



## Christ-Reformation 2014 **21-Day Devotional**

by: Jason Hubbard

### **Day 1 - Prayer of Repentance**

A reformation is the action or process of reforming an institution or practice. It's our desire to see the Church reformed, fully alive to the Supremacy of Christ! In order to see the Church become Christ-saturated, we need to cry out for a Christ-awakening movement throughout the Northwest, where God's Spirit uses God's Word to re-awaken God's people back to God's Son for all that He is! As Paul writes in Philippians 3:8, 10 (Amplified version), "I count everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege (the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme advantage) of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly."

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Sovereign Son of the Father, reigning at His right hand forever and ever. He is the Triumphant Victor over every foe—sin, death and Hades. He is the Glorious Conqueror, the dominating personality for all ages to come! He is the Unequivocal Commander of heaven's hosts! How ready are we to obey His every word?

He is the Indisputable Judge of peoples and nations, to whom all must give an account. He is the Undeniable Ruler of history, overseeing its path and its outcome from beginning to end! He is the Incomparable King of an Empire that will ultimately fill creation with His power and piety.

He is the Irreplaceable Head and Heart of a people whom He has bought with His own blood. He is the Reigning Redeemer of a Church universal, militant and triumphant, sending His salvation to the ends of the earth! He is the Supreme Lord in this moment just as fully as He will be Supreme Lord at the End of Time!

Let's begin this year with a prayer of repentance:

### **"A Prayer Over The Crisis"**

We press into Your heart this day, glorious God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We celebrate all that Your precious Son is-- who He is to us, and for us, over us, and within us, through us, and before us, and upon us.

Before All Heaven we proclaim:

- **Christ is supreme! - He is sovereign, superior, sufficient and totally satisfying!**
- **Christ is our hope! - He is the summation of all Your promises, the source of all Your riches, more and more and more, now and forever!**
- **Christ is our glory! - He is Alpha & Omega, the consummation of all Your purposes, for all creation, for all peoples, for all the Ages to come! In Him our life is hidden with You, until the hour He returns in the final triumphs of grace and truth.**
- **Christ is among us! - He is accessible to us now, in all of His riches. He stands with us now, willing, able and ready to act for us, in us, and thought us to magnify ALL that He is, before us and before all nations.**

(SELAH: Pause for silent reflection)

Therefore, we REPENT -- individually and on behalf of all Your people:

- **We repent... for how we have diminished Your Son, regarding Him more as our mascot than our Monarch.**
- **We repent ... for how we have manipulated Your Son, coming to Him to use Him as far as we think we need Him - that far and no more.**
- **We repent... for how we have hoarded Your Son, seeking His blessings for ourselves, with little thought about brining those blessing to others. We have assumed that He was there only for us. We have acted as if He was not Lord of neighbors and nations.**
- **We repent... for how we have resisted Your Son, withholding our affections from Him because we were afraid of what it would cost us to draw near to Him - and thus we have denied**

**His lordship over all.**

- **We repent... for how we have replaced Your Son...with creeds, programs, organizations and causes performed in His names - but without the consuming passion He deserves as the Center and Circumference of everything for us and all peoples everywhere.**

(SELAH: Pause for silent reflection)

Confront our crisis of supremacy. O Lamb of God. Cast out our crisis of supremacy. O Lamb of God. Cure our crisis of supremacy. O Lamb of God. Forgive us! Cleanse us! Purify us! Resurrect us! Re-convert us! Restore us! Refill us! Re-commission us! By Your blood. By Your mercy. O Lamb of God. O Lamb of God.

We are ready - ready!... to revolutionize mind and action with new hope in the promises of Your Word... ready!... to embrace the full extent of Christ's glorious reign for us and all peoples ...ready! ... to walk with Him in passionate obedience.. ready! ... to be wrapped up in Him and His global cause... ready! ... for this... and nothing less! Together in hope, with brokenness mixed with great joy - O God of our salvation, we cry out for all to hear: "Lord Jesus, Come and conquer us! Lord Jesus, Come and conquer us!"

(SELAH: Pause for silent reflection)

Holy Father, in this decisive moment, by Your Spirit, we adore Your Son using the words of Saint Augustine:

"Redeemer of the ends of the earth: You Called, You cried, You shattered our deafness, You sparkled, You burned, You drove away our blindness. You shed Your fragrance, and we drew in our breath. Therefore, from now on, we will pant for YOU alone."

To that end, Father, awaken us--awaken us to see All that the Lord Jesus Christ is: to see who He is as the Son of God ... to see where He is leading in the Purposes of God... to see how He imparts the Resources of God ... and to see what He must receive from the People of God. Quicken us to pursue Your magnificent promises which are wonderfully defined by His supremacy! Help us recover ALL the hope we are meant to have in our Sovereign Savior. Do this for the revelation of Your glory in Him, throughout this nation--and among all the nations--beginning in this hour and in this place. Hallelujah! AMEN! Amen! It shall be done! It shall be done.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Note: This document has been heavily influenced by the writings, messages and presentations of David Bryant. I heartedly recommend for further inspiration and study David Byrant's book "Christ is All" and his websites, [www.proclaimhope.com](http://www.proclaimhope.com) and [www.theChristinstitues.com](http://www.theChristinstitues.com).

## **Day 2 - A greater vision of Christ**

Steve Jobs the architect of Apple used to tell people, "People don't know what they want until you show them." He built his entire career on this simple equation and it worked. The same is true for the Church. According to David Bryant, "Christians don't know how much their hearts truly long for more of God's Son - until you show them how much of His spectacular supremacy they have not yet seen."

What you believe about GOD'S SON is the single most important thing anyone could ever know about YOU. As Jesus approached Peter, He asked the question, "Who do you say I am?" If you were given 3 minutes to describe who the Lord Jesus is right now, could you fill the time? Let's ask the Lord to show us more of the Glory of Christ this year! We want to experience greater intimacy with Christ by exploring the spectacular supremacy of Christ. As Colossians 1:15-18 says, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be have the supremacy [be preeminent]."

Notice that the Scripture says in Ephesians 4:9-10, "He ascended." This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that He might fill the entire universe with Himself ...with His supremacy...with His sovereignty...with His majesty...and with His activity! Let's ask the Father of Glory to reveal more of His Son to us this year by praying Eph 1:17-19, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might."

## **Day 3 - The Supremacy of Christ**

As Bishop NT Wright says, "Part of the difficulty is that Jesus was and is much, much more than people imagine. Not just people in general, but practicing Christians, the churches themselves...The Jesus we might discover if we really looked, is larger, more disturbing, more urgent than we (the Church) have ever imagined! We have successfully managed to avoid the huge, world-shaking challenge of Jesus' central claim and achievement. It is we, the churches, who have reduced the Kingdom of God to private piety, the victory of the cross to comfort for the conscience, and Easter itself to a happy, escapist ending after a sad, dark tale. We're looking for a builder to construct the home we thought we wanted, but He is the architect, coming with a new plan that will give us everything we need, but within quite a new framework as the King. He has come to redefine Kingship itself around His own work, His own mission, His own fate...We want a "religious" leader, not a King! We want someone to save our souls, not rule our world! What we want is someone to implement the policies we already embrace...But if Christians don't get Jesus right, what chance is there that other people will bother much with Him..."

Christ reigns supreme right now! We often talk about the centrality of Christ. The centrality of Christ expresses His right to be kept at the center of who we

are, where we are headed, what we are doing and how we are blessed. However, The SUPREMACY of Christ expresses so much more. It is all about His right to keep us at the center of who HE is, where HE is headed, what HE is doing and how He is blessed.

Consequently God is moving everything, everywhere, Christ-ward! God loves His Son and has a wonderful plan for Him, to sum up everything under His feet as Lord, things in Heaven and things on earth....and He loves you and me enough to give us a place in it! Christ is reigning NOW! What He will be Lord of ultimately He is Lord of right now. All the majesty He will ultimately display is the majesty that is His right now. All the promises He will one day fulfill are His inheritance right now. All the purposes of God He will one day bring to consummation are summed up in Him right now. As Colossians 1:19-20 writes, "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross." It's as if the Father was declaring, "My dearly beloved Son, I am totally satisfied with all You have accomplished. It is sufficient for the salvation of the nations. Come now, sit at My right hand and reign over the universe as Your everlasting inheritance."

Therefore...God has anointed - appointed, lifted up, set apart, decreed--His Son to be in the position of highest honor, crowned with the ultimate authority to bring to fulfillment everything He has purposed and promised for all peoples on earth and all ages to come!

#### **Day 4 - Christ is All**

Jesus is the Light-bearing, the out-raying or radiance of God's divine nature. He is God, a very God! As the author of Hebrews states, "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he up holds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs" (Heb. 1:1-3).

