

Abundant Blessings

This book uncovers why we lose the precious gift of the fear of God, which the Spirit plants in every one of our hearts as soon as we are born again. This book is the second of a two-part set on discovering “Where is the Fear of GOD?” We cannot look at the fear of God and not touch so many other areas of our heart and life in Christ. As a result there are found an abundant supply of blessings on many different subjects that many would not even consider when thinking about the fear of God. Hence, let me enumerate a few of them so that you may refer to this book when needed. In these pages we will discuss:

- The banner of brokenness
- The heart of integrity & friendship
- A detailed list of beguiling counterfeits
- How the fear of God changes how we worship
- Why we needn’t be ashamed of the name of Jesus
- Heart surgeries the fear of God needs to perform on us
- Warnings on losing God’s fear from Good Kings Gone Bad
- How to prevent the Pharisee spirit from taking root in our heart
- The foundation of being correctable in our relationship with the Lord
- Unveiling the religion of the Samaritans that exists in Christianity today

The previous book, Where is the Fear of GOD? Finding the Treasure of the Lord,¹ uncovers the hidden balance of grace, the strength to overcome besetting sins, and the source of intimacy that we so often long for from our heavenly Father. It covers the following areas.

- Understanding the work of the Spirit of God through the Candlestick
- The Fear of God is the doorway to mercy and the way of peace
- Revealing the Salt of the Covenant: the Fear of the LORD
- Renewing ourselves with the washing of repentance
- Learn the hidden wisdom that defeats the enemy
- Why Satan hates the fear of God so much
- How to be intimate with the Lord GOD
- Should we fear God as our Father?

¹ Where a relevant subject is covered in the other book it will be referred to in short as Finding the Treasure of the Lord.

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The Darkness of the Days

*“For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.” **Isaiah 60:2***

We are living in the greatest hour of darkness the world has ever known. Wickedness is increasing in unprecedented leaps and bounds. All the prophecies of Jesus have come to pass with chilling accuracy (**Mt 24:7+**): wars and rumors of wars, nation rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes, all in diverse places. Many are being offended (by the truth), and are betraying one another (by forsaking the things of God and speaking evil of those who truly stand for the truth of the kingdom of God), and are hating one another. Many false prophets are arising in the church, and are deceiving many. False Christ’s and false prophets have appeared who show great signs and wonders and deceive God’s elect. Iniquity is abounding and the love of many is waxing cold, and