning the birth of Jesus, it was not Mary’s idea. It was not something Mary wanted to do. “It was the will of God” (John 1:13). Mary was not planning on having a child without the help of a man to make her pregnant. Mary was a virgin and was planning to marry Joseph, before she would have any children.

God had a plan from the foundation of the world, which included that Mary would become the mother of Jesus. Jesus would not be the son of Joseph. Jesus would be “the Son of God” (by the Holy Spirit) and “the Son of Man” (through Mary).

Remember. Eve was not born into this world. Eve was also created by the LORD God from a rib of Adam (Gen. 2:21,22). Therefore, Adam called her Eve, **“because she was the mother of all living”** (Gen. 3:20). Eve was a woman. Being created a “woman,” Eve became the mother of all living human beings. Therefore, being that Mary was a woman, she could become the mother of Jesus. Therefore, Jesus’ mother was Mary, a virgin, and His Father was God, by the Holy Spirit.

By uniting God and man together in one, God began a second creation of “Man,” **“not born of the flesh, not born of the blood of man, and not born of the will of man, But of God”** (John 1:13).

Therefore, in Psalm 8:4 it says, **“What is man, that thou art mindful of him?”** God never forgot man, whom He created in the beginning. God knew from the foundation of the world that man would sin, and become as a slave to the Devil. Therefore, it tells us in Revelation 13:8, that **“the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world.”** God knew the end from the beginning. Therefore, God was always “mindful of man.” God never forgot man. When the appointed time had come, God sent His Son into this world, (born of a woman) to set mankind free of the works of the Devil.

God Visited Man

Psalm 8:4 it says, **“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest (paqad) him?”** When Jesus was first born into this world by a virgin birth, He became **“the Son of Man.”** Now the question is, who came to stay with **“the Son of Man?”**

Let us look closer at what it is saying in Psalm 8:4 concerning **“the son of man, that thou visitest him.”** In the Hebrew, the word **“visitest”** is the Hebrew word **“paqad”** (which is in the imperfect mood). That means, the one who came to visit the Son of Man, did not come just to say hello and then leave. The Hebrew word **“papad”** used in the imperfect mood tells us that a process began whereby the one who came to visit, came to remain until everything was completed that He came to do.

In this we see that it was God (the Holy Spirit) that came to visit **“the Son of Man.”** That was the subject of the statement made in Psalm 8:4. The subject remains, **“why did God come down to earth to (visit - imperfect mood) stay with man?”** If we read Psalm 8:4 correctly, it is speaking especially of **“the Son of Man.”** Therefore, it is telling us that the Holy Spirit came down to earth to be continually with **“the Son of Man.”** When the Holy Spirit came to visit Jesus, He came to stay (remain) with Jesus.

Jesus was the **“first Man”** that the Holy Spirit came to stay with. At about the age of thirty, Jesus received the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus and stayed with Him. Thereby, Jesus **“was filled with the Holy Spirit”** at about the age of thirty.

The Holy Spirit is **“the anointing.”** Therefore, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit. In Acts 10:38 it says, **“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”** The anointing of the Holy Spirit continued with Jesus the rest of His life here on earth. The Holy Spirit never left Jesus until Jesus gave up the Ghost while on the cross.

As **“the Son of Man,”** Jesus defeated the Devil on the Cross. As **“the Son of Man,”** Jesus kept the Word of God in His heart, and in His mouth (Joshua 1:8). Jesus did only the will of God the Father, according to the written Word of God.

Jesus knew why God sent Him into this world. Jesus also knew that without the help of the Holy Spirit, He could not do the will of God the Father. Knowing why God sent Him into the world, Jesus said, **“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil...For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled”** (Matt. 5:17,18). In John 19:28-30 it says, **“After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst...Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth...When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”** By keeping the Word of God in His heart and in His mouth, Jesus fulfilled the Law.

First Jesus did all that the Father had sent Him to do, concerning fulfilling the Law, and paying the price for the redemption of mankind. Then Jesus gave up the ghost, and went into the lower parts and took away the keys of hell and death, from the Devil. Jesus spoke about this to the Apostle John in Revelation 1:18, saying, **“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”**

After destroying death and the Devil, the Holy Spirit brought Jesus back from the dead (1 Peter 3:18). Romans 8:11 says, **“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”** Therefore, the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead.

Jesus, **“the Son of Man”** first received the Holy Spirit at about the age of thirty. The Holy Spirit remained with Jesus all the remaining days of His life here on earth.

Jesus became “Christ,” (the Anointed One), when the Holy Spirit came upon Him and stayed with Him. When Jesus arose again from the dead, He arose as “Christ” (the Anointed One). Christ, is the head of “the Body of Christ,” (which is made up of all those who are “in Christ.”)

Christ is a “new creation of man.” All who are “in Christ” are new creatures. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, it says, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”** Christ is the beginning of “mankind in the Spirit.”

Adam was in the flesh, but in Christ, Christians are in the Spirit. Jesus said in John 3:6, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** The Body of Christ is a part of “a new creation of mankind.” The first creation of mankind was “in Adam.” The second creation of mankind is “in Christ.”

Crowned With Glory and Honor

Psalm 8:5 says, **“For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.”** Who is it that God crown with glory and honor? The Devil loves it when Christians teach his doctrines (1 Tim. 4:11).

There are two “Adams,” mentioned in the Scriptures. There is “the first Adam,” mentioned in Genesis 2:21. It says, **“And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof...And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man”** (Gen. 2:21,22). Notice. It was necessary for the LORD God to create a “woman” also. Without a woman, man could not replenish the earth with more human beings in the likeness and image of the first Adam. First the LORD God created Adam, then from a rib of Adam the LORD God created Eve (woman), to be his helpmeet (Gen. 2:18). Adam could not replenish the earth without a help meet.

There are two Adams (Adam and Jesus). Adam is the beginning of the human race **“in the flesh.”** Jesus is the beginning of the human race **“in the Spirit.”** The first creation was earthly. The second creation is heavenly (1 Cor. 15:45-49). Why, don’t Christian use the complete Bible to see what God is saying to His Children today?

If we study the Scriptures correctly, we will see in Proverbs 4:5, that God crowned **“Jesus”** with glory and honor. God set Jesus in **“...dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet”** (Psalm 8:6).

Look at Hebrews 2:8,9, which says, **“Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him...But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”** In Hebrews 2:9 it is definitely talking about **“Jesus,”** at the same time it is quoting Psalm 8:5.

Look at Hebrews 2:8. Who is the **“him,”** that it is speaking of? It is **“Jesus,”** Who is **“the Head of the Body of Christ.”** Jesus is **“Christ,”** the beginning of a whole new creation of mankind. This new creation of mankind is **“God and man, joined together in one.”**

“Christ” is not many, but one. All who are “in Christ” are one body, with Christ Jesus as the Head of the Body. This is made clear in Galatians 3:16, where it says, **“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”**

I do not believe that Christians should teach that Psalm 8:4-9 is speaking of Adam. The Scriptures are very clear that Psalm 8:4-9 is speaking of Jesus. Once we know the truth, we should never again tell anyone, anything that is not the truth.

When Christians teach things that are not truth, they only help the Devil spread his lies. Many are deceived by the teachings of men who do not teach the truth as it is revealed in the Scriptures. Christians should not be among those who teach things that are not truth. When we know the Truth, let us teach the truth and set others free of all the works of the enemy.

The Creation of Man

We must be careful to not let our minds be distorted by the teachings of men. We must stay with the Scriptures from Genesis through Revelation, for the written Word of God is not complete without the complete Scriptures from Genesis through Revelation. Trying to figure out what God said by not considering all of Scripture could lead us into great error.

Part 1

In Genesis 2:7 it says, **“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”**

In understanding Genesis 2:7 we must also understand 1 Corinthians 15:43-55. If we leave out 1 Corinthians 15:43-55, we will easily be deceived by what it says in Genesis 2:7.

If we study Genesis 2:7 by breaking down each part it says,

- 1) **And the LORD God formed man** (Strong’s number 120 = mankind) **of the dust of the ground** (adamah = soil, earth),
- 2) **and breathed** (naphach = to puff, blow, etc.) **into his nostrils the breath** (neshamah = vital breath, divine inspiration, intellect) **of life** (chay = alive, living, life),
- 3) **and man became a living** (chay = alive, living, life) **soul** (nephesh = a breathing creature).”

If we study this Scripture verse, part for part, we should see that the first part says, **“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground.”** When the LORD God formed man’s body, He formed it from the dust of the ground. This is the “first Adam” in comparison to “the Last Adam” or “Second Adam” In 1 Corinthians 15:45-47, it says, **“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit...Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual...The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.”** Notice in these two verses it uses the word “man” in reference to both, Adam and the LORD. God is very precise in what He does and how He tells us things in His Word. Therefore, in 1 Corinthians 15:45-47 it is speaking specifically of two individual people, Adam and Jesus. Adam is the first man in the creation of mankind. **“Adam was not spiritual, as some teach”** (1 Cor. 15:46). Jesus was spiritual. Jesus is the first Man in the “new creation” of man “in Christ.” These two are the heads of their creations. Adam is the head of “man in the flesh.” Christ is the head of “man in the Spirit.”

We should not let ourselves get confused in thinking that in Genesis 2:7 it is talking only about Adam, for where it says, **“And the LORD God formed man...,”** it is not speaking of one man by the name of Adam. It is speaking of mankind in general, **“male and female.”** In Genesis 1:26,27 it said, **“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”** In this, God said what He was going to do in creating mankind. God said, **“...Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion...”** The words “let them” is plural, meaning “mankind in general.” In Genesis 1:27 it says, **“So God created man in his own image,**

in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” God did not create only one person by the name of Adam. The LORD God created “mankind,” **“male and female.”**

Eve was in Adam when the LORD God created man in Genesis 2:7. (So were you and I in Adam when God created man in Genesis 2:7). If it was not so, then the written Word of God is not telling us the truth. For in Hebrews 7:9,10, it says, **“And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham...For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.”** If this Scripture is true, then Levi, who was not born until after Abraham was already dead, was in his father “Jacob” while Jacob was “in Abraham,” even before Isaac was born. For Abraham paid tithes to Melchisedec, before Isaac was born. Therefore, if the Word of God is true then, just as Levi was in Abraham when he paid tithes to Melchisedec we were also in Adam when he sinned in the garden of Eden. We were breathed into man, when the LORD God breathed into the nostrils of man, and man became a living soul.

Taking the part where it says in Genesis 2:7, **“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground,”** and checking what the Scripture says about that part, we will see also that in Genesis 6:3 it says, **“And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.”**

It says, **“for that he also is flesh.”** Twice in the first six Chapters of Genesis the Scripture says that “man was first formed flesh.”

Many times throughout the Old Testament it mentions that man is flesh. In the New Testament it says the same thing concerning man. Man is flesh and the flesh is earthly. In 1 Corinthians 15:47 it says, **“The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.”**

It also says in 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, **“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption...It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power...It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”**

In John 3:6, it says, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** In Romans 8:1-8 it keeps talking about “walking after the flesh.” If we walk after the flesh, we cannot please God.