Jesus calls us in our personal discipleship, to follow Him in all things and all ways, growing in daily cooperation with His perfect leadership. The first commandment must take first place in our lives, loving God with everything in our being. Love for Jesus must be a supreme love or an above-all love that trumps all other loves. It means that I admire Jesus more than any other human, and I want His approval more than anyone else's. It means that I want to be with Him first in my life. I will choose to trust His words more than anyone else!

It's the Father's dream to see all things summed up in His Son! Gods' preordained plan and purpose is that Christ would have full supremacy or preeminence in all things. Paul declares, "Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth" (Eph. 1:9-10).

As Augustine says, "The one who has Christ has everything. The one who has everything except for Christ really has nothing. And the one who has Christ plus

everything else does not have any more than the one who has Christ Alone."

Christ is the All-Consuming One, the All-Sufficient One, the All-Satisfying One.

As David Bryant writes in his book, "Christ is All," "He defies all human categories; there is no language that can adequately describe Him. He is the incomparable One! He remains in a class by Himself...no duplicates, no clones. His importance eclipses all others. He outranks every other being in Heaven, earth, or hell. He is the exalted One; for all eternity He holds the primary focus of our praises. He holds a position of unrivaled distinction, prestige and majesty. He will be the joy of all peoples, the desire of all nations. He is the Victorious One. None of His enemies will prevail, He will defeat all of His foes unconditionally--both human and demonic and will emerge forever unthreatened, unhindered and victorious over all opposition, permanently and forever. He is the Preeminent and Supreme One...in time and space and history He lays claim to the universe, it all belongs to Him. He is the all-sufficient One. Nothing can exhaust His power or resources. He will forever prove totally adequate for all of our longings, fears, needs or heart cries. He is faithful and true!"

If Christ is the all-deserving One, then we must respond to His call, "Come Follow Me," with our whole lives, our whole hearts and our whole beings! It is God's desire that our lives become increasingly Christ-dominated, Christ-saturated and Christ-exalting to the Glory of God the Father!

It should be the longing of our hearts to see a Christ-awakening erupt in our lives, our homes and churches. We want to see God's Spirit using God's Word to re-introduce the people of God back to God's Son for all that He is! Our prayer each day should be, "Conquer me, Lord Jesus!"

As Evan Roberts, the great revivalist of Wales in 1904 cried out, "Bend Me O God, and save a nation!" As Leonard Ravenhill exhorted us, "The Christian who knows he is crucified with Christ has no ambition and so has nothing to be jealous about; has no reputation and so has nothing to fight about; has no possessions and so has nothing to worry about; has no rights and therefore cannot suffer wrong. He is already dead."

Our hope increases with a greater vision of Christ as Paul declares in Col. 1:26, "Christ in you, the Hope of Glory!" As Christ becomes our treasure, then we will begin to speak about Him to everyone we meet, for out of the overflow of our hearts we speak. As messengers of hope we want to, "Proclaim HIM, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present every one perfect in Christ" (Col. 1:26-27). With burning zeal let's "Connect Christians more fully to the person of Christ by increasing our conversations about the supremacy of Christ." -David Bryant

### **Day 5 - Lamb of Glory**

"And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth" (Rev. 5:6). If the Lamb stands in the center of the throne in heaven, so let Him be the center of the Church on the earth! Jesus still bears the scars and marks from the cross on His glorified body in heaven! He stands as a Lamb as though it had been slain. Charles Spurgeon said that

these wounds are "lustrous with supernatural splendor."<sup>2</sup> These are more than mere scars. They are like medals of Glory, still embedded in His body and announcing the message of His grand sacrifice on the cross!

Right now the seven-fold person of the Holy Spirit, the "lamps of fire" as John describes Him, is illuminating the Lamb of Glory in the center of the throne. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us more and more of the Worthy Lamb! Jesus went from wearing a cruel crown of thorns to wearing a golden crown of Glory, from Robes dipped in blood to a Kingly Robe of Splendor, from a mock scepter in His hand to a scepter of authority, from the insults of men to the worship of angels, from the filth of sin to the beauty of holiness...

See His head and hair, once soaked in blood, now dazzling white as snow...See the One whose eyes stung and dripped blood, tears of sorrow, now Blazing like Fire, like Flames of torches. See the Face, once swollen and raw from patches of His beard torn out. Now His face shines brighter than the Sun in all its brilliance...See His body, once stripped naked, now clothed in Eternal majesty...see His hands pierced, now bleeding in infinite splendor, feet once spiked to a stake of timber, now gleaming like burnished bronze...His side once pierced, and now hear HIM SAY, "This Wound in my Heart is For YOU!"

From victim to Victor, from worm to Warrior, from humiliation to Glorification, from tortured to Triumphant, from degradation to Exaltation, from a lowly bleeding Lamb to a glorified Lion-Lamb!

Christ is the One from Whom Glory flows! Glory flows from Him, and through Him, and back to Him! He's the Central Son in the universe, He's the Dazzling One, He's the Outstanding One, He's the Chandelier of Heaven, He's the Well Spring of Eternity, He's the Fountain head of Glory, He's the Worthy Lamb of all Glory!

### **Day 6 - Glory**

God's greatest passion is to manifest His Glory! The word glory means "brightness" or "weightiness." In the most simple terms, glory is "what makes God, God." It is the God-ness of God, or the very essence of His being. We can think of it in terms of God's manifold perfections or infinite moral excellencies. If we were to consider all of the attributes or characteristics of who God is, and put them together into one glorious whole, we would declare, "Glory!" When the otherness of God, His holiness, blazes forth, the Bible calls this the "glory of God!" When the otherness of God goes public, we say "Glory!" It's the beauty of God unveiled, or God's "Revealed Excellence!"

I am convinced that the greatest display of the glory of God in all of human history is the cross of Christ, the very culmination of the attributes of God put on display, blazing forth throughout all eternity! Just before the cross, Jesus is praying in John 12: 27-28, "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name."

This hour that Jesus is referring to is the hour of the cross, when Jesus would bring great glory to the Father. It would be an hour when Jesus would show forth, advertise,

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<sup>2</sup> Charles Spurgeon, *Mourning at the Sight of the Crucified*, 190.

and reveal His Father like never before! Jesus came to glorify the Father's name, making much of His renown, his fame and His reputation! This was the moment when the goodness of God passed before humanity.

Exodus 34:6-7 says, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation" (Ex. 34:6-7).

John Piper writes, "The Cross is the blazing center of the glory of God! The cross is the apex, the climax and culmination of all the attributes of God coming together in one moment! God sets a scenario where His loving compassion, His unrelenting mercy, His justice and His righteous indignation against sin meet head on! It was a deafening moment as the full display of God's passions raged forth. Six grueling hours on a cruel cross where His consummate splendor broke forth, shattered demonic strongholds, set men free, destroyed sin and forgave weak and broken sinners.

If God's greatest passion is to manifest His Glory then our greatest need is to Behold Glory, or to gaze upon Glory. As Paul says, "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another" (2 Cor. 3:18).

This must be our constant remembrance, to do this one thing: to stare and marvel at the ever-increasing, ever-flowing, ever-expanding revelation of the glory of God in the face of Christ. It is essential for us to "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." As Jesus was presented with a purple robe, we hear Pilate's prophetic words striking our hearts, "Behold the Man" (John 19:5). As we behold the glory of God in the face of Christ, and remember all that He did on our behalf, we become like Him. That's why Jesus commanded us at the Last Supper to, "Do this in remembrance of me." There is no reality more breathtaking than Jesus Christ! This is our great and glorious duty to delight in Jesus Christ and Him crucified. It is our privilege to do what David Bryant calls, "see and savor" His stunning glory unveiled to us at the cross, relishing in the excellencies of Christ, and feasting on all that He is to us and has done for us!

### **Day 7 - God's delight in His Son**

John Piper writes, "God's delight in the Son is delight in Himself. The original, the primal, the deepest, the foundational joy of God is the joy He has in His own perfections as He sees them reflected in the glory of His Son. Paul speaks of 'The glory of God in the face of Christ.' From all eternity God had beheld the panorama of His own perfections in the face of His Son. All that He is He sees reflected fully and perfectly in the countenance of His Son. And in this He rejoices with infinite joy."

In the fullness of time at the wisest point of human history, God overflowed and revealed fully to the human race His delight of delights, His Worthy Son. He unveiled unparalleled splendor, unimaginable brightness. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. The Eternal Son became Jesus of Nazareth. What the Father so enjoys now we too can enjoy. The supreme object of the Father's gaze throughout all eternity now becomes our object... We beheld His glory, the glory of the One and Only!

God went to piercing depths to clarify Himself. Revelation took on human flesh and subjected Himself to man's rejection and God's wrath... His depths must be seen! His excellencies must be displayed! They are the content of pleasures forevermore, of joy unspeakable!

The created universe is all about Glory...the deepest meaning of heaven and earth are summed up in this: the glory of God! The universe was made to show it, and we were made to see it and savor it...nothing less will do! This is why the world is so disordered and dysfunctional as it is, "We exchanged the glory of God for created things" (Rom. 1:23).

The deepest longing of the human heart is to know and enjoy the glory of God. We were made for this. As the prophet Isaiah says, "Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth...whom I created for MY GLORY, says the Lord" (Isa. 43:7). We were made to see it to savor it! To show it--that is why we exist...the untracked, unimaginable stretches of the created universe are a parable about the "Inexhaustible Riches of His Glory."

The sun of God's glory was made to shine at the center of the solar system of our soul. And when it does, all the planets of our life are held in their proper orbit. But when the sun is displaced, everything flies apart. The healing of the soul begins by restoring the glory of God to its flaming, all attracting place at the center! We are starved for the glory of God! And the best way to gaze on glory is to gaze on the glories and the excellencies of the Son of God!

### **Day 8 - Humility of Christ**

The concept of a humble God is unique to our faith. The one character trait Jesus proclaimed about Himself was His humility (lowliness of heart). His love and humility are twin virtues that are expressed together. He called His disciples to learn humility from Him. "Take My yoke...learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart [humble]..." (Mt. 11:29).

In John 13, God showed us who He is in His core identity when Jesus took off His robe and girded Himself with a towel and knelt before sinful men to wash their dirty feet (Jn. 13). The world religions seek "gods of power," but Jesus revealed the "kneeling God." We can only understand the truth about God as we see Him "kneeling as a servant" before His broken people. "He...began to wash the disciples' feet...7 Jesus answered and said to him, 'What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this'" (Jn. 13:5-7).

God's humility is so foreign to our minds because our nature is so different from God's nature. Jesus told Peter that he would not understand what Jesus was doing until later (Jn. 13:7). God's humility is based on His greatness. He is so kind because of His great love and power. Understanding God's humility produces admiration with gratitude, confidence and inspiration. It causes us to trust His leadership. We have confidence to relate to Him because He is so easy to relate to. We are inspired to embrace humility in a deeper way and with more consistency.

Jesus is the premier expression of God's humility on the earth. His greatest expression

of humility was in becoming a man and dying on the cross. This gives us insight into how He carries His heart and what kind of personality He has. "Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:6-8).

Jesus emptied Himself of His reputation in the eyes of man (v. 7). He did not insist on being honored, understood, or viewed rightly. He embraced a life in which everyone underestimated Him and His abilities. People never knew how superior His abilities were. When they saw Him, they saw nothing to distinguish Him. He was content to be seen as an ordinary man without any special form (status) or comeliness (attractiveness) and without seeking esteem. "He has no form or comeliness...there is no beauty that we should desire Him" (Isa. 53:2).

Consider the analogy of being the wealthiest person on earth with billions of dollars, without ever mentioning it or using it for yourself. We would naturally want a few people to know about it because it would change the way they related to us. Jesus related to people as a humble servant instead of as a powerful and influential man who was very rich. Jesus expressed the glory of the Father in His weak humanity. He didn't lose His identity as God by becoming a servant in human form, but He expressed the truth about the nature of God.

The revelation of His glory includes seeing One so high (transcendence) who went so low (immanence) to bring us so near (redemption) because we are so dear (Bride). The Most High God went so low out of His great desire for partnership with us. The very fact that God loves us and so zealously wants our love expresses His deep humility. "Father, I desire that they also whom you gave me may be with me where I am" (Jn. 17:24).

He already possessed great riches and all authority before the incarnation, but He did not have us with Him (Jn. 17:24). He was rich but became poor, that we might become rich with Him. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

If Jesus' core identity had been in showing His power, then His incarnation would have been a denial of His true self. He did not serve to prove anything, but to express the truth about Himself. It is precisely because Jesus is God that He served and gave freely to ungrateful men (Lk. 6:35). There was nothing un-Godlike about washing the disciples' feet. He was at home doing this.

Jesus is not out to just prove how powerful He is, but to win our hearts for love. He did not come as the God of jasper-like glory (Rev. 4:3), but as a Man who expressed it through the mystery of humility. He wants more than just to dazzle us with His greatness, He wants relationship with us. He can amaze us with a show of power, but cannot have relationship with us without humility. A servant is the greatest of all in terms of virtue, position of authority and intimacy with God. "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant" (Mt. 23:11).

## **Day 9 - He Is!**

In Genesis He is the Creator.  
In Exodus He is the Deliverer.  
In Leviticus He is the Sacrifice.  
In Numbers He is the Sanctuary.  
In Deuteronomy He is the Word.  
In Joshua He is the Victory.  
In Judges He is the Judge.  
In First and Second Samuel He is the Anointed One.  
In First and Second Kings He is the Coming King David.  
In First and Second Chronicles He is the Temple.  
In Ezra He is the Restoration.  
In Nehemiah He is the Wall.  
In Esther He is the Unseen but Guiding Hand.  
In Job He is the Sanctifier.  
In Psalms He is our Song.  
In Proverbs He is Wisdom.  
In Ecclesiastes He is the Preacher.  
In Song of Solomon He is the Groom.  
In Isaiah He is the Virgin-Born Son.  
In Jeremiah He is the Balm of Gilead.  
In Lamentations He is the Sorrowing Savior.  
In Ezekiel He is "One like a Son of Man."  
In Daniel He is the Fourth Man in the fiery furnace.  
In Hosea He is the Altar Call.  
In Joel He is the Promise of the Holy Spirit.  
In Amos He is Judgment.  
In Obadiah He is Vengeance.  
In Jonah He is the Presence of the Lord.  
In Micah He is the Ruler in Israel.  
In Nahum He is the Holiness of God.  
In Habakkuk He is the Vision.  
In Zephaniah He is the Day of the Lord.  
In Haggai He is the Lord of Hosts.  
In Zechariah He is Holiness unto the Lord.  
In Malachi He is the Son of Righteousness Who Arises with Healing in His Wings.  
In Matthew He is the King.  
In Mark He is the Servant.  
In Luke He is the Man.  
In John He is the Son of God.  
In Acts He is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit.  
In Romans He is Justification by Faith.  
In First Corinthians He is the Resurrection.  
In Second Corinthians He is the Ministry of Reconciliation.  
In Galatians He is Faith.  
In Ephesians He is the One Who is Seated at the Father's Right Hand.  
In Philippians He is the Exalted One.  
In Colossians He is the Head of the Church.  
In First Thessalonians He is the Rapture.  
In Second Thessalonians He is Victor Over the Man of Sin.  
In First Timothy He is Sound Doctrine.  
In Second Timothy He is Power, Love and a Sound Mind.

In Titus He is the Pastor.  
In Philemon He is the Saviour of Slaves.  
In Hebrews He is a Better Covenant.  
In James He is the Healer.  
In First Peter He is Redemption.  
In Second Peter He is All Things that Pertain to Life and Godliness.  
In First John He is Love.  
In Second John He is Love.  
In Third John He is Love.  
In Jude He is the Common Salvation.  
In Revelation He is "The Worthy Lamb."

Jesus Christ is All in All; He is Our Everything!

### **Day 10 - That's My King - Dr. SM Lockridge**

“The Bible says He's the King of the Jews, He's the King of Israel, He's the King of Righteousness.

He's the King of the Ages, He's the King of Heaven, He's the King of Glory, He's the King of Kings.

And He is the Lord of Lords, Now that's my King! David says ‘The Heavens declare the glory of God.’

And the firmament showeth His handiwork. No means of measure can define His limitless love.

No far-seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline of His shoreless supply.

No barriers can hinder Him from pouring out His blessing. He's enduringly strong, He's entirely sincere, He's eternally steadfast, He's immortally graceful, He's imperially powerful, He's impartially merciful.

That's my King!

He's God's Son, He's the sinners' Saviour, He's the centrepiece of civilization, He stands alone in Himself, He's august, He's unique, He's unparalleled, He's unprecedented, He's supreme He's pre-eminent, He's the loftiest idea in literature, He's the highest personality in philosophy He's the supreme problem in higher criticism, He's the fundamental doctrine in true theology He's the cardinal necessity of spiritual religion,

**That's my King!**

**He's the miracle of the age, He's the superlative of everything good that you choose to call Him.**

**He's the only one able to supply all of our needs simultaneously, He supplies strength for the weak.**

**He's available for the tempted and the tried, He sympathizes and He saves, He guards and He guides.**

**He heals the sick, He cleansed the lepers, He forgives sinners, He discharges debtors, He delivers the captives, He defends the feeble, He blesses the young, He serves the unfortunate, He regards the aged, He rewards the diligent, And He beautifies the meek.**

Do you know Him?