In Galatians 5:16,17 it says, **“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh...For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”**

In Galatians 6:8 it says, **“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”**

There is a lot said about the natural man being flesh. Before man became a living soul (by the breath of the LORD God), man was already “flesh.” The flesh that was formed of the dust of the ground was called “man,” even before man became a living soul.

Man was created “flesh” (earthly of this earth). Man was a terrestrial being. A terrestrial being is a being with a body made up of the elements of the earth and is an air breathing creature. This was already established by God, at the time man became **“a living soul.”**

Why is it so important to understand that the natural man was flesh? Simply, because the spiritual man “is Spirit.” In John 3:6, Jesus said, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”**

There are two types of mankind. There are those who are “in the flesh” and those who are “in the Spirit.” Therefore, in 1 Corinthians 15:22, it says, **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”**

It is important to understand that before we are born again we are “in the flesh of Adam.” When we become born again, we are born “in the Spirit of Christ.” Therefore, we are no longer in the flesh of Adam, but in the Spirit of Christ. This is what Jesus was saying in John 3:6, when He said, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”**

Being born again, we are Spirit. Only those who are born again are “in the Spirit,” all who are not born again are still in the flesh. Until Christians understand this “very important revelation,” they will easily be deceived and walk in darkness. How can Christians walk in the Light if they cannot see the light?

- 1) The Word is the light...
- 2) Jesus is the Word...
- 3) Jesus is the Truth...
- 4) Jesus is the Way...
- 5) Jesus is the Life...
- 6) In Adam, we are flesh (limited to this earth), for we are earthly.
- 7) In Christ we are spirit, heavenly (not limited to the earth).

Part 2

In Genesis 2:7 it says, **“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”**

Part 2 says, **“and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life...”** Notice it is “the breath of the LORD God that causes man to become alive.” The body without the breath of the LORD God had no life in it. The life of man came by the breath of the LORD God.

Look also at John 20:21,22 which says, **“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you...And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.”** By the breath of the LORD, these disciples received a new birth “in Christ.” These disciples were at that time, “born again.” They were not baptized in the Holy Spirit at that time. For these same disciples were told in Acts 1:4,5, to wait until they were baptized in the Holy Spirit before they departed from Jerusalem.

The first birth of man was by the breath of the LORD, which gave man a living soul. The second birth of those disciples in John 20:21,22, was by the breath of the LORD which gave them “life in Christ.”

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”** Romans 8:9 says, **“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”** In the new birth we are translated from the flesh of Adam into the Spirit of Christ. If we are truly born again, we are no longer in Adam. We are a new creature in Christ. We are still “a living soul,” but translated from the flesh of Adam into the Spirit of Christ.

We are still a living soul, but our position has changed. Our eternal being has changed and we have become “a new creature,” a heavenly creature (not an earthly creature). We are still “a living soul,” but we also have the life of God in us. Our living soul was in the flesh of Adam, whereas the life of God is in the Spirit of Christ.

All Christians, who are living today are in a transition time. Our old man is still in the flesh whereas our new creature “in Christ” is in the Spirit. We still have the flesh with us (the old man), but we are already in the Spirit of Christ. We are still a living soul. Therefore, we are still in control as to which way we will go, up to heaven or down to hell? Our mind, which is a part of our soul makes the decisions as to what we will do? Will we walk after the flesh or will we walk after the Spirit?

In Romans 8:1,2 it says, **“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit...For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”** In Christ, we are free of the law of sin and death **“if we walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh.”** In the flesh we are not free of the law of sin and death. When we continually walk after the Spirit, we will automatically become sons of God, which are those who are “led by the Spirit of God” (Rom. 8:14).

Now, we must maintain our new position in Christ by “walking after the Spirit” and not after the flesh. Walking after the flesh could bring us back into corruption. Walking in the Spirit will move us into total completeness in Christ. That is why it tells us in Galatians 6:7,8, **“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap...For he**

that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

If we do not understand who “we were” in Adam, how can we understand who “we are” in Christ? If we think that sin in the garden of Eden caused our problem, then we will miss the truth that the whole Bible is revealing.

It is not a question of who sinned? It is a question of whom we are in, “Adam or Christ?” It is not what we were, or what we did in the past? It is what God did for us through Jesus Christ. It is not the knowledge of good and evil. “It is the knowledge of God,” and His plan for man.

God’s plan for man was eternity with God, “in Christ Jesus.” Not as the first Adam in the flesh, but a new creature in Christ. It is not who the “sons of man” are? But, who are the “sons of God?” (The sons of God are those who are led by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14)). It is not those who are “in the flesh” but those who are “in the Spirit of Christ.”

It is not “who we are in ourselves.” It is who we are in? For it tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:22, **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”**

Part 3

In Genesis 2:7 it says, **“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”**

In Part 3 of Genesis 2:7, it says, **“...and man became a living soul.”** What does that mean? In the Hebrew, the words “living soul” are **“living”** (chay = alive, living, life) **“soul”** (nephesh = a breathing creature). Therefore, **“man,”** being a “terrestrial being,” had a physical body that needed air to breathe. The first man, “in Adam” was limited to living where there is air to breathe.

The same word “nephesh” is used for all the creatures created on the sixth day. In Genesis 1:21 it says, **“And God created great whales, and every living (chay) creature (nephesh) that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.”** This tells us that all living creatures have a soul. All the living creatures that were created on the sixth day were “terrestrial beings,” needing air to breathe.

In the Hebrew, we do not get a good understanding of what it means by **“a living soul.”** Therefore, it is important to use the complete Bible to see what the Word of God is telling us. In 1 Corinthians 15:45 it says, **“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living (zao) soul (psuche); the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.”** When it says, **“And so it is written,”** it is speaking of something that has already been written in the Old Testament (for the Apostle Paul did not have the New Testament to go by). Paul only had the Old Testament, which was written in Hebrew. But, writing in Greek, the Apostle Paul used the Greek words “zao psuche,” for the “living soul” of man.

In the Greek, the word “zao” is a verb, meaning “to live, or living.” In the English, the Greek word “zao” is comparable to the English word “living.” When this Greek word “zao” is used with the Greek word “psuche,” it identifies the type of life it is speaking of.

There are many types of life spoken of in the Scriptures. Concerning man and God, in the Greek there is “zoe,” which is the very life of God. Also in the Greek there is “psuche” which is the natural life of man, created and born in the flesh. In the flesh, man has “psuche” (soul life). In the Spirit, man has “zoe” (Spirit life, the very life of God).

It is very interesting if we study the Scriptures closely, we will not find any indication that angels have “zoe” life. The Greek word “zoe” is only used for those who have the very life of God within them. God the Father has “zoe.” God the Son has “zoe.” God the Holy Spirit has “zoe.” All Christians have both “zoe,” and “psuche.” Jesus also had “zoe” and “psuche.” Jesus said in John 10:10,11, **“...I am come that they might have life (zoe), and that they might have it more abundantly...I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life (psuche) for the sheep.”**

When the Apostle Paul used the Greek word “psuche,” he was writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21). We must keep in mind that all Scripture was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Therefore we can be certain that what is written in the Hebrew and Greek is “truth,” and should not be changed by man.

Being that the Greek word “psuche,” has an equivalent English word “psyche,” we can use the English definition for that word to understand what it means. In the English, the word “psyche” means “the human soul, the mind, the intellect.”

There are another Greek words also used in connection with the body of man. In 1

Corinthians 15:44, there are “psuchikos” and “pneumatikos.” Looking at 1 Corinthians 15:44 it says, **“It is sown a natural (psuchikos) body; it is raised a spiritual (pneumatikos) body. There is a natural (psuchikos) body, and there is a spiritual (pneumatikos) body.”**

The Greek word “psuchikos” does have an equivalent English word “psychic,” which means “having to do with the psyche (soul), or mind, beyond natural or known physical processes, apparently sensitive to forces beyond the physical world.”

According to this information in the Greek, man was created “a living soul” in a natural body of flesh. The living soul of man was able to contact both the natural realm and the spiritual realm of creatures (souls) or living beings.

God is not a natural physical being. God is Spirit “pneuma.” Christ has a spiritual (pneumatikos) body (1 Cor. 15:46). All spiritual bodies have a soul.

According to Hebrews 10:38, where it says, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul (psuche) shall have no pleasure in him,”** God does have a soul (“psuche” Greek; “psyche” English). In Isaiah 42:1, (which is written in Hebrew), it says, **“Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul (nephesh) delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.”** In Matthew 12:18, (which is written in Greek), it makes reference to Isaiah 42:1, saying, **“Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul (psuche) is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.”** In Matthew it uses the exact same Greek word “psuche,” as it uses for the soul of man in 1 Corinthians 15:45.

Therefore, God does have a mind, intellect, etc. and does think before He does anything. God does not do things without thinking first. In Genesis 1:26 it says, **“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”** This indicates that God thought about what He intended to do before the LORD God created man.

Therefore, in Genesis 2:7, where it says, **“...and man became a living soul,”** it is talking about “the soul of man,” not the spirit of man. Man’s soul contains his mind, intellect, etc.

The spirit of man is not the same as the soul of man. The spirit of God is not the same as the soul of God. The soul of God does have a mind, intellect, etc., yet we are told that God is Spirit (John 4:24 NKJV). God is Spirit, and God has a soul.

Christ is God with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Christ has a spiritual (pneumatikos) body, a soul (mind, intellect, etc.), for the Scripture says, **“For who hath known the mind (nous) of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind (nous) of Christ”** (1 Cor. 2:16). The Greek word “nous” means, “the intellect; the mind.” Christ has a mind, which includes His intellect. When we are born again in Christ, we also have the same “mind, intellect, etc.,” which is in Christ.

The mind of Christ is in His soul “psuche.” The same as the mind of God is in His Soul “psuche.” The same as the mind of a Christian is in his soul “psuche.”

Therefore, we should not interchange or claim that the spirit of man is the same as the soul of man. The spirit is not the same as the soul. The Spirit of God is not the same as the soul of God. The spirit of Christ is not the same as the soul of Christ. Therefore, neither is the spirit of man the same as the soul of man.

Concerning the soul of man, all throughout the Scriptures it speaks of “saving souls.” It is

the soul of man that commits sin. Therefore, it is the soul of man that needs to be saved.

In Ezekiel 18:4 it says, **“Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”** In Ezekiel 18:20 it says, **“The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”**

In the New Testament where it seems to be speaking of “saving the spirit,” we need to keep it in the context of what it is speaking of? In 1 Corinthians 5:5, it says, **“To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit (pneuma) may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”** This is in reference as to what Christians can do concerning “saving the spirit of man.” Yet, this reference is in regards to an action by the Church so that the man would repent, and be restored. It does not imply that the man would be saved without repentance. It seems to be implying that in turning such a one over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the Holy Spirit could work with such a one to bring him to repentance. If he would repent, he could be saved from the eternal punishment in hell. God works with Christians “from their spirit,” leading, guiding, comforting, helping, and teaching. See Job 32:8, 1 John 2:27.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:23 it says, **“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly (holoteles); and I pray God your whole (holokleros) spirit (pneuma) and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”** This is a prayer of the Apostle Paul. That God would preserve the whole man, “spirit, soul and body.” Paul used the Greek word “holoteles,” which means “complete to the end.” Then Paul used the Greek word “holokleros,” which means, “complete in every part.”