My King is the key of knowledge, He's the wellspring of wisdom, He's the doorway of deliverance

He's the pathway of peace, He's the roadway of righteousness, He's the highway of holiness

He's the gateway of glory, He's the master of the mighty, He's the captain of the conquerors

He's the head of the heroes, He's the leader of the legislators, He's the overseer of the overcomers

He's the governor of governors, He's the prince of princes, He's the King of Kings

And He's the Lord of Lords,

That's my King...That's my King!

My King, His office is manifold, His promise is sure, His life is matchless, His goodness is limitless

His mercy is everlasting, His love never changes, His word is enough, His grace is sufficient  
His reign is righteous, His yoke is easy, and His burden is light, I wish I could describe Him to you

He's indescribable, He's incomprehensible, He's invincible, He's irresistible

I'm trying to tell you, The heaven of heavens cannot contain Him, Let alone a man explain Him

You can't get Him out of your mind, You can't get Him off of your hands, You can't outlive Him

And you can't live without Him, The Pharisees couldn't stand Him, but they found out they couldn't stop Him, Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him, The witnesses couldn't get their testimonies to agree

And Herod couldn't kill Him, Death couldn't handle Him, And the grave couldn't hold Him

That's my King!

He always has been, And He always will be, I'm talking about, He had no predecessor, and He'll have no successor, There was nobody before Him, and there'll be nobody after Him, You can't impeach Him and He's not going to resign

That's my King!

Praise the Lord, That's my King, Thine is the Kingdom, And the power, And the glory, The glory is all His, Thine is the Kingdom, And the power, And the glory For ever And ever, And ever, And when you get through with all of the forever's...then AMEN!

## **Day 11 - Absolute Surrender, Absolute Delight**

Leviticus 1:3-9 (ESV), "If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD .4 He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him...6 then he shall flay the burnt offering and cut it into pieces... And the priest shall burn all of it on the altar, as a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD."

Jesus became our burnt offering sacrifice. He was without sin, a male without blemish. He offered His all in complete and total surrender to the will of the Father. He became our burnt offering on the cross so that we might become His living sacrifice. To have an obedient heart in total submission to the will of the Father is our highest act of worship. The leadership of Jesus consumes all of us with Holy Fire, so that nothing remains that is not subject to His authority. His jealous love removes everything that hinders His love from increasing in our lives! Jesus sacrificed His all at the cross--His struggle in the garden, His sacrificial life, His obedience unto death! His dedication and unwavering commitment to "set his face like flint" and go to Jerusalem in total

submission to the Father! And Jesus made a voluntary choice of love. Jesus make it clear that no one was able to take His life from Him. Rather, He laid His life down of His own accord! 13

John 10:17-18 (ESV), "For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

The agony of Jesus is revealed in Leviticus 1:6, "And he shall flay (skin) the burnt offering and cut it into pieces." The word "flay" means "to be skinned, to tear or strip away." The scourging Jesus took for us literally laid His flesh open like strips of ribbon off His back. He was skinned for you and me. He was stripped of all His possessions and hung naked on a cross. He was despised and rejected by men, ridiculed, scorned and scolded on our behalf, all in absolute surrender. And, we must realize that at times the Lord will allow our flesh to be flayed in order to expose who we really are. Before all can be given to Him, all must be exposed.

"Lord, I surrender every part of my life to you. I lie before you open and exposed. You have the right to be Lord of every part of my life."

## **Day 12 - Fire of God's Glory**

One of the primary metaphors for the Glory of God in Scripture is Fire. God is an all-consuming fire, a jealous God. His jealousy removes everything that hinders His love from increasing in our lives. His eyes are a flame of fire, consumed with love for His people!

Ezekiel 1:27(ESV), "And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him."

His words are like fire, His feet are like burnished bronze in a furnace. And, His face shines like the sun in all its brilliance. His throne is ablaze with fire, and its wheels are full of fire! A river of fire comes out from before Him! The Holy Spirit is described as the seven blazing torches or lamps of fire! He truly is an all-consuming fire. All that is around Him is set on fire. The seraphim or four living creatures have eyes all around and as they gaze on the Fiery One, they are set ablaze. A seraph literally means, "a burning one."

Several times throughout the Old Testament, the priests would lay before the Lord an offering, and God would consume it with the Glory of His Fire!

Leviticus 9:22-24 (ESV) says, "Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he came down from offering the sin offering and he burnt offering and peace offerings. 23 And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they blessed the people, and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. 24 And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces."

This happened when Solomon was dedicating the temple, "As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. 2 And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD's house. 3 When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, 'For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever'" (2 Chron. 7:1-3).

God often answers by fire! Jesus said, "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!" (Luke 12:49-50). In the garden, as Jesus is gazing intently into the cup of wrath, He understands that He is about to experience the full and eternal wrath of God against your sin and mine. He is about to face the reality of bearing our sins and becoming the object of God's full and furious wrath on our behalf.

He is about to be totally abandoned by His Father...all because of the totality of sin resting upon one man...therefore that Man must be utterly removed from the presence of a Holy God, utterly separated as far as the east is from the west. Breaking forth from the blood-stained lips of our Savior, He uttered in the most terrible words "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me."

As R.C. Sproul writes, "This cry represents the most agonizing protest ever uttered on this planet. It burst forth in a moment of unparalleled pain. It is the scream of the damned for us." Literally, for the first time in history Jesus is ripped from His Father's embrace. Jesus understands the pain of abandonment, and that's why now, he can promise, 'Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you. I was abandoned so you will never have to be abandoned ever again. I heard your cries, when they left you...I hear the cries of this fatherless generation and that's why I came to this earth to be utterly forsaken by my Father, so that you would never have to be forsaken ever again.'" Amen!

Not only was he ripped away from the loving embrace of His Father for you, but He also endured the eternal wrath of the fiery flames of hell on your behalf. What is our penalty for sin? It is eternal separation from God, weeping and gnashing of teeth forever. It is the pain and agony of enduring the fiery flames of hell forever. Jesus experienced the hell that we were supposed to endure for our sin. God took His eternal wrath, condensed it, and emptied it into His cup. He distilled eternal judgment, the very lake of fire, and poured it into His cup, hell's blazing fury, and then asked His Son to drink it. The fiery flames of wrath blazed forth and consumed this burnt offering, this once and for all sacrifice!

It's like the true story of the mother who awakened one night smelling smoke. She shook her husband and raced upstairs to the baby, but a wall of flames drove her back. Outside the neighbors and firemen fought the blaze. But the mother kept hearing the cry of her baby from the upstairs window. Her husband held her back, knowing that there was nothing to do. Finally, she broke from his grip and tore into the house. Covering her face with her hands, she charged up through the wall of flames into her baby's room. Gathering her little one in her arms, she pressed back through the flames.

In a crumpled heap of charred flesh, she fell to the grass outside. And though she was disfigured for life, she had saved her baby....

Just like that story, Jesus heard your cries, he felt your pain, He saw you heading toward the eternal flames of hell...so He LEFT Heaven, charged through the flames of wrath to rescue you...He took your hell and drank your cup on the cross, He swept you into His embrace and brought you through to safety. Though He, too, was disfigured, He still bears the scars and marks on His body to show what He did for you....He took your Hell, so you could have His Heaven!

### **Day 13 -The Blood of Jesus**

God commanded the priests of Israel to sacrifice two offerings daily, one in the morning, at the 3rd hour which was 9:00am and one at the ninth hour of the day which was 3:00pm. Jesus was hung on the cross at the exact time the priests were sacrificing the morning burnt offering. At 3:00pm the Passover Lamb, the Lord Jesus, was slain. Jesus took His last earthly breath! On the Day of Atonement, the high priest would declare after the evening sacrifice, "It is finished!" Jesus our High Priest, roars forth with every ounce left in his physical being, "It is finished!" This statement literally meant, "Paid in full!" Jesus purchased us and brought us into His glorious inheritance! Through the shed blood of the Lamb, we now have these precious promises that are "Yes and Amen" in Christ!

#### **We have protection under the covering of the blood.**

Exodus 12:13 (ESV), "The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt."

#### **We have salvation, forgiveness, and redemption in the blood.**

Hebrews 9:22 (ESV), "Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."

Matthew 26:28 (ESV), "For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Ephesians 1:7 (NIV), "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

#### **There is life, healing, and provision in the blood.**

Isaiah 53:5 (NIV), "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Psalms 105:37 (NKJV), "He also brought them out with silver and gold, And *there was* none feeble (sick) among His tribes."

#### **There is cleansing in the blood.**

1 John 1:7 (NKJV), "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

#### **There is justification in the blood of Jesus.**

Romans 5:9 (NKJV), "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

#### **There is sanctification in the blood of Jesus.**

Hebrews 13:12 (NKJV), "Therefore Jesus also, that He might

sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate."

**There is peace under the covering of the blood.**

Colossians 1:19-20 (NKJV), "For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross."

**There is washing in the blood.**

Revelation 1:5 (NKJV), "And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,"

**There is overcoming in the power of the blood of the Lamb.**

Revelation 12:11 (NKJV), "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."

**There is accessibility in the blood, allowing us into the presence of God.**

Hebrews 10:19 (NKJV), " Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,"

**Let's Declare by Faith these glorious promises today:**

*Today I testify personally to what the Blood of Jesus does for me.*

*Through the Blood of Jesus I am redeemed out of the hand of the devil.*

*Through the Blood of Jesus all my sins are forgiven.*

*Through the Blood of Jesus I am justified, made righteous, just as if I had never sinned.*

*Through the Blood of Jesus I am sanctified, made holy, set apart to God. My body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, redeemed, cleansed, justified and sanctified.*

*Through the Blood of Jesus every curse for disobedience is broken.*

*Through the Blood of Jesus every blessing of obedience is mine!*

*Through the Blood of Jesus the way to perpetual communion with the Father has been opened and no man can shut it.*

*Through the Blood of Jesus I am heir and possessor of all the riches of my Father's eternal Kingdom.*

*The Blood of Jesus speaks for me today from the mercy seat of God's throne in Heaven.*

*Therefore, the devil has no place in me, no power over me, no unsettled claims against me.*

*The song of the Lamb surrounds me today with eternal victory and joy.*

*I overcome the world, the flesh and the devil through the Blood of Jesus!*

**Day 14: Christ' Intimacy Within the Trinity**

We need to wake up to a vision of Christ and the full extent of his spectacular supremacy to us through His intimacy within the Trinity. The Trinity is one God who eternally exists as three distinct persons--Father, Son, and Spirit--who are each fully and equally God in eternal relation with each other. At the center of the universe is a relationship. The God of the Bible is Himself eternally relational. God is love. He is the definition, example and source of love. It takes three persons to love, to give, to respond and to share. Trinity is God's way of being God. Each is in the other, and for the other! God is one, but He is not "alone." The main thing the Father and the Son do with and for one another is "glorify" or "give glory" to one another. This is mentioned in John 17:1, 4, 5, 22 and 24. This is what God was "doing" in the infinite, beginning-less eternity before the creation of time, history and the world. John 16:14

indicates that the Spirit also participated in this "mutual glorification." The reason that the Father glorifies the Son is because the Father loves the Son (John 17:24, 26). Love naturally leads to adoration and praise. Thus, it is natural when you love and value any object, to affirm and extol its strengths, excellence and beauties. This kind of expression is intrinsic to the love and joy you have in the person or the thing. We all know something of this in personal relationships as well. Two lovers delight in admiring and affirming what is great and excellent in the other. And the greatest joy is not to *seek* admiration but only to *give* it--and then to find that we receive it freely in return.

God as a Trinity means that personality, relationship and mutual self-giving are at the core of the universe. *So...*if we want to fully understand who Christ is and what He's all about, we need to know more about Him in His intimacy within the Trinity. It means that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are inseparable, and operate inseparably. The Father gives over everything to exalt the Son, the Son offers back everything He redeems to glorify the Father, with the love of each established and sealed and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

"Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven-fold Spirit before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth To him [Jesus Christ] who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father--to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen" (Rev. 1:4-6).

I Peter 1:1, "You have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood"

Every promise of Scripture is by nature eternally Trinitarian: Designed by the Father, quickened by the Spirit, focused on the Son. That means, the Father is the *source* of all our hope, the Son is the *theme* of all our hope and the Spirit is the *witness and fulfiller* of all our hope. Therefore, wherever Jesus' reign breaks through, right now, the whole Trinity is on display. Nothing about the Son robs the Father or the Spirit of equal praise; He only increases it. Christ's communion with the Father is the true center of His personality. Without understanding that, we cannot understand Him at all. Jesus' whole being was and is defined by His relationship to His Father. Jesus said:

"I and the Father are one. He who sees me sees the Father." Again and again in the New Testament, God wants to be *known* as "the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ." There is only one person in the entire universe of whom God the Father has ever said without qualifications: "With *you* I am well pleased." The Father holds dear Jesus crucified. He celebrates Jesus glorified. Christ is the focus of everything the Father deserves, desires, designs and declares. The Father is so passionate for His Son that He has decreed that in *everything* Jesus is to have the primacy and the supremacy. Should we not be as passionate for the Son as His Father is?

### **Day 15 -The Claims of His Name**

"For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be

offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 1:11).

"Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name" (Hebrews 13:15).

The name of the Lord speaks of His reputation, or His renown. It reveals who God is and what God is like. The name of the Lord is to be treated as infinitely valuable on earth as it is in heaven. The Father has given His Son the name above all names! All things are to be for the spread of His Fame, for the Extension of His Reign, for the Increase of His Gain, and for the Honor of His Claim, of that which rightfully belongs to Him. His name must be treasured, prized and honored with unceasing adoration! May His name be revealed! May His name be revered!

His name shall be called...

Supreme (Col 1:18), Jesus (Matt. 1:21), Messiah (John 4:25), Immanuel (Matt 1:23), Radiance of God's Glory (Hebrews 1:3), Image of the Invisible God (Col. 1:15), Son of the Living God (Matt. 16:16), Firstborn of all Creation (Col 1:15), Firstborn from Among the Dead (Rev. 1:5), Alpha and Omega (Rev. 21:6), The First and the Last (Rev 1:17), The Beginning and the End (Rev. 22:13), The Beloved One (Matt. 3:17), The Chosen One (Luke 9:35), The Anointed One (Psalm 132:10), Faithful and True Witness (Revelation 3:14), King of the Jews (Mark 15:2), Head of the Church (Col. 1:18), Ruler of the Kings of the Earth (Rev. 1:5), Judge of ALL (Heb 12:23), Redeemer (Isa 43:14), Lamb of God (John 1:29), Son of Man (John 8:28), Word of God (John 1:1), Bread of Life (John 6), Good Shepherd (John 10), Advocate before the Father (I John 2:1), The Amen (Rev, 3:14), The New and Living Way, (Heb. 10:20), The Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25), Fragrant Offering to God (Eph 5:2), Overseer of our Souls (I Peter 5:4), The True Vine (John 15:1), Apostle and High Priest of our Faith (Heb. 3:1), The Great "I AM" (John 8:58), Chief Cornerstone (Mark 12:10), Bridegroom (Matt 9:14), Servant (Mark 10:45), Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6), Son of David (Rev. 22:16), Bright Morning Star (Rev. 22:16), Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2), Lamp of the City (Rev. 21:23), Light of the World (John 8:12).

"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb" (Rev. 7:10)

**Day 16- Christ our Identity and our Destiny**

Paul says, "We live and move and have our being in Christ" (Acts 17:28). He is our identity and our inherent destiny, our portion and our exceedingly great reward! Paul declares that we are "in Christ" 164x in the epistles! Jesus asks us to continually abide "in him" (John 15:7). In order to abide "in him" we need to identify with Him.

Christ is our righteousness: All we will be in God's eyes throughout the ages is who we are *right* now--in Him. Christ Himself is the only righteousness that matters in the universe and before the Throne of God. Christ has become our righteousness (1 Cor. 1) We are made the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Cor. 5). Christ is our righteousness, not in terms of what we have done but in terms of who we are in Him. Christ is our righteousness: He is our good standing in the universe and before God's throne. Christ is our righteousness: He has become the meeting place between God and man, removing for us even the slightest fear of condemnation. Christ is our righteousness: We receive His very person and position in the universe *in the place* of our transgression, our iniquity and our treason against God. Christ is our righteousness: In Him we are justified *before* God and reconciled *to* God because we have been given a new place *before* God--because we are united to the risen Son of God.

Therefore, Christ is our *identity*. In God's eyes, I am who He is. Nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.

Christ as our identity: Even as He sums up everything about God for us, He sums up everything about us for God.

Christ is our identity: He is our sphere of existence. We were crucified with Him. We were buried with Him. We were raised with Him. We ascended with Him. Our life is hidden with Him in God (Rom. 6; Eph. 2; Col. 3)

Christ is our identity: We are new creations in the Risen One. Right now, we walk in resurrection life united to Him as if the Great Day of Judgment had already passed. History is "His Story." All history streams from Him and is directed toward Him, to be completed by Him. He is the "why" for everything. And HIS story has become OUR story! Not only was He at the beginning of *our* story, as believers, but He *is* the beginning of our story. Christ is not only the End toward which our story is moving. He is also the *means* to reaching that End. As Jesus declares to us, "I am the beginning and the end" (Rev. 22:13).

Therefore Christ is primary. Everything else compared to Him is auxiliary, and exists to serve the purposes of the One who reigns supreme right now. He is supreme: He is sovereign, He is superior, He is sufficient--and He is totally satisfying. However, what He will be Lord of ultimately, He is Lord of right now. All the glory He will display ultimately belongs to Him right now. All the promises He one day will fulfill, He already inherits right now. All the

purposes of God He will one day bring to consummation are summed up in Him *right now*. Even now He has the name that is above every name, both in this age and in the age to come.