Man is considered to be a three-part being, spirit, soul, and body. Therefore, it is important that the whole man **“be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”** This is a prayer, and in this prayer the Apostle is concerned about the whole “complete” man, not just the soul or body, but the complete man, “spirit, soul, and body.”

The Spirit

In John 4:24, in the King James Version it says, **“God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”** Many times we have heard others teach that **“God is a Spirit.”** But, that is not what it says in the Greek.

In the Greek, John 4:24 says, **“Spirit (pneuma) God (theos) and (kai) they (ho) worship (proskuneo) him (autos) must (dei) worship (proskuneo) in (en) spirit (pneuma) and (kai) truth. (aletheia).”** All of the other words are added by the translators to make a complete sentence in English. By adding the words **“is”** and **“a”** it changes what the Apostle John wrote. By not carefully checking what the Greek text said, they added words that should not have been added.

One time, in a dream, my spirit was teaching me. I saw myself trying to explain to a pastor friend of mine what the original Greek text says in John 4:24. In the King James Version it says, **“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”** In this dream I told him to look in the Greek, it does not say **“God is a Spirit.”** It actually says **“Spirit God.”** Both words, **“is and a”** were added by the translators when they translated from the Greek to English.

In the dream, I told my pastor friend that John 4:24 actually says, **“God is Spirit.”** That is to say, God is not **“a Spirit,”** God **“is Spirit.”** God, Who is Spirit, created all spirits. All spirits are created beings, whereas **“God is not a created being.”** God is Spirit, and He created all spirits.

Being, God is Spirit, and not a Spirit, He is everywhere at all times. He is not limited to one specific location at anytime. He is in every born again Christian everywhere in the world at all times. He comes into a Christian when they are born again of the Spirit. He remains in them unto the day of Judgment (Eph. 4:30). Therefore, God is omnipresent at all times.

Spirits are not omnipresent at all times. Spirits are limited to certain locations at certain times. God is not limited to any one place at anytime. He is in heaven, on earth, and in Christians all at the same time.

Therefore, when Christians seek wisdom from God, it comes to them from within their spirit, where God dwells in His fulness. The fulness of God dwells in every Spirit-filled Christian at all times. We are in Him, and He is in us. We are one Spirit with the LORD (1 Cor. 6:17).

Even with those who are not Christians, but still in the natural (as in the Old Testament times), it says in Job 32:8, **“But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”** Being that there was a spirit in man, God was able to give man understanding, by the inspiration of God from their spirit. The whole Old Testament was written by men, who were not born again. Yet, they did receive inspiration from God (from within their spirit).

All true prophecy comes to man from his spirit, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Seven of the nine **“gifts of the Spirit”** mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, operated in the Old Testament. These gifts of the Spirit operate the same in those who were not born again as they do in those who are born again.

The spirit of man came from God. The LORD God put a spirit in man. In the Old Testament when it speaks of the spirit of man, it indicates that the spirit of man is **“in man.”** In Job 32:8 it says, **“But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”** In Zechariah 12:1 it says, **“The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD,**

which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.” In these two verses, it tells us that the spirit of man is **“in man.”** If the spirit of man is **“in man,”** then man is not the spirit. Likewise, if the water is in the bottle, then the water is not the bottle. The water and the bottle are not the same thing.

According to Job 32:8, God worked through the spirit “in man” to give man understanding. This understanding came by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Yet, it does not say that God dwelt in man in the Old Testament. It only says, God gave man understanding by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit “from man’s spirit.”

Sometimes we need to understand God better. “God is GOD,” and we should not teach otherwise. What the Scriptures tell us, we can be sure it is truth. But, we must first make sure that what it says in the Bibles we use is what it says in the Hebrew and Greek, for the English language does not always have equivalent words to express what was said in the Hebrew and Greek.

What Christians need to understand is that there are two types of beings in creation. There are those beings that “are spirits” and those beings who “are not spirits.” Those who “are spirits have spiritual bodies,” called “celestial bodies.” Those who “are natural beings,” have “terrestrial bodies.”

In 1 Corinthians 15:40, it says, **“There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.”** Then in 1 Corinthians 15:44, it says, **“...There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”**

A terrestrial body is a body that is made up of natural physical substance, and needs air to breathe. Terrestrial bodies are limited as to where they can live. If a terrestrial body does not have air to breathe, it will die, and return to the natural substance it was made of.

A celestial body is a heavenly body. Therefore, a celestial body can exist where there is no air to breathe. Celestial bodies can live in heaven and on earth. There is no place in the Scriptures where it tells us that “celestial bodies” die.

The spirit of man is of spiritual substance. Therefore, there is no place in Scripture where it speaks of the spirit of man dying. In Ecclesiastes 3:21, it says, **“Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?”** In Ecclesiastes 12:7, it says, **“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”** In Job 34:4,5, it says, **“If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath...All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.”**

As we study the Scriptures, we will find that when Lucifer rebelled against God, he did not die, but was cast out of the third heavens, down to the earth. Lucifer, now called Satan, the Devil, did not cease to exist. Therefore, he will spend eternity in hell. In Revelation 20:10, it says, **“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”**

The angels that followed Lucifer were also cast out of the third heavens, and are now held until the day of Judgment (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6; Rev. 20:10). They did not cease to exist. They are still living and evidently will continue to live forever.

Lucifer, and the angels are “spirits,” they have celestial bodies. According to the Scriptures, they will live in their celestial bodies forever. Those who follow Lucifer, will spend eternity in the lake of fire.

The angels that did not rebel against God are still in the heavens serving God. These angels have celestial bodies, but can also appear in physical bodies at anytime God so desires. The Scripture speaks of this in Hebrews 13:2, saying, **“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”** Angels can appear in human form, with a physical body. Yet, normally, they exist in a spiritual body.

There is not any place in the Scriptures where it speaks of “the spirit of man” dying and going into hell. The Scriptures only speak of the spirit of man going back to God who created it. In Genesis 25:8 it says, **“Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.”** In Genesis 25:17, it says, **“And these are the years of the life of Ishmael, an hundred and thirty and seven years: and he gave up the ghost and died; and was gathered unto his people.”** In Genesis 35:29, it says, **“And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.”** In Genesis 49:33, it says, **“And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.”**

When Jesus died on the Cross, just before dying, Luke 23:46 tells us that Jesus said, **“...Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.”** It is up to each one individually, what they want to believe according to what it says in Luke 23:46. It seems to me, that the spirit of Jesus went back to the Father, and the soul and spiritual body of Jesus went into the lower parts, where Jesus defeated the Devil, took the keys of hell and death from Satan, and arose again on the third day. There is no indication that Jesus’ spirit went into hell. Jesus was a Man in the flesh, and Ecclesiastes 12:7, says, **“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”**

It seems that when God, “who is Spirit,” creates a spirit, that spirit continues to live forever. This is important, for God Himself, is Spirit, and God lives forever.

The Soul

If we consider everything the Scripture tells us about the soul of man, it is evident that man is “a living soul” (Gen. 2:7, 1 Cor. 15:45). The word “living,” makes it clear that man’s soul is not dead. Man’s soul is alive, and living.

In Ezekiel 18:4, it says, “**Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die** (muwth).” In Ezekiel 18:20, it says, “**The soul that sinneth, it shall die** (muwth). **The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.**”

In each of the above Scripture verses, the Hebrew word “muwth” (speaking of dying), is in the “imperfect mood.”

- 1) The “imperfect mood” expresses an action, process, or condition which is incomplete.
- 2) The kind of progression or imperfection and unfinished condition of the action may consist in its frequent repetition.
- 3) The “imperfect mood,” adds color and movement by suggesting the "process" preliminary to its completion.
- 4) The imperfect is used to express the "future,” referring not only to an action which is about to be accomplished but one which has not yet begun.

By this, we can see that “the soul,” when it dies, does not complete its action. It remains in a state of dying, and continues in a state of dying.

At the same time, Ezekiel 18:21,22 says, “**But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die** (muwth)...**All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live.**”

Therefore, it was already spoken in Ezekiel 18:21,22, that a soul that sinned is under “the curse of death.” Being that death did not complete its course, that soul could repent and the curse of death would be removed. The soul that repented would live and not die.

This is the Gospel that is to be preached in the New Covenant. It was already in effect in the Old Covenant and continued in the New Covenant. In Revelation 13:8 it makes mention of, “**...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**” Jesus said in Luke 24:47, “**And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**” Repentance and forgiveness of sins were already preached to the Children of Israel in the Old Covenant also.

What about those who die and go into hell? Evidently, there is no mention of a soul in hell, being able to repent. Therefore, a soul in hell would be in a continuous state of dying, yet never completing its action. By this, it makes it clear, that the living soul of man that dies, never completes its action of death. It will continue in that state forever. The soul of man never ceases to exist. It will remain a living soul, in heaven or in hell.

Man is “a living soul” and will always be “a living soul.” Some will live in heaven and glory. Others will continue to live in hell and torment (in the process of dying, but never completing death).

Eternity in hell is not a good place to be. For the torment of dying will continue forever. That torment will never come to an end (Matt. 13:42,50; Rev. 19:20; 20:10).

The Mind

When we search out the words used concerning the soul of man, we find that the soul contains the mind.

In 1 Corinthians 2:16 it says, **“For who hath known the mind (nous) of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind (nous) of Christ.”** In the Greek, the word “nous” is in reference to “the mind, the intellect.”

The Greek word **“nous”** (mind), denotes, speaking generally, the seat of reflective consciousness, comprising the faculties of perception and understanding, and those of feeling, judging and determining.

The Greek word **“nous”** (mind), in the New Testament may be analyzed as follows:

(A) The faculty of knowing, the seat of the understanding:

Luke 24:45, **“Then opened he their understanding (nous)...”**

Romans 1:28, **“God gave them over to a reprobate mind (nous)...”**

Romans 14:5, **“Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind (nous)...”**

1 Corinthians 14:15, **“I will pray with the understanding (nous)...I will sing with the understanding (nous) also.”**

1 Corinthians 14:19, **“Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding (nous)...”**

See also the following: Ephesians 4:17; Philippians. 4:7; Colossians 2:18; 1 Timothy 6:5; 2 Timothy 3:8; Titus 1:15; Revelation 13:18; 17:9.

(B) the counsels, purpose,

Romans. 11:34, **“For who hath known the mind (nous) of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?”**

Romans 12:2, **“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind (nous)...”**

1 Corinthians 1:10, **“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind (nous) and in the same judgment.”**

1 Corinthians 2:16, **“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind (nous) of Christ.”**

There are other Greek words translated “mind” in English Versions of the Bible. The Greek word “phroneo” means, “attitude, to exercise the mind, to think.” Meaning, “what is the attitude of the mind?” Such as in Philippians 2:5 where it says, **“Let this mind “phroneo” be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”**

Another example of the Greek word “phroneo” is in Matthew 16:23, where it says, **“But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest (phroneo) not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.”** This is speaking of the thoughts in Peter’s mind, by which he spoke. In Romans 8:5, it says, **“For they that are after the flesh do mind (phroneo) the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”**

Another Greek word translated mind in English Versions of the Bible is the Greek, the word “phronema,” which means, “the inclination or purpose.” In Romans 8:27 it says, **“And he that**

searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind (phronema) of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

We need to be very careful when we see the word “mind” in the English versions of the Bible. It does not always mean the same thing.