As John Wesley writes,

"Jesus! The name high over all, in hell or earth or sky; angels and mortals prostrate fall, and devils fear and fly. Jesus! The name to sinners dear, the name to sinners given; it scatters all their guilty fear, it turns their hell to heaven. O that the world might taste and see the riches of his grace! The arms of love that compass me would all the world embrace. Thee I shall constantly proclaim, though earth and hell oppose; bold to confess thy glorious name before a world of foes. His only righteousness I show, his saving truth proclaim; 'tis all my business here below to cry, 'Behold the Lamb!' Happy, if with my latest breath I may but gasp his name, preach him to all and cry in death, 'Behold, behold the Lamb!'"

### **Day 17: Christ's Promises**

All the promises of God are YES and AMEN in Christ Jesus. Christ's intercession guarantees all the promises, plans and purposes of God! It is through these precious promises that we overcome the corruption of the world and become partakers of the divine nature.

"For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory" (2 Cor. 1:20).

"May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. <sup>3</sup> His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire" (2 Peter 1:2-4).

Note: Because we have been grafted into the promise of Christ Jesus, Ephesians 3:6, we partake in the promises given to the people of Israel in the OT. Those eternal promises given in the OT are for us as the people of God, the one new man in Christ Jesus, both Jew and Gentile!

The word Delight, mean's God likes you. The word Joy/ Rejoicing means that God enjoys you...even in your weakness.

- **I am loved by Jesus with the same love that the Father has for Jesus.**

"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love" (John 15:9).

- **I am loved by God the Father with the same love that Jesus has for His Father.**

"I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me" (John 17:23).

- **I am redeemed.** I am bought with a price, with His precious blood.

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

- **God delights in me and rejoices over me with singing!**

"For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation" (Psalm 149:4).

"The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing" (Zeph. 3:17).

"You shall no longer be termed forsaken, nor shall your land any more be termed desolate; But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you" (Isaiah 62:4-5).

- **I am the excellent one in whom is all of God's delight.** (From a Messianic psalm--meaning David prophesied Jesus' heart toward His people):

"As for the saints who are on the earth, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight" (Psalm 16:3).

- **He is enthralled with my beauty.**

"The king is enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord" (Psalm 45:11).

- **I am God's treasure and one in whom God has an inheritance.**

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:44-46).

"...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the

shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2-3).

"But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (I Peter 2:9).

- **I am a new creation, the old has gone the new has come.**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

- **I am forgiven, made clean and reconciled to God.**

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18).

- **I am free from the control of men and from the law of sin and death.**

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:1-2).

- **I am dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

"Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:11).

- **Christ has set me free from the curse of the law.**

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree'" (Galatians 3:13).

- **Yes, I am free indeed.**

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

- **God has called me according to His purpose.**

"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will I am called into fellowship, into relationship,

with Jesus" (Ephesians 1:11).

- **Peace, liberty and God's glory are my inheritance now.**

"And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one" (John 17:22-23).

"Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all" (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

- **I am God's field--He is cultivating my life.**

"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

- **As a child of the Most High, I am an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ Jesus.**

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together" (Romans 8:16-17). "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!' Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ" (Gal. 4:6-7).

- **Because of his gracious love, I am seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.**

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved--<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:4-6).

- **The Lord goes before me and fights for me.**

"The Lord your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes" (Deuteronomy 1:30).

### **Day 18 - Christ Crucified, The Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53**

What begins the fourth song (Isa. 52:13-53:12) of what are termed the 'servant songs' in the book of Isaiah, the servant is described in terms similar to Isaiah 42:1, "Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted" (Isa. 52:13). Both in the context of Israel as a servant, as well as the coming Messiah as the servant of the Lord, this song is profound. Barry Webb writes about this song,

"This fourth Song is the most elaborate and poignant of them all. It is the jewel in the crown of Isaiah's theology, the focal

point of his vision.”<sup>[1]</sup>

As Wilkins writes,

“The term 'servant' occurs some forty times in Isaiah, only nine times in chapters 1-39, yet thirty-one times in chapters 40-66. Beginning with Isaiah 41:8, at least nine times the nation of Israel is referred to as the Lord's 'servant.' (Isa. 41:8, 9; 42:19, 43:10, 44:21, 45:4, 48:20.) When we turn to the prophecy in Isaiah 52:13-53:12, the individual nature of the servant is pronounced (52:13; 53:11).”<sup>[2]</sup>

Wilkins goes on to say,

“The New Testament authors both quote and allude to the wording or concepts of Isaiah 53 at least fifty times. Of these, at least twenty-nine are found in the gospels. At least seven times, a New Testament author directly cites a quotation from Isaiah 52:13-53:12.”<sup>[3]</sup>

There are five stanzas to this song, 52:13-15, 53:1-3, 53:4-6, 53:7-9, 53:10-12. The first speaks of the servant's wisdom who will be high and lifted up, and exalted (Isa. 52:14-15). When this servant appears He will utterly confound human wisdom. He will sprinkle many nations with His blood, a priestly act making a person or thing fit to be in the presence of the Lord. In the next stanza, the speakers here are witnesses. They are called witnesses to the fact that the Lord alone is God (Isa. 43:12), as well as witnesses to His saving power revealed in the suffering, death and exaltation of the servant. The words “pierced” and “crushed” in Isaiah 53:5, indicate a violent death and it appears that these witnesses understood that the servant deserved it, that it was God who had struck Him down.<sup>[4]</sup> In the third stanza, we read that it was our infirmities He took up, and our sorrows that He bore (Isa 53:4-5). These witnesses recognize that the Servant didn't deserve it but rather they deserved this infliction that led to death, and He had taken their place. He was pierced for their transgressions, and crushed for their iniquities (Isa. 53:5). In the fourth stanza, the servant appears as the sinless, silent sufferer. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth (Isa. 53:7). He was stricken for the transgression of Israel (Isa. 53:8). He was oppressed and afflicted, like a lamb that is led to the slaughter (Isa. 53:8). In His humility, He remains silent, opening not His mouth. In the forth stanza, Isaiah 53:9-12, the servant poured out His soul to death (Ps. 22:14). He was numbered with sinners in Israel. He bore the sin of many. The Lord's righteous one, will make many to be accounted righteous bearing their iniquities, and taking on the wrath that they deserved. God will place His seal of approval on His work by raising and exalting Him, and the will of the Lord (all God's plans) will prosper in His hand. This lamb led to the slaughter will make intercession for transgressors. Certainly John the Baptist

was familiar with this servant of the Lord when he declares, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). In beholding this Servant-Lamb, Webb declares,

“Many, many facets of the Servant’s character are revealed in this Song. He is sage, priest, sacrifice, servant, sufferer, conqueror and intercessor. He is the channel of God's grace to sinners. In him the holiness and mercy of God are perfectly reconciled. He is the key to all God's plans for his people and the world.”<sup>[5]</sup>

Only by God's provision of a means of atonement through the shed blood of the Passover lambs, a substitutionary sacrifice, were they spared. The lamb became a substitute for the firstborn son, dying in his place. As Steve Jeffrey states,

"As the first Passover, the Jewish people were delivered not only from the tyranny of Pharaoh, but also from the judgment of God on their idolatry. It was through the substitutionary death of a lamb, whose blood marked out the Israelite households, that their firstborn sons were spared. These events occurred at the key turning point in salvation history, and were integral to God's faithfulness to his covenant with Abraham. Moreover, the ongoing celebration of the Passover served to implant the notion of salvation through penal sacrifice in every faithful Israelite mind."<sup>[6]</sup>

In Isaiah 53, the servant compared to a lamb is said to suffer “for” others. This suffering servant bore our sicknesses, suffered our pains, was pierced for “our” transgressions, crushed for “our” iniquities, “by his wounds” healing came to us, and “Yahweh has caused to fall on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:4-5). In 53:11-12, He is said to again “bear” their iniquities, the sins of many. He would take upon Himself the wrath that Israel deserved. The text says He suffered appalling horror far beyond what any human being in human history has suffered. His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man, His form marred beyond human likeness, He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, like one from whom men hide their faces, He was stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted, He was pierced, crushed, oppressed and afflicted, led like a lamb to the slaughter, He was taken away by oppression and judgment, cut off from the land of the living, He poured out His life unto death (Isa. 52:14, 53:3-5, 7-8, and 12). It is clear from this text that it is God Himself who acts to lay upon His servant the peoples sins and to punish Him, "the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all," and “it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer" (Isa. 53:6, 10).

Second the servant is said to bring great benefits to those for whom He suffers,

peace and healing (Isa. 53:5, 11-12).