The Body

It seems there are different bodies spoken of in the Scriptures. There is the natural body of man, made of the elements of the earth (Gen. 2:7; 1 Cor. 15:44). There is also a spiritual body of man spoken of in 1 Corinthians 15:44, which says, **“It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”**

There is also a “resurrection body” spoken of in 1 Corinthians 15:53,54, which says, **“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed...For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”** If our resurrection body is similar to the resurrection body that Jesus had in Luke 24:39, then it must also have flesh and bones.

Some believe that our spiritual body and our resurrection body are the same body. If that were the case, then what is happening today (here on earth) when Christians are having “out of the body experiences?” Many Christians have had these experiences.

I, had a similar experience in 1979, following my new birth into the body of Christ. My physical body was in my living room, sitting on my davenport. Yet, I saw myself “standing” on a large white fluffy cloud in the sky. I was not sitting on the cloud. I was standing on the cloud. I knew it was myself, standing on that cloud. It was a positive knowing without any doubt whatsoever. In other words, no one will ever convince me that I was not standing on that cloud. (When the Holy Spirit gives a person a revelation of something, it is “a positive, beyond all doubt, knowing”).

Spiritual experiences are “real.” When this happens, there is no doubt in your mind, that what is happening is “real.” The only way to explain these spiritual experiences is to believe the Word of God. For those who do not believe the Word of God, they may not believe in spiritual experiences such as “out of the body.” Yet, the Apostle Paul believed in out of the body experiences. In 2 Corinthians 12:2, it says, **“I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.”** This is exactly what happens when a Christian has “an out of the body experience.” You cannot tell if the body you are in is your natural body or your spiritual body. They look exactly the same.

Therefore, we must agree with Jesus in John 3:6 where Jesus said, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** We also must agree with the written Word of God in 1 Corinthians 15:44, where it says, **“...There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”** If we do not agree with the written Word of God, who are we agreeing with? If we want to walk with God, we must agree with the written Word of God. In Amos 3:3, it asks the question, **“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”**

Christians need to find out what the written Word of God truly says, and then agree with the written Word, even if your understanding does not want to agree. Our eternal life is dependent upon our believing the written Word of God. Those who agree with the written Word (and believe) will experience eternity in heaven forever. Those who do not agree with the written Word may not be in heaven when they leave this earth.

Let us be among those who believe the written Word of God, and do not doubt anything that the written Word tells us. Then God will be pleased with us. When God is pleased with us, we will be walking by faith, and not by sight.

It says in Hebrews 10:38, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”** We should all believe the written Word of God, and not draw back. God is GOD, and God tells the truth. God cannot lie. Therefore, if we do not believe what the written Word of God tells us, we are most likely believing a lie.

The Devil lied from the beginning. Lies come from the Devil, because he is the father of lies (John 8:44). Do not believe the Devil.

In better understanding of the different bodies of man, we need to separate the different bodies of man mentioned in the Scriptures. When the Scriptures speak of the natural body of man, it is speaking of the body of man that was formed of the dust of the ground in Genesis 2:7. This natural body is a physical body, made up of physical elements of the earth. Therefore in 1 Corinthians 15:46-48, it explains, **“Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual...The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven...As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.”**

What is revealed in 1 Corinthians 15:46-48, is that there is a difference between the spiritual body and the natural body. The natural body of a Christian is made up of earthly elements. The spiritual body of a Christian is made up of spiritual elements. Therefore, there is a difference between the natural elements and the spiritual elements of the two bodies of a Christian.

Keep in mind, we are not talking about “the resurrection body” of those who are not in Christ. Those who are not Christians, will be resurrected from the dead on the last day (Rev. 20:5,12-15). Those who “are not” in Christ, will remain in a state of death for all eternity.

What is revealed in 1 Corinthians 15:35-57, is only speaking of Christians, not of those who are not in Christ. Keep in mind, the Epistle of 1 Corinthians was not written to those who were not Christians. It was written, **“Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints...”** Therefore, some things concerning those who are not in Christ are not revealed in the Epistle of 1 Corinthians.

In 1 Corinthians 15:44, it says, **“There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body”** (1 Cor. 15:44). By this we know that there are two bodies. There is a body made up of physical elements (a terrestrial body) of the earth, and there is a body made of spiritual elements (a celestial body).

Concerning those who are not in Christ, it seems they do have a body which is not made up of physical elements of this earth also (Luke 16:19-31). In the realm of spirits and spiritual operations, there are those who are serving the Devil, that have out of the body spiritual experiences called, “astral projection.” In astral projection, the soul of a person can leave the physical body and travel into other places, and receive information which is not received by natural means. Being this is a demonic operation, it will only lead to spending eternity in hell. Anyone who continues operating in the demonic spiritual realm will spend eternity with the Devil in hell. In hell, there is torment forever and ever. Therefore, even after a living soul leaves its earthly physical body, it still has a body, in which there is torment in hell (Mark 9:44-48; Luke 16:19-31).

In 1 Corinthians 15:52-57, it is also speaking of the body that a Christian will have in eternity. It is saying, the physical body we have here on earth will be replaced with a “resurrection body.” In 2 Corinthians 5:17, it said **“...all things are become new.”** All things would include “a new body.” We know that the physical body we have here on earth will return to dust. It will remain

on earth when we leave for eternity in heaven.

Therefore, this physical body Christians now have will be changed. In the process of change, we will receive a “resurrection body,” of flesh and bones (similar to the body that Jesus had when He was resurrected from the dead). After the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, He appeared and disappeared, yet He still had a physical body.

In Luke, Chapter Twenty-four, it tells us about when Jesus walked with two of His disciples on the way to Emmaus. After walking with them and talking with them, Jesus went in with them and sat down to eat. In Luke 24:30,31, it says, **“And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them...And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.”** Jesus had a physical body, which looked the same as the body He had before He was crucified. Yet, when they knew it was Jesus, **“...he vanished out of their sight.”**

We also see evidence of Jesus having a physical body of flesh and bones in Luke 24:36-43. Jesus said to His disciples, **“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have”** (Luke 24:39). In Luke 24:41-43 it says, **“And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?...And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb...And he took it, and did eat before them.”**

In Matthew 27:52,53 it says, **“And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose...And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.”** If this is true, then what kind of a body did these saints have. Evidently, it was a physical body of flesh and bones. If it were only a spiritual body, then others would need to see in the spiritual realm to know who it was that was appearing to them. There is a “resurrection body” of flesh and bones.

In the natural mind, we cannot understand spiritual things. But, in the realm of the spirit, these things are understood. The physical body that we now have is made up of the elements of the earth. This body will be replaced. We will receive a “resurrection body,” in which there is no death. It will live in the spiritual realm and continue to live forever.

There is also a resurrection of the dead for those who are not in Christ (Rev. 20:5,6,12-15). Notice also in Revelation 20:5,6 that there are two resurrections. It says, **“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years”** (Rev. 20:6).

Those in Christ will receive “a new resurrection body.” Those who are not “in Christ” when they die will be resurrected and cast into the lake of fire, where there is torment forever (Rev. 20:10-15). As it says, in 1 Corinthians 15:22, **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”**

The End from the Beginning

We should notice that when a person becomes born again, they are born “of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.” In 1 Peter 1:23 it says, **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”** In John 1:13 it says, **“Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”** These two verses are speaking of being born again. In 1 Peter it tells us that in the new birth we are born again of **“incorruptible seed, which is the Word of God.”** In John 1:13, it tells us that the new birth is not a work of man, but of God.

In John 3:6 Jesus summed it up by saying, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** In all of this, we see the plan of God for man, which was from the foundation of the world.

It says in Revelation 13:8, **“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”** In Revelation 17:8 it says, **“The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”** From these two verses, we see that there are some, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world. There were also others whose names were written in the book of life from the foundation of the world.

If there is anyone who thinks that, maybe their name was not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, they should make sure it is. If that thought comes to your mind, you can make sure it is written in the Book of Life. You can receive Jesus Christ as your LORD and Savior, and your name will be written in the Book of Life. Once your name is written in the Book of Life, then live for Christ and keep it written in the Book of Life.

In Revelation 20:12, it says, **“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”** Following that in Revelation 20:15 it says, **“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”**

It is important that we understand what will happen to those whose names are not found written in the Book of Life? In 1 Corinthians 15:22 it says, **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”** This tells us that all who are still in Adam when they die, will spend eternity in the lake of fire.

We know, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”** (John 3:6). It says in Romans 8:9, **“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”** Therefore, those who are not born again are still in the flesh of Adam. But those who are born again are no longer in the flesh of Adam, but in the Spirit of Christ.

How did this happen? In Ezekiel 11:19,20, it says, **“And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh... That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.”** Then in Ezekiel 36:26,27 it says,

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh...And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.”

All of this reveals God’s plan for man from the foundation of the world. We began in Adam as “a living soul” in a body of flesh and bones. Being in the flesh of Adam, the LORD God put a spirit in man, whereby He could give man understanding by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Job 32:8).

It says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”** When we are born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, the old spirit that was in us, is passed away, and we receive “a new spirit in Christ.” In Ezekiel 36:26, it said, **“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”** Therefore, we receive this new spirit when we are born again in Christ.

By this new spirit in Christ, we become **“One Spirit with the LORD”** (1 Cor. 6:17). There is no longer a need for the spirit that was in man from the beginning. For now we have a new spirit which is joined with God in Christ. In Colossians 3:3, it says, **“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”**

By this new spirit, God becomes our Father and we become children of God in the Spirit. We receive a new spirit and a new spiritual body. In the new spirit there is life (which is the very life of God). In the new spiritual body there is also eternal life, for our new spiritual body is immortal (1 Cor. 15:44,53). Our new spiritual body does not have any death in it. For the life of God in us overcomes death.

It is interesting to notice that when Jesus went to the Cross for us, He did not have any sin in Him. In John 14:30, Jesus said, **“Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.”** There was no sin or death in Jesus.

Jesus had eternal life in Himself, and eternal life overcomes eternal death. Jesus said in John 5:24, **“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.”**

Just as light overcomes darkness. Darkness cannot overcome light. Eternal death cannot overcome eternal life. Adam did not have eternal life when he was created. Therefore, eternal death came upon mankind when Adam ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

When Jesus came into this world as “the Second Adam,” He had “eternal life” within Him. By living a sinless life in the flesh, Jesus overcame the Devil, by the eternal life that was in Him. The eternal death that was **“in man”** is overcome by eternal life **“in Christ.”** When we receive eternal life in Christ, that eternal life in us, overcomes the eternal death that was in us. Therefore, when a person is born again, they pass from eternal death unto eternal life.

What many Christians do not understand is that “man is a living soul.” The living soul of man is adopted by God in Christ.