Third Isaiah 53 declares that this suffering servant is sinless and righteous, "He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth" (Isa. 53:9), and the Lord describes Him as "my righteous servant" (Isaiah 53:11). This emphasizes the connection between the Passover lamb without defect and this lamb led to slaughter (I Peter 2:22-25).

J. Ramsey Michaels shares,

“The first sentence of this passage (v. 22) is a quotation from Isa. 53:9 ('though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth'). The description of Jesus' silence and submissiveness during the events leading to his death in I Peter 2:23 is reminiscent of the Servant in Isaiah 53:7 ('He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth'). The statement in I Peter 2:24 that Christ 'bore our sins' echoes both Isaiah 53:4 ('he took up our infirmities') and Isaiah 53:12 ('he bore the sin of many'). The concluding words of I Peter 2:25 quotes Isaiah 53:6, ('We all, like sheep, have gone astray').”<sup>[7]</sup>

In conclusion according to Isaiah 53, the servant of the Lord is punished in place of God's people, as their substitute, to make atonement between them and God.

Praying through the lens of Isaiah 53:4-7,

"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned-every one-to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth" (Isa. 53:4-7).

Surely our sicknesses--*He* bore them--And our pains--*He* suffered them  
Yet *we* considered Him as one stricken--As one struck down by God and afflicted.

But *He* was pierced for our transgressions--And crushed for our iniquities.  
The punishment for our salvation lay upon Him--And by His wounds, healing came to us.

We all have strayed like sheep--Each of us has turned to his own way.

But Yahweh has caused to fall on Him--The iniquity of us all.

Their iniquities--He will bear the sins of many.

His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man, And His form marred beyond human likeness.

He was despised and rejected by men--A man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering--Like one from whom men hide their faces--He was despised--We considered him stricken by God--Smitten by him and afflicted--But He was pierced--He was crushed--He was oppressed and afflicted. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter---y oppression and judgment He was taken away.

He was cut off from the land of the living--He was stricken--He poured out His life unto death.

"I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting." - *Isaiah 50:6*

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?" - *Psalms 22:1*

"But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" - *Psalms 22:6-8*

"I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet--I can count all my bones--they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

- *Psalms 22:14-17*

### **Day 19 - Jesus the Baptist, Feast of Pentecost**

John writes,

"The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!' This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'<sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."<sup>32</sup> And John bore witness: 'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.'<sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'" (John 1:30-33)

God the Son in our flesh who comes to take away the sin (singular) of the

world, is also the One who comes to baptize in and with the Holy Spirit. The two works belong together. When these two titles are kept together the gospel is really "good news." Jesus-to-the-rescue takes away sin, and then baptizes humans in and with the Spirit of God. As John Stott preached,

"We must never conceive of 'salvation' in merely negative terms, as if it consisted only in rescue from sin, guilt, wrath and death. We thank God for all of these things. But it also includes the positive blessing of the Holy Spirit to regenerate, indwell, liberate and transform. What a truncated gospel we preach if we proclaim the one without the other. And what a glorious gospel we have to share when we are true to Scripture."[\[8\]](#)

The term baptize (baptidzo) simply means to "immerse." The Greek text uses both "in" and "with," the Holy Spirit. The "in" relates to that which we are immersed into, and the "with" speaks of that which saturates us or literally, overwhelms us. Therefore Jesus the Baptist dunks us in and drenches us with the very life of the Triune God. As Darrell Johnson writes,

"The one common denominator for all is the experience (baptized in and with the Spirit) of 'newness.' There is a new quality of life, a freshness, a new quality of Divine nearness and intimacy, a different kind of vitality."[\[9\]](#)

Dallas Willard uses the word "engulfment" to describe this experience. Jesus promises an engulfment in the Spirit of God. He promises to clothe us, or dress us in "power from on High." Therefore Jesus of Nazareth, God-in-flesh, redeems us from the power and grip of sin, baptizes us, immerses us, soaks us, dresses us, saturates us, drenches us, marinates us and overwhelms us with the very Life of the Living God!

When the text says that Jesus baptizes, it is in the present tense. In New Testament Greek the tenses of verbs speak of the time of action and the kind of action. The "present" tense speaks of continuous action, literally "to keep on." For instance "abide in me and I in you," is best rendered, "keep on abiding in me, and I in you." As Jesus wrote, "All who come to me and believe in me will never hunger and thirst," literally means, "All who keep on coming to me and all who keep on believing in me will never hunger or thirst." Therefore Jesus is the one who keeps on baptizing in and with the Holy Spirit. In other words, He comes to keep on soaking us, keep on drenching us, keep on immersing us, keep on filling us with the Holy Spirit, until every fiber of our being radiates with the Glory of God!

We see this confirmed in the New Testament book of Acts. Jesus promises, "In a few days you will be baptized in (and with) the Holy Spirit." On the day of Pentecost, "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit"(Acts 2:4). A few days later the Lord Jesus does it again. The text says, "The place where they had

gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit"(Acts 4:31).

Paul says that it is God's will that we "be filled with the Spirit." Not just once, twice, but over and over again!

"Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:17-18).

### **Traditions**

I believe this perspective helps us "keep the unity of the Spirit," amongst our different traditions and perspectives in the body of Christ. The evangelical perspective is right in declaring that we are baptized in the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion, when we surrender to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. However this is not the last time He will do it. The sacramental tradition is right, when we are baptized in water, Jesus baptizes us in and with the Holy Spirit. On the other hand, this is not the only time that He will baptize us with the Spirit. The charismatic tradition is right in that there is a time subsequent to conversion when Jesus baptizes us in and with the Spirit of God. Yet the second blessing is not the last time Jesus will do it!

I believe it is the nature of Jesus to keep on giving His life to us. He fills us and keeps on filling us in stages, "grace upon grace" as John puts it. We are transformed from, "glory to glory" as Paul teaches us.

Paul uses the phrase, "Be filled with the Spirit."

"Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk on wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Holy Spirit" (Eph. 5:17-18).

Whereas wine can ruin one's judgment leading to debauchery, in contrast "being filled with the Spirit leads to self-control and a life exhibiting the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, etc. In the Greek text, this present imperative command to "be filled with the Spirit" is linked to four participles or clauses. In other words, in order to be "filled with the Holy Spirit," Paul gives us four practical ways to develop a culture of Pentecost in our lives. The first is "addressing one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." Speaking, singing and praying the Word of God over one another in the Body of Christ is a practical way to experience the in-filling of the Spirit on a regular basis.

The second is like it, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart. Paul is commanding the Church to sing and make melody to the Lord, not just rote words or lip service but heart-expressed praise. This is a good reason to add praise, and singing to worship gatherings, prayer meetings, including our personal devotional times with the Lord.

The third is giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Notice he doesn't say give thanks sometimes or for only good things, but always and for everything. We trust the leadership of Jesus in our lives and know that He does all things for our welfare (Jer. 29:11), according to the counsel of His will (Eph. 1:11). He will work out everything for good for those who love him and are all called according to His purpose! (Rom. 8:28) We enter His gates with "Thanksgiving" and His courts with Praise (Ps. 100:4).

The fourth is submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Out of the "fear of the Lord" we come under and honor one another above ourselves. In our homes (marriages and children), in our workplaces, in our churches, we honor those that God has placed over us in positions of authority. Biblical submission is a posture of humility and brings God's grace into our lives. These four things will help us to "be filled with the Spirit."

### **Barriers**

I believe there are two common reasons why many do not experience the fullness of the Spirit in their lives. The first is fear. We fear that if we really open up to Spirit we might be swept up into something beyond our control. The fact it is, Jesus is beyond our control. We are talking about the Living Lord Jesus coming to occupy and possess us by the Holy Spirit! Out of fear we can settle for a form of religion devoid of power. We try to domesticate the One who is an All-Consuming Fire and settle for the predictable even if it is no longer satisfying.

The second reason is lack of hunger. We think we have all we need. We are content with what God has done for us, and we no longer come to God desperately needy and poor in Spirit. However the reality is we need the life of God ever-increasing, ever-flowing like a river out of our innermost being (John 7:37-39)! We need to come more and more under the sway and influence of the Holy Spirit! We need to be invaded, and permeated, saturated, and flooded with life of the Spirit in every aspect of our lives! From the very beginning God has revealed His passion to give His Very Self to the world. The Holy One intends to fill the whole created order with His Glory! The filling of the Holy Spirit doesn't make us weird, it makes fully alive, fully human! We are finally what we were created to be when filled with and animated by the life of the Triune God!

In Luke 11, Jesus writes,

"And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup> What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a

serpent; <sup>12</sup> or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

He is a good father and gives good gifts to His children. In our life of prayer we come to Him in dependence recognizing we can't do anything apart from Jesus. Therefore we need HELP! Jesus is telling us to ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking for the great Helper (Paraclete), the third person of the Trinity, the promised gift of the Holy Spirit to engulf us!

So how does this play out in our everyday lives? When we are sharing the gospel with an unbeliever, we are asking, "Lord clothe me with power from on high to be an effective witness for the gospel." In marriage and family we are asking, "Father pour out the love of God into my heart by the Holy Spirit, so I can love my spouse and my children the way you love them" (Rom. 5:5). When we are doing our finances, we are asking for the Spirit of wisdom to rest upon us to be good stewards of God's resources. When we are ministering to another believer we are asking for a "word of knowledge" to encourage them and build them up! When we want to see more of Jesus, we are asking and we are to "keep on" asking for the Spirit of revelation to unveil the beauty of Jesus to us!

So we ask the Father,

"Fill me with the Holy Spirit today. May the fruits of the Holy Spirit be ever increasing in my life. May the gifts of the Spirit be manifest and stirred up in me for the sake of the building up of the Body. Endue me with power from on high to be an effective witness of the gospel with unbelievers today!"

So this Jesus comes as a Lamb-to-the-rescue to take away the sin of the world. And He comes to baptize again and again and again in and with the Holy Spirit. And whenever He does says William Barclay,

"There enters into our helplessness and fatigue, 'a surge of new life,' and we are freshly empowered, 'to do the undoable, to face the unfaceable, to bear the unbearable.'" [\[10\]](#)

### **Day 20 The Light of the World, Feast of Tabernacles**

Jesus claimed, "I am the light of the world; follow me and you will not walk in darkness but will have the light of Life" (John 8:12). Jesus could have made that claim anywhere, to anyone, at any time but He choose to make it in a particular context during the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7:2). The Feast was and still is an eight day feast held in the fall where worshippers would live in little "huts" or "tents" to recall the days when their ancestors lived in tents as

they made their way through the Sinai desert. They remembered how God--the Living God himself--graciously choose to come and live with them in a tent called the *Tabernacle*.

The Feast of Tabernacles was extremely rich with symbolism, ritual and theology. There were two major components: a water ceremony, and a light ceremony. The water ceremony recalled the fact that God provided water from the rock, flowing as they journeyed through the desert. During this ceremony the Jews would remember that God had promised them a greater miracle--the miracle of God pouring out His Spirit upon His people, filling and flooding them with the water of life (Isaiah 44:3). It was during this water ceremony that Jesus declares, "If you are thirsty, come to Me and drink; as the Scripture says, 'out of your innermost being will flow rivers of living water'" (John 7:37-38).

Next was the light ceremony. On the first night of the Feast, when the sun had set to the sound of joyful singing, they would light four 20-foot candelabras, looming over the city so that all of Jerusalem was aglow with light! During this ceremony they would recall how God had guided them through the desert with a pillar of fire by night and cloud of glory by day. God could guide because God is Light! "O house of Jacob let us walk in the light of the Lord" (Isa. 2:5).

For seven nights people celebrated God as Light and then on the eighth night the candles were extinguished and they looked forward again to next year when light would light up the city of Jerusalem again. It was on the eighth night when Jesus, walking through the court of women proclaims, "I am the Light. I am the Light of the World." His statement is brilliant in every sense of the word! It's as if Jesus is saying, "I am the light that pierces the darkness every night, illuminating the whole world." As William Barclay writes of Jesus, 'I am the light that never goes out.' Staggering!"

And not just light "of the world" but light "for the world." As it says in Isaiah 9:2, "*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*"

Jesus comes revealing who God is! As the apostle Paul declares, "God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness' has shone in our hearts to 'give us the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ' (2 Cor. 4:6). Jesus is God with a face. Jesus is God. In Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead manifested in bodily form (Colossians 2). To bow before Christ is to bow before God. To whomever Christ is God, Christ is Savior. To whomever Christ is Savior, Christ is God. Jesus gives us life because He gives us God. He gives us God because He is God. Jesus is so fully God, that to walk away from Him is to walk away from God.

What did Christ ultimately bring to the world? He brought us God. Christ is God's self-disclosure. He is our ultimate picture of God. Christ is the "image" of the invisible God--less like the imprint of a signet ring; more like the child of a parent. There may exist other revelations *from* God; Jesus is the revelation *of* God.

Therefore, who Christ is and what He has accomplished challenges all of us to re-examine, refine and even at times re-constitute everything we think we know about the nature, character, purposes and ways of God. Everything we think we know about God always must be consistent with the truth that is revealed in Christ. The *supremacy* of Christ is manifested in the fact that He is the *definitive revelation* of God. It is in Jesus *as one of us* that we see God. When Jesus taught, God taught. When Jesus healed, God healed. When Jesus wept, God wept. The words and deeds of Jesus are the words and deeds of God. Through Christ, God entered actively into history in a whole new way. Jesus is how God reveals Himself and acts and rules among the nations at this very hour . What is the difference between Christianity and all other religions? In Christ, God is not just giving us more spiritual knowledge. He is revealing *Himself* by giving us *Himself*. As Tim Keller says: "The ultimate evidence for the existence of God is Jesus Christ Himself." He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13). In the Consummation, when God's glory is fully revealed--when the knowledge of His glory covers the earth as the waters cover the seas (Habakkuk 2)--we will discover... ..that all Divine magnificence and majesty dwelt in Jesus all along, even right now--to our everlasting joy!

Jesus Christ, the Morningstar, shines out during the darkest and the coldest time of the night. He is the brilliant one, dazzling and radiant, the very chandelier of heaven! He is clothed in garments of light. His face shines brighter than the sun. His eyes are like flames of fire, with burning desire to do the will of the Father! The disciples caught a glimpse of this bright righteousness, "There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light" (Matt. 17:25).

Jesus calls us to follow Him and be the "light of the world" (Matt. 5:14-16), reflecting the light of His life to those around us! Those who love the light come into the Light so that all will be exposed. Nothing is hidden from God. Light reveals and exposes all things. There is no such thing as a "private moment." The true acid test of whether we are being the light of the world, walking in the light as children of light, is whether we love one another. I John 2:10, "Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble."

### **Day 21 -Christ Conversations**

The most important thing anyone could ever know about you is what you believe about God's Son! The second most important thing anyone could ever know about you is how you respond to God's Son! The question becomes, "How can we foster a Christ-awakening movement where we live, work and

play so others will come alive to Christ for all that He is! How do we daily live out the reality of the truth that Christ is Supreme and that Christ is Now?

Let's commit to connecting Christians more fully to the person of Christ, by increasing our conversations about the Supremacy of Christ!

In our daily lives:

We want to **See** Christ for all that He is!

We want to **Seek** Christ for all that He is!

We want to **Savor** Christ for all that He is!

We want to **Speak** about Christ for all that He is!

We want to **Show** Christ for all that He is!

We want to **Serve** Christ for all that He is!

We want to **Share** Christ for all that He is!

As Colossians 3:11, 15-17 writes,

"Christ is all, and is in all...Let the **peace** of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the **word** of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you **sing** psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you **do**, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

In essence Paul is asking us to do four things:

- Submit to the Wholeness that's in Christ
- Proclaim the Word about Christ
- Share in the Worship of Christ
- Live-out a daily Walk for Christ

There are *no limits* to how far God can take you in your relationship with His Son if you are being saturated with truths about the majesty and supremacy of His Son. As John Wesley spoke,

*"Who among you is so alive to Christ as to carry fire wherever you go?"*

*"If I had 300 men who feared nobody but God and hated nothing but sin and were determined to have nothing known among men but CHRIST and Him crucified, I could set the world on fire."*

### **Commitment to become a "Messenger of Hope"**

*From this moment forward, every time*

*I share about God's Son from God's Word with any of God's people--as fully as each opportunity allows, by the power of the Holy Spirit--**I will:***

**(1)** Give them a larger vision of the supremacy and majesty of God's Son than

they had before we began.

(2) Show them greater reasons to put their hope in Christ in light of all He is in His supremacy and majesty.

(3) *Pray with them for a fresh awakening* by the power of God's Spirit to the glory of the supremacy and majesty of God's Son

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[1] Barry G. Webb, *The Message of Isaiah* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 1996), 209.

[2] Darrell Bock and Mitch Glaser, *The Gospel According to Isaiah 53* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2012), 111.

[3] Bock, *The Gospel According to Isaiah 53*, 111-112.

[4] Webb, *The Message of Isaiah*, 211.

[5] Webb, *Message of Isaiah*, 214.

[6] Jeffery, *Pierced for Our Transgressions*, 41, 42.

[7] J. Ramsey Michaels, *I Peter* (Waco: Word Books, 1988), 144-150.

[8] John Stott, *Baptism and Fullness: The Work of the Holy Spirit Today*, pg 25

[9] Johnson, pg 29

[10] William Barclay, *The Gospel of Matthew*, pg 1:129