It says in Ephesians 1:4,5, **“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love...Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the**

good pleasure of his will.” We are still the same living soul that was created in the beginning. But, we are **“adopted by God in Christ Jesus,”** and therefore we are no longer in Adam, but in Christ.

In Ephesians 1:5 it tells us that God’s plan from the foundation of the world was to, “adopt us as His Children in Christ Jesus.” That means, that we were already living children. We were “a living soul” in the first Adam. Then God adopted us “in Christ Jesus.”

An adopted child is a child that was born of another parent. For some reason or other, their first parents gave them up for adoption. It could be that their first parents died, and they needed a living parent to take care of them.

This seems to be the case with all who are children of God in Christ Jesus. Adam entered into a state of death in the garden of Eden. Adam did not die completely when sin and death came upon him. Adam continued to exist, both in the physical body and in the living soul. But, sin and death came upon Adam, and continued to remain in Adam from the day that he ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

In Romans 5:12 it says, **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”** It says, **“...death passed upon all men...”** It does not say that Adam “died” that day, but sin and death became resident in Adam, and passed upon all who are born of the flesh in Adam.

Adam was our first father, being that we were in Adam from the beginning. God saw that man was in Adam, and sin and death reigned in those who were in Adam. Therefore, God sent His Son, **“Jesus,”** who was not born of the flesh, but of the Holy Spirit and Mary (a virgin). “Jesus was without sin and death.” Jesus had the very life of God within Him (John 1:4). Therefore, knowing that the children of Adam had sin and death in them, God (**predestined, which means, had planed**) to adopt those who were in Adam into His family in Christ Jesus.

Jesus had the life of God in Him. Therefore, when we are adopted by God in Christ Jesus, we go from Adam, in whom was sin and death, into Christ Jesus, in whom there is no death. The death in us is overcome by the life of God in Christ Jesus.

We are still a living soul, the same as an adopted child in the world remains the same child. But the adopted child has new parents. The adopted child takes upon itself the name of his or her new parents. Therefore, those who are in Christ, also have the authority to use the Name of Jesus against the works of darkness. They are adopted by God the Father in Christ Jesus, and they have the right to use the name of Jesus. Just as an adopted child has the right to use the name of their new father.

Being adopted by God in Christ Jesus, gives us all the privileges of being Children God. Being adopted by God, we are no longer in Adam, but in Christ Jesus. In Christ Jesus, we have eternal life residing in us. The eternal death we had in Adam is passed away and eternal life in Christ comes into us.

When we became born again, we did not “cease to exist,” but we were changed. We became a new creature in Christ. We were an old creature in Adam. But in Christ we became a new creature.

Man remains “a living soul.” But in the new birth, the man, who is “a living soul,” passes from death “in Adam” to life “in Christ” (John 5:24). Man passes from the flesh of Adam into the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9). Man receives a new spiritual body “in Christ” (John 3:6; Ezek. 36:26; 2 Cor. 5:17). Yet, “man” remains “a living soul.” We are still the same “living soul” that was breathed into man in the beginning (Gen. 2:7).

In Christ, we are no longer in the flesh of Adam, but in the Spirit of Christ. We are born again of the Spirit. Therefore, we are Spirit. We have a new body of spirit, which is immortal (it has no death in it). Therefore, we are true Children of God, born of the Spirit and the Word, “into Christ.”

In 1 Corinthians 15:45 it says, **“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.”** Christ is the last Adam, whereas Adam was the first Adam. There are only two Adams, “Adam and Christ.” Those who are still in the first Adam when they leave this earth will spend eternity in hell. Those who are in Christ, “Who is the Last Adam,” will live and spend eternity with Christ in heaven (1 Cor. 15:22).

Why is Christ called the last Adam? (1 Cor. 15:45). There will not be another creature called “man.” Adam was the first man in all of God’s creation. Christ is the last Man, in God’s creation.

When this earth is passed away, there will remain in heaven “Children of God and Sons of God.” These are those whose names are written in the Book of Life when they stand before the LORD and the books are opened. Those whose names are in the Book of Life will enter into eternity “in Christ.” Those whose names are not found in the Book of Life will be **“cast into the lake of fire”** (Rev. 20:14,15).

In heaven there will be “Sons of God.” These Sons of God will have the very life of God in them and they will remain in heaven forever. They will reign with Christ forever. They will be led by the Holy Spirit, for all who are “Sons of God are led by the Spirit of God” (Rom. 8:14).

The Sons of God, will also judge angels. In 1 Corinthians 6:3 it says, **“Know ye not that we shall judge angels?”** The Sons of God are above the angels in heaven for they are truly “Sons of God,” having the very life of God in them. Angels do not have the life of God in them.

It is important that Christians understand the plan of God from the foundation of the world. God’s plan for man was an eternal plan, whereby God would have in heaven those who are His very own Children.

In the beginning, God had only one Son, whom we know as “Jesus Christ.” It is the will of God to have in heaven multitudes of “Children of God and Sons of God” for all eternity. Those who become “Children of God and Sons of God” are those who do the will of God here on earth. Jesus said in Matthew 7:21, **“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”**

All throughout the New Testament, we are told that we must overcome in this life, then we will inherit eternal life in heaven. In Revelation 3:5, Jesus said, **“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”**

Speaking of those who did overcome in this life, it says in Revelation 12:11, **“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”** We cannot overcome by our works, or our ability. We must overcome by “the Blood of the Lamb,” which is the testimony of Jesus Christ. And by “the Word of God,” which is our testimony of what God says about us.

In Hebrews 13:20 it says, **“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.”** Jesus was raised again from the dead, **“...through the blood of the everlasting covenant.”**

This is the same way we will be raised again from the dead, **“...through the blood of the everlasting covenant.”**

The Deception

Once we know what the Scriptures say concerning man, and the Son of Man, we need to be aware of the deception of the enemy. The Scriptures reveal the Truth. The Scriptures also reveal the false.

It is not difficult to know what is true and what is false. It is not difficult to identify the deception of the enemy. Once we have been truly born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, we have a witness within us to know what is true and what is false. Those who are not truly born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit are already deceived, and will remain deceived until they receive Jesus Christ as their LORD and Savior.

If you have knowledge of the Scriptures, and know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, you have the ability within you to know the Truth. When you read the Gospels there will be a witness within you that Jesus is Who He says He is. If anyone does not believe that Jesus is Who He says He is, then they are not truly born again.

Just reading the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John is enough to instill within you that Jesus is Who He says He is. Jesus said in John 14:6, **“...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”** Those who are truly born again will know that Jesus was speaking the Truth. Everyone who knows the Truth, has a witness within themselves (Rom. 8:16; 1 John 5:10).

Knowing the Truth is only the beginning of identifying the deception that is in the world today. Adam and Eve knew the truth, yet they were deceived by the enemy. They listened to the serpent that spoke things that were opposite of what they already knew. They both knew that eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil would bring death (Gen. 2:16,17; 3:3).

The serpent said to Eve, **“...Ye shall not surely die...For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil”** (Gen. 3:3,5). What the serpent spoke was part truth and part false. What the serpent said about knowing good and evil was true. In Genesis 3:22, the LORD God said, **“...Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil...”**

When the serpent said, **“...Ye shall not surely die,”** he spoke a lie. Eve knew that the LORD God had said, **“...Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”** Eve believed the lie that the serpent had spoken to her.

Living by the knowledge of good and evil will bring death. That is simply why that tree was called **“the tree of knowledge of good and evil.”** The only way to obtain and maintain eternal life is to **“eat of the tree of life,”** which was also in the midst of the garden.

To eat of the tree of life, we must “believe the Word of God, according to what God said.” If Adam and Eve would have believed the Word of God that was spoken to them in Genesis 2:16,17, they would not have eaten of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Death comes when we do not believe the Word of God according to what God said.

When anyone comes telling you something that does not agree with the written Word of God, you should know it is a lie. God reveals both the truth and the lies in His written Word. God is giving us a choice to believe the Truth, or believe a lie. We must choose which one we will believe?

Anytime someone comes teaching something that does not agree with the written Word of God, they are not telling the truth. If we believe that which does not agree with the written Word of

God we will be no different than Adam and Eve. We will be deceived the same as Eve was deceived.

The Bible says that Adam was not deceived. That is true for Adam knew what He was told by the LORD God. Adam knew, beyond all doubt that the LORD God said, **“...Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat...But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”** (Gen. 2:16,17). Adam did eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (after Eve gave to him the fruit of that tree).

Eve was deceived, but she was also in the transgression, being that she did know the truth (to not eat of that tree). In 1 Timothy 2:14 it says, **“...the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”** When we know the truth by a witness within ourselves, and we believe a lie (that does not agree with the written Word of God, we are as guilty as the one who told us the lie). Eve was just as guilty as Adam, she was also in the transgression.

The “blame game” will not work with God. Adam tried to blame Eve, Eve tried to blame the serpent (Gen. 3:11-13). God knows if we know the truth. God makes the truth known to us in His written Word, and then gives us a witness of the truth in our spirit. When we receive Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior the “Truth” is already in us (in our spirit). When we have the truth in our spirit we must learn to follow the truth that is in us, and not be deceived by a lie.

It does not make any difference if the one who tells us a lie is an Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor or Teacher. God has not told us to follow Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors or Teachers. God has not put any Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors or Teachers between us and Jesus Christ. In 1 Timothy 2:5 the Word of God tells us, **“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”**

God is a personal God, dwelling in every born again Christian (in their spirit). Every person is individually responsible to God for what they know. God leads, guides, comforts, helps and teaches us from our spirit (1 John 2:27). When we are born again of the Spirit and the Word of God. The living Word of God and the Spirit of God are within us (in our spirit).

God has made the Truth known to us in the written Word of God and will give us a witness in our spirit. God has given us three witnesses here on earth, that we can know the truth, and the truth will keep us in fellowship with God. These three witnesses are given to us in 1 John 5:8. It says, **“And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water (Word), and the blood: and these three agree in one.”**

Christians are told to **“walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh”** (Rom 8:1-4; Gal. 5:16,17,25). If we do not do what we are told to do in the written Word of God, we will be held accountable for what we do.

In Ezekiel 18:20, it says, **“The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”** God does not hold us responsible for what others do. God does hold us responsible for what we do. If we believe a lie, we are the ones who will be held responsible for believing a lie.

It is very important that we learn to listen to our spirit, and follow the witness in our spirit. If we follow those who are teaching things that do not agree with the written Word of God it could cause us to believe a lie. All lies are from the Devil. The Devil is a liar. The Devil is the father of lies (John 8:44).

Jesus warned us of false prophets that would come into the body of Christ and deceive many.

In Matthew 7:15, Jesus said, **“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”** We need to know what the Scriptures truthfully say, and not follow those who add to the written Word or take away from the written Word to teach their doctrines and theologies. We can know what is false by what they teach.

In Matthew 24:11, Jesus again said, **“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”** Jesus was not saying there would be a few here and there that were false. Jesus said there will be **“...many false prophets...”** and they **“...shall deceive many.”** Then a second time in the same chapter, Jesus again mentioned the false prophets, saying, **“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect”** (Matt. 24:24). In Mark 13:22, this is mentioned again, saying **“For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.”**

Deception by false prophets is not uncommon. It was happening all throughout the Old Testament times. It was happening when Jesus came. It is still happening today among Spirit-filled Christians.

Jesus also identified another type of false prophet in Luke 6:26, saying, **“Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.”** These are those who raise you up, as though you were someone special. When they come speaking **“...well of you...”**, listen to your spirit, and check it with the written Word, and the Blood of Jesus. Do not be taken in by those who speak well of you. God does not have any favorite Children. God’s love is unconditional. God loves every one of His Children the same. God is not a respecter of persons. Therefore, be careful of those who speak well of you. Do not let yourself be caught in the snare of the Devil (2 Tim. 2:26).

In 2 Peter 2:1, it says, **“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.”** Watch what is being taught. **“Denying the Lord...”** could be the same as denying the truth that the inspired Word of God says.

Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1,2; 1 John 5:7). Jesus is the LORD (Acts 2:36). What false apostles and false teachers teach does not always agree with the written Word. Just as with Eve in the garden of Eden, the false prophets will mix truth with error. They will teach some truth, and some false.

In 1 John 4:1, it says, **“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”** The Apostle John said, **“...many false prophets are gone out into the world.”** It is not just those few that some know (beyond all doubt) that they are false. There are many within the Churches today who are false prophets. We need to **“...try the spirits whether they are of God?”**

According to all that is written concerning false prophets, that still does not mean that every prophet is a false prophet. There are still some true prophets, and there will always be some true prophets and many false prophets. We should not condemn anyone, because we think they are a false prophet. We need to pray for those who have been taken in the snare of the Devil. They need to be set free of the deception of the enemy.

We need the Holy Spirit working in our lives to know if a person is a true prophet or a false

prophet. If we discover that we have been deceived (ourselves) into believing something that is not true, it is important that we repent (turn away from any teaching that is not according to the written Word of God).

There was a Word from the LORD years ago which said, ***“Those who have taught what they heard other men teach and have not received it from My Spirit, if they will repent, My grace will cover them!”*** This is very important, for God does not confirm the teachings of men. God only confirms His Word which He inspired to be written. What men have added to the written Word or have taken away from the inspired written Word is not from God.

We must try the spirits by the ***“witness of the Holy Spirit, the written Word, and the blood of Jesus”*** (1 John 5:8). Always remember. Repentance and forgiveness of sins go together. If we repent, God will forgive us and our past sins will never be remembered by God (Heb. 8:12, 10:17; 1 John 1:9).

God has given us the key to knowing what is truth and what is false. In 1 John 5:7,8 it says, ***“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one...And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water (Word), and the blood: and these three agree in one.”***

In heaven, God is three persons in one, ***“...the Father, the Word (the Son), and the Holy Ghost...”*** and these three always agree. The Son is called ***“the Word”*** many times throughout the Scriptures. Therefore, God has also given us three witnesses here on earth, ***“...the Spirit, and the water (Word), and the blood: and these three agree in one.”*** The word ***“water”*** in 1 John 5:7 is used symbolically. The Apostle John used the word ***“water”*** symbolically many times in his writings (John 3:5; 4:14; 7:38; 1 John 5:6,8; Rev. 22:1).

If at anytime, the three witnesses on earth do not agree, then there is a false spirit operating. That false spirit is sent by Satan, ***“the god of this world”*** (2 Cor. 4:4). Satan blinds the minds of those who believe things that do not agree with the written Word of God. Repentance is necessary to be set free of the blinding of our minds. Those whose minds are blinded will not repent, for they think there is nothing wrong with what they are doing. They believe grace covers them, even when they are adding to the written Word or taking away from the written Word.

The first of the three witnesses here on earth is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit bears witness to the ***“inspired written Word, and the Blood of Jesus.”*** The Holy Spirit never bears a witness to any teachings that do not agree with the written Word (that He inspired to be written).

The inspired Word was written by holy men, who were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write what was written in the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21). Therefore, when the Bible was written, it was not a work of men, but a work of the Holy Spirit using men to write what He inspired them to write.

God is not a man that He should lie (Numb. 23:19). Lies are from the Devil. The Devil was a liar from the beginning (John 8:44).

In having the Scriptures written by holy men of old, the Holy Spirit had them write into the Scriptures the follow verses: Deuteronomy 4:2, which says, ***“Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”*** Deuteronomy 12:32, says, ***“What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”*** Proverbs 30:5,6, says, ***“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put***

their trust in him...Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.” Then the Apostle John wrote, **“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book...And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book”** (Rev. 22:18,19). This should be sufficient warning to those who try to change the inspired written Word. Some have added to the written Word, and some have taken parts away from the written Word.

This adding to and taking away from the Word of God started in Genesis, Chapter Three. The serpent added to what the LORD God told Adam. The serpent took away part of the truth which was spoken to Adam in Genesis 2:17.

Adam and Eve believed the lie which was first spoken to Eve by the serpent. Believing the lie of the serpent, caused sin and death to come upon Adam and Eve, and passed upon all of the descendants of Adam.

Had it not been for the love of God (that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ to take away the sin of the world), we would all spend eternity in hell. Adding to the “inspired written Word,” or taking away from the “inspired written Word” is the same as believing the Devil. Those who believe the Devil are believing a lie. This should not be among those who are truly Children of God through the new birth.

The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and the Son to be our Helper, Guide, Comforter, Leader and Teacher. The Holy Spirit teaches us according to the “inspired written Word, and the Blood of Jesus.”

There are only two gods in this world. There is one God, in three persons, **“the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”** (1 John 5:7). Then there is another god, who is Satan, the Devil (2 Cor. 4:4). Man is not a god and never was a god.

To know the Truth, we must know the Creator of all things, which is the true God of heaven and earth. All truth comes from God. God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

Jesus is the Son of God. Therefore, Jesus is also the Truth (John 14:6). Being that Jesus is the Truth, Jesus cannot lie. In John 8:31-47, it says, **“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed...And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free...They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?...Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin...And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever...If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed...I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you...I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father...They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham...But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham...Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God...Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me...Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye**

cannot hear my word...Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it...And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not...Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?...He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

For those who are truly born again, they have a witness in themselves (Rom. 8:16; 1 John 5:10). That witness bears witness with the written Word of God, that Jesus is Whom He says He is. There is no doubt that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6).

The Devil is a liar and there is no truth in him. When the Devil speaks, he speaks lies, for he is the father of lies. Those who believe the Devil will follow him. Those who believe Jesus will follow Jesus.

The inspired Scriptures are the truth, given to us by God. As we search the Scriptures we will find that the Truth stands alone many times, while the false has many followers.

When Jesus revealed the Truth to His own disciples, many left Him, and walked no more with Him. In John 6:48, Jesus said, **"I am that bread of life."** Following that, Jesus continued to explain what He was speaking about when He made that statement. In John 6:54-58, Jesus said, **"Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day...For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed...He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him...As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me...This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever."**

While Jesus was explaining what He was talking about, it says, **"Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?"** In John 6:63, Jesus explained what He was talking about, saying, **"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."** Jesus explained in John 6:63 that He was not talking about His physical body or His liquid blood. Jesus was talking about **"the Word of God."** Jesus is **"the Word of God,"** and we must consume the Word of God by believing it everyday of our lives.

At the time Jesus spoke these words to His own disciples, it says, **"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him"** (John 6:66).

Even today among Spirit-filled Christians, many do not know or understand what Jesus was saying in John 6:63. After all His explaining, most of Jesus' disciples left Him and walked no more with Him.

Just as Judas Iscariot, who was one of Jesus' disciples betrayed the LORD and gave place for the Devil, there are many Spirit-filled Christians today that have betrayed the LORD and have given place for the Devil in their lives. We should not be ignorant of Satan's devices. Satan has blinded the minds of many Spirit-filled Christians, and is using them to teach his doctrines and lead many into error.

The Devil works through the minds of Christians, to deceive and lead them into destruction. The flesh does not understand spiritual things. Spiritual things are only discerned by the Holy Spirit operating in the lives of those who will commit their lives to following Jesus (1 Cor. 2:13,14). When

there is no commitment to follow Jesus, deception comes and many are deceived.

What Christians need to understand is that God is especially interested in those who will **“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding”** (Prov. 3:5). When Christians go about trying to understand God with their natural mind of the flesh, they will easily be deceived. That is what it is speaking of in Galatians 6:8, where it says, **“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”** Even in this verse of Scripture, many Christians do not understand what it is saying.

Those who **“reap corruption,”** will reap the opposite of **“life everlasting.”** This is serious business. We cannot afford to **“sow to the flesh and reap corruption.”** Heaven is a wonderful place to spend eternity, but if we **“reap corruption”** after sowing to the flesh, we could easily miss heaven (2 Peter 2:20,21; Rev. 3:4,5; 15,16).

Therefore, it is important to understand what God is telling us in the written Word. It is important that we learn to hear from the LORD, and not be deceived by another voice in the realm of the spirit. Jesus said in John 10:27, **“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”**

How do we know if we are hearing the voice of the LORD? In 1 John 5:8 it says, **“And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water (Word), and the blood: and these three agree in one.”** If, at anytime what we think is of the LORD does not agree with these three, the voice we hear is not that of the LORD. Whatsoever we hear, must agree with all three of these witnesses, otherwise it is not the LORD.

Let us not be deceived by the voice of another. There is only one LORD Jesus Christ. There is only one God the Father. There is only one Holy Spirit. These three are one (1 John 5:7). When we are hearing voices and think they are the LORD, we must check carefully with the inspired written Word first, before we go about telling someone else that we heard from God.

We must be very careful not to follow the teachings of men, who teach things that do not agree with the written Word of God from Genesis through Revelation.

We need to examine the teachings today, to know if it is from the LORD, or from another source. Jesus said in Matthew 7:13, **“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.”** By Jesus’ own words, many will follow the broad and wide way that leads to destruction. Following on in Matthew 7:14, Jesus said, **“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”** Eternity is a long time to spend in the wrong place. Yet, according to the Scriptures, many will be deceived in these last days.

If Christians are serious about eternity in heaven, they should also be serious about whom they follow. Are they following the leading of the Holy Spirit, or another spirit? Are the teachings of men more important than what the Scriptures say?

Our eternal life is dependent upon our knowing the Truth and walking in the Truth based upon: (1). The written Word of God. (2). The witness of the Holy Spirit. (3). The blood of Jesus. According to 1 John 5:8, these three must agree. If any of these three do not agree, it is not from God.

The Scriptures tell us that many false teachers will come in these last days, following other spirits, presenting themselves as angels of light. In 2 Corinthians 11:13,14, it says, **“For such are**

false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ...And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.” Some call themselves **“apostles of Christ,”** yet what they teach does not agree with the inspired written Word of God.

You can be certain, if what they are teaching does not agree with the inspired written Word of God, there is another spirit in operation. They did not receive their information from the Holy Spirit.

What the serpent said to Eve did not agree with what the LORD God said to Adam in Genesis 2:17. Eve listened to the serpent and we all know what happened to Eve. Then Eve spoke to Adam and he ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil also. We all know what happened to Adam.

What do you think will happen to us if we listen to those who teach things that do not agree with the inspired written Word of God? Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, **“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other...”** Romans 6:16 says, **“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”**

Just because someone has obtained a high position among others, that does not mean they are always hearing from the LORD. The way to know if they are hearing from the LORD is if what they say agrees with the witness of the Holy Spirit, the inspired written Word of God, and the Blood of Jesus.

If someone is teaching something that does not agree with the inspired written Word, that does not always mean they are a false prophet or false apostle. Usually, they are teaching what they heard someone else teach.

There are things to keep in mind when it comes to someone teaching things that do not agree with the inspired written Word. One thing is that they did not receive their information from the Holy Spirit, who is sent by the LORD to be our Helper, Guide, Comforter, Leader, and Teacher.

The first thing of importance is that we are to be **“taught by God,”** which is the Holy Spirit (John 6:45; 1 John 2:27). The second thing of importance is that we do not teach things which are not from God. In doing so, we could be held accountable for the things we teach. To teach something we heard someone else teach that is not true, makes us just as guilty as the one who taught it first.

In 2 Corinthians 4:3,4 it tells us, **“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost...In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”**

How does Satan blind the minds of those who do not believe the truth? First Satan sends someone whom they will listen to. Usually someone they recognize as important. Satan uses that person to teach things that do not agree with the inspired written Word of God. When Christians believe what they are taught that does not agree with the inspired written Word, it blinds their minds to the Truth. They believe a lie instead of believing the truth. Just like the serpent deceived Eve. The serpent added a statement that was not true and Eve believed what the serpent said.

To understand any subject in the Scriptures, it is good to go back to the first time the subject is mentioned then continue searching from that point. Look what happened in the garden of Eden.

First the LORD God said to man, **“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”** (Gen. 2:17).

Evidently, Eve had knowledge of what the LORD God said to Adam.

To blind Eve's mind, the Devil used a serpent to talk to Eve. Evidently, Eve listened to the serpent. Once Eve listened to the serpent, the serpent convinced Eve to believe that what the LORD God told Adam was not true.

Being that Eve listened to the serpent, he told Eve things which were not true. Then the Devil used Eve, who was someone that Adam would listen to, to get Adam to eat of the tree also.

Genesis 3:14, says, **“And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.”** The serpent was condemned for telling Eve that which was not true. As a result of what the serpent did, his physical being was changed to that of a serpent (which was not that way before he deceived Eve).

Genesis 3:16 says, **“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”** Eve spoke to Adam, and he did eat. Eve was also in the transgression (1 Tim. 2:14). Eve gave to Adam the fruit and he did eat. Because of what Eve did, a curse came upon women.

Genesis 3:17 says, **“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.”** Adam listened to Eve and then he did eat also (knowing he should not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil).

Everyone who gets involved in teaching things that are not true could be held accountable. There is a price to pay for teaching things that are not true. The price could be very high, much higher than most people think. Jesus said in Matthew 12:36, **“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.”**

The day of judgment comes after we have been given an opportunity to repent and be forgiven. What we repent of will not be held against us on the day of judgment. Therefore, it is important to know the truth, and not teach what we have heard others teach, without first making sure it does agree with the Holy Spirit, the inspired written Word and the Blood of Jesus.

If we repent, we will be forgiven, and our sin of teaching that which is not true will be forgotten and not held against us on the day of judgment. If we do not repent, and continue to teach those things which are not true, we could be held accountable on the day of judgment.

Just because someone says they are an apostle or prophet that does not mean they are telling the truth. Jesus said, **“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect”** (Matt. 24:24).

We must not get caught up in following **“great signs and wonders”** simply because they are supernatural manifestations. We have been given three witnesses to know what is true. If what we see and hear does not agree with all three, we should know there is something wrong.

This is why it is so important that Christians are **“taught by God”** and not by men (John 6:45). Men are liars, but God cannot lie (Num. 23:19; Titus 1:2). Do not follow men. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Know the truth (which is the Word of God—who is Jesus Christ Himself). If we do not know the Word of God, we do not truly know Jesus Christ. If we do not truly know Jesus

Christ, we will easily be deceived by the enemy.

Satan has not changed. He is still the Devil, and still does things the way he always did things. Satan used the serpent to deceive Eve. First the serpent got Eve to question the Word of God. Once Eve started to consider what the serpent said, the serpent then got Eve to believe a lie. Then Satan used Eve to talk to Adam, and Adam believed a lie. When Adam believed a lie, he ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil also.

Spiritual death comes by believing a lie. When someone changes the inspired written Word of God, and teaches things that do not agree with the inspired written Word, we should know that there is another spirit in operation. It is not the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will never teach anything that does not agree with the inspired written Word.

We must be careful, not to judge the person to condemn them. But, we must also “**...believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world**” (1 John 4:1). If we believe the false, we could be deceived just as Adam and Eve.

Adam or Jesus?

The teachings of men have brought many into deception. Many who have not searched the Scriptures for the truth have been deceived by the teachings of men. There are some things of importance in searching the Scriptures that every Christian should know.

First of all, God has given us three witnesses to know the truth. These three are listed in 1 John 5:8, where it says, **“And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water (Word), and the blood: and these three agree in one.”** Everything we believe must agree with these three witnesses that God has given us.

When we know **“the witness of the Holy Spirit”** within us, we will not be deceived by the enemy. When we know **“the inspired Word of God,”** we will not be deceived. When we know and understand **“the Blood of Jesus,”** we will not be deceived.

Before Jesus went out to minister the Word of God, He spent many years studying the written Word. At the age of twelve, Luke 2:46 says, **“And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.”** This is very important for Christians today. Without knowing and understanding the inspired written Word of God, we will easily be deceived by the enemy.

Before Jesus went out to do the work of the ministry, He waited until He received the Holy Spirit. In Matthew 3:16,17 it says, **“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him...And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”**

Following His baptism in the Holy Spirit Matthew 4:1 says, **“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.”** By the time Jesus was led of the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil, He knew the written Word, and He had the witness of the Holy Spirit within Him.

Knowing the written Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit, Jesus withstood every temptation of the Devil. Jesus used the written Word to defeat the Devil every time the Devil tempted Him.

Christians need to know the inspired written Word, the leading of the Holy Spirit and the truth concerning the Blood of Jesus. Christians need to defeat the Devil every time he comes to us with the teachings of men, that do not agree with the witness of the Holy Spirit, the inspired written Word, and the Blood of Jesus.

One thing Jesus knew was that **“the Devil was a liar.”** When Jesus heard the voice of the Devil speaking to Him, He knew it was not the voice of God. This is very important for Christians today. If we have the witness of the Holy Spirit within us, when the Devil speaks through another person we will get a witness in our spirit, knowing it is not of God. When we know the inspired written Word, the Holy Spirit will bring our attention to the Word of God. We must know the difference between the voice of God and the voice of another.

Some teach that **“the Devil got Adam’s dominion and became the god of this world.”** The Devil could not get Adam’s dominion from him. There are many verses in the Scriptures that prove that the Devil could not get Adam’s dominion from him. From this teaching many other teachings have come that do not agree with the inspired written Word of God.

Some have read in Luke 4:5,6, where it says, **“And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time...And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.”** What does the Scripture say concerning *“who is over the kingdoms of this world?”*

If we will search the Scriptures we will find the following. In 2 Kings 19:15, it says, **“And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.”** If what King Hezekiah prayed was correct, then the LORD God was over the kingdoms of the earth at the time that Hezekiah prayed.

In 2 Chronicles 20:6, it says, King Jehoshaphat prayed, **“And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?”** According to King Jehoshaphat, “the LORD God rules over all the kingdoms of the heathen.” Does that sound like the Devil received Adam’s power over all the kingdoms of the earth?

Psalms 103:19 says, **“The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.”** That sure does not sound like the Devil has power over all the kingdoms on this earth.

If we continue with Job 36:7-12, and Daniel 2:37,38 and Daniel 4:17,25,32 in the Old Testament we will find many verses of Scripture that prove that the Devil lied when he spoke to Jesus in Luke 4:5,6. When we go to Romans 13:1, it says, **“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”**

Look at what Jesus said about the Devil in John 8:44, **“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”** Jesus knew the Devil was a liar. Jesus knew how to hear from God, and do only that which agreed with the inspired written Word of God. How many times do Christians need to be told that the LORD always was, and always will be over all the kingdom of the earth?

Why are so many Christians teaching things that do not agree with the written Word of God? Are they truly hearing from the Holy Spirit?

I believe that when Christians teach things that are not truth, they are actually teaching a lie. That is what the serpent did to Eve. The serpent told Eve a lie. Eve believed the lie the serpent told her and we all know what happened to Eve. Eve then spoke to Adam, and Adam believed the lie also, and we all know what happened to Adam.

What will happen to us if we also teach things that are not true according to the inspired written Word of God? There are examples all throughout the Scriptures of what happened to people who believed a lie. Will we continue to believe lies, or will we believe the Truth?

Jesus said, **“...if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch”** (Matt. 15:14). Jesus also said, **“...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed...And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”** (John 8:31,32). It is very important that we continue in the Words of Jesus, and know the truth, so that the Truth can set us free.

Seeing what happened to Adam and Eve, and then seeing what the Scriptures tell us

concerning the Truth, I believe we should know the Truth and live our lives according to the Gospel that Jesus and the disciples taught. These disciples were taught the truth by Jesus Himself (Who is the Truth that can set us free of all the false teachings of the enemy). The Apostle Paul was also taught the Gospel by the LORD Himself, after that Paul was converted on his way to Damascus (Acts 9:1-6; Gal. 1:11,12).

I believe Christians should “Search the Scriptures and Study the Scriptures” that they know the Truth (John 5:39; 2 Tim. 2:15). We need to live according to the Truth, and obtain unto the resurrection of the dead. We should desire above all, to walk in the truth and live in eternity in heaven with God forever.

Some false teachings include that Adam “*was created spiritual,*” and died spiritually when he ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This teaching is based upon an error in translations from the Greek to the English. It is also based upon the reasoning of the minds of those who teach this. In 2 Corinthians 10:5, it tells us we should cast down all reasoning and anything that does not agree with the knowledge of God (which is revealed in the Scriptures).

In the King James Version of the Bible, in John 4:24 it says, “**God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**” The New King James Version and many of the newer translations have corrected the error in this verse. In the New King James Version it says, “**God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**” What many have taught from this verse is an example of the reasoning minds of men. This verse has nothing to do with how God created Adam in the beginning. This verse is speaking to us of how that we are to worship God “**in spirit and in truth,**” not like the Pharisees and Levites at the time of Jesus. The Pharisees and Levites were teaching their version of the Law of Moses, and were not teaching the Love of God and the Gospel that Jesus came teaching. The Pharisees and Levites were putting people in bondage, rather than setting them free of the bondage they were already in (Luke 4:18,19).

Men, reasoning with their natural minds have taught that if “God is a Spirit,” and God created man in His own likeness and image, then when God created Adam, He created man as a spirit being, with at soul and a body. Then, when Adam ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, he died spiritually and became as the Devil.

Some have gone so far with this reasoning of the mind teaching that they have taught that man was a spirit in God’s class of beings. When Adam committed high treason, he became a partaker of Satan’s nature. They teach that “Adam was actually born again,” and he became a partaker of “a new Satanic creation.” Because he was a spirit being, it was his spirit that partook of Satan’s nature.

This kind of teaching is the result of men, reasoning with their minds to try and understand spiritual things. Some have gone so far with reasoning that they have found in Luke 3:38, in the King James Version of the Bible, where it says, “**Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.**” Seeing this in the English Versions of the Bible they have gone so far as to teach that Adam was spiritual, just as Jesus was spiritual. Some teach that Adam and Jesus “were both sons of God.” Adam failed, but Jesus did not fail. That is not what it says in the inspired written Word of God.

There is great error made when Spirit-filled Christians try to teach spiritual things from their mind and do not get their information from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit did not inspire the writing of the King James Version of the Bible. Men, have taken the Hebrew and Greek, and

translated it into English “according to their own understanding.” In doing so, they have created many errors in translations, which over a period of time multiply and multiply, until Spirit-filled Christians teach the doctrines of men, and not the true doctrines of God. They actually become “blind leaders of the blind.” Jesus said in Matthew 15:13,14, “**...Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up...Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.**”

God has not set anyone in the Body of Christ “to teach from their natural mind, by reasoning and the wisdom of man.” When the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he wrote, “**And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power...That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**” (1 Cor. 2:4,5). When men teach from their natural mind and human understanding, their teachings do not agree with “**the Gospel of Christ,**” which is the only Gospel that should be preached among Christians today.

Luke 3:38, in the inspired written Word of God (the Greek text) says, “**Which of Enos, which of Seth, which of Adam, which of God.**” There is no place in the inspired written Word of God that it says that Adam was “**the Son of God.**” That is a result of men, translating from the Greek to English by their own reasoning minds. Truthfully, those teaching that doctrine “were not led by the Holy Spirit” to translate from the Greek to English to imply that Adam was a Son of God.

Adam was a created human being in the likeness and image of God. The likeness of God is the way God does things. God speaks His Word and it comes to pass. The dominion of man only operates when the words men speak are God’s Words, inspired by the Holy Spirit. That is the likeness of God that man was created in. The image of God is Love, for God is love (1 John 4:8). When men walk in the love of God, they will walk in the image of God they were created in.

To know and understand the true likeness and image of God that man was created in we should look at Jesus (how He lived, and what He did)? Jesus is the true likeness and image of God that man was created in. In 1 Corinthians 15:49 it says, “**And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.**” This is the true likeness and image of God that we were created to walk and live in.

Satan has blinded the minds of many Spirit-filled Christian to teach things that are not in agreement with the Holy Spirit, the inspired written Word, and the Blood of Jesus (1 John 5:8). The teachings of men make the Word of God of none effect in the lives of many born again Christians.

Those who teach that doctrine lead many into great error. According to the Scriptures, when Adam sinned, he remained a living soul with sin and death resident in him. Romans 5:12 explains this very clearly, saying, “**Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.**” Death “**passed upon all men,**” but death did not overtake man. Death became resident in man, until Jesus Christ came and destroyed death, and the Devil who has the power of death (Heb. 2:6-14).

What does the Scripture say concerning “the creation of Adam?” Was Adam created spiritual? In the King James Version of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 15:45,46 it says, “**And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit...Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.**” Almost every Bible I have seen says the same thing. According to 1 Corinthians 15:45,46, “*Adam was not spiritual.*”

When we hear teachings that do not agree with the written Word of God, we should know that there is another spirit behind what is being taught. That spirit is the same spirit that deceived Eve first, and then worked through Eve to get Adam to sin against God. What happened to Adam and Eve could easily happen to others who listen to words spoken by others that do not agree with the written Word of God.

Some today are teaching that Psalm 8:4-9 is speaking of Adam, how that Adam was **“crowned with glory and honor”** (Psalm 8:5). I cannot find any place in the Scriptures where it says that God crowned Adam with glory and honor. Psalm 8:4-9 is not speaking of Adam. It is speaking of Jesus. Jesus Himself implied that He was **“the Son of Man”** (Matt. 8:20, 9:6, 12:8, etc.). Jesus is also called **“Second Adam”** or **“Second Man”** (1 Cor. 15:45-47).

Some have gone so far with the teaching “that Adam was spiritual,” that they have had visions or dreams of what they thought were angels, or the angel of the LORD appearing to them and explaining how that God created Adam in the beginning and **“crowned him with Glory and honor.”**

We should take notice of what the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 1:8, which says, **“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”** Satan will go to the extremes to teach his lies. We must continue in the inspired written Word, witnessed by the Holy Spirit and the Blood of Jesus.

If anyone truly wants to know the truth concerning Adam and Jesus, they need to study 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 carefully. When we understand what it says in 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, it will be easy to know who is teaching the truth, and who is teaching the doctrines of men.

The teachings of men make the Word of God of none-effect in the minds of many born again Christians. The more Christians follow the teachings of men, the more their eyes will be blinded by the god of this world. Satan uses those whom others think are someone great in the Body of Christ to blind the minds of those who do not know the truth. As this blindness continues they will (in the end), reject the truth that could keep them from being deceived by those the Devil uses to teach his doctrines.

The blinding of the minds of Christians does not usually come quickly. It happens over a period of time. By continually listening to those who teach things that do not agree with the written Word of God, they become blind to the truth that is written in the Word of God. They become so blind that they cannot see. Jesus explained all of this in Mark 4:13-20. When we hear the truth of the written Word of God, Satan comes immediately to steal the truth from us. Study what Jesus taught in Mark 4:13-20, that you do not become deceived by the things the Devil uses to deceive many Christians.

Once blindness takes root in the minds of Christians, they become unteachable, and refuse to acknowledge the plain and simple truth that is written in the Word of God. When they continue to refuse to repent of their believing what is not true, God turns them over to a reprobate mind (Rom.1:28-32).

It is sad to see so many Spirit-filled Christians believing lies. They believe these lies so long that they cannot repent and believe the simple truth of the written Word of God. When they cannot believe the plain and simple truth of the written Word of God there is not hope for them.

God has not given us the power to change their minds. God has not given us the power to change their thinking and their thoughts that do not agree with the written Word of God. If they

believe a lie, and they will not believe the truth, their end is according to the written Word of God. We do not have the power to change their thinking, only God has that power.

We are not gods, as some believe they are. We are Children of God, and heirs of God. We belong to God, for He is our Creator, and the beginning of all things. The Creator of heaven and earth will do exactly as He said He will do in the written Word of God. If we do not believe the written Word of God, there is no hope for us.

Satan (who was Lucifer in the beginning tried to be like God, and he failed). Anyone who follows the example of Satan will receive the same as Lucifer received. There is no place in heaven for those who believe a lie, and will not repent.

We have not been called of God to teach things that do not agree with the written Word of God. Those who do are blind and cannot see the truth. Jesus said in Matthew 15:14, **“Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”**

When we hear teachings that do not agree with the inspired written Word of God, we should know that those teachings are of the flesh. Those teachings come from those who think they are called to teach, yet they are not mature in the Word of God. They are still babes and children in the body of Christ. They need to mature, and become Sons of God, not just mere children or babes in Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote of these in 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, saying, **“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ...I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able...For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”**

Where there is **“envying, and strife, and divisions,”** there is a work of the flesh. The flesh desires attention, and demands others to serve them. (This is evidence of Satan working in their minds, and they are following their mind, and not hearing from the Spirit of God within them). James wrote, **“For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work”** (James 3:16).

In these, the love of God is not perfected. They have not given the Holy Spirit time to work in their hearts and minds to bring them into maturity in Christ. Christ has not been fully formed in them. The Apostle Paul spoke of these in Galatians 4:19,20, saying, **“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you...I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.”**

Maturity in Christ is evidenced by the Love of God manifesting in them. The love of God does not walk in envy, strife, and divisions among those who are mature in Christ. Does a child teach a parent, or does the parent teach the child? God does not put those who are not mature in Christ in positions of leadership. We are not told to follow those who are not mature in Christ. They are still walking after the flesh. To walk after the flesh is being carnally minded which leads to death (Rom. 8:5-8).

If we are to keep from being blinded ourselves, we must come out from among those who are blind. God wants to be GOD in our lives, and we should not follow anyone who does not follow the written Word of God.

We should only follow the Truth, and walk in the Truth that is revealed in the written Word of God. When we determine to believe the written Word of God, God will send the Holy Spirit to

help, guide, comfort, lead, and teach us all things.

To follow the Truth, we need to follow Jesus. To follow Jesus we need to know Jesus personally, not just know about Him. We cannot know Jesus personally until we submit our heart, mind, and soul to believing the written Word of God.

It all starts with a desire in our heart to know Jesus. If our desire to know Jesus is only in our mind, we will easily be deceived by the enemy. Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, **“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”** Those who treasure the world and the things of this world will be deceived. We can pray for them, and do what we can, but only God can save them from the works of the enemy.

One thing of importance to understand is that when men teach things concerning Adam that do not agree with what the Scriptures teach from Genesis through Revelation, they are helping the Devil. This should never be done among Christians.

The Devil wants the glory for the sins of man. When we talk about the sins of another, we are helping the Devil receive glory for what He is doing. We should never give glory to the Devil for what He does. The only one we should glorify is God, and the LORD Jesus Christ who is the Head of the Body of Christ.

When Christians glorify the Devil, they are raising up the Devil. We should never raise up the Devil. But we should raise up Jesus. We should raise Jesus up, so that the whole world can be drawn to Jesus.

God has great plans for those who will follow Jesus, and not another spirit. Jesus said, **“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me”** (John 10:27). We need to be hearing the voice of the LORD and not following another spirit.

It is important that Christians learn to hear from the Holy Spirit, and know what the Spirit is revealing to them. There are teachings within the Churches today that do not agree with the Scriptures. This is not good to say the least. We need a better understanding of what is from God and what is not from God.

One of the greatest helps we have in knowing the voice of the LORD is praying in the Spirit. The more we pray in the Spirit the more sensitive we will become to what is of the Spirit and what is not of the Spirit. We do not need to understand everything with our natural mind of the flesh. When the Holy Spirit reveals things to us, it will agree with the written Word and the Blood of Jesus. Anything that does not agree with the written Word and the Blood of Jesus did not come from the Holy Spirit.

I would like to encourage everyone to pray in the Spirit as much as they can, every day. The more we pray in the Spirit the greater revelation we will have of the things that are from God.

The Holy Spirit is our Teacher (John 6:45, 1 John 2:27). The Holy Spirit uses tongues to teach us, and give us understanding. In 28:9-11 it says, **“Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts...For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little...For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.”**

In 1 Corinthians 14:2 it says, **“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.”** In 1 Corinthians 14:4 it says, **“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth**

himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.” In Jude 1:20 it says, **“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.”** The Apostle Paul, who wrote many of the Epistles of the New Testament said, **“I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all.”** (1 Cor. 14:18).

God teaches us “by His Holy Spirit, the inspired written Word, and the Blood of Jesus.” When we stay with the three witnesses God has given us we will discern the things that are not from God.

It is our ability to know “in our spirit” what the LORD is saying to us that makes it possible for us to do the work the LORD called us to. If we stay with the three witnesses that God has given us, we will not be deceived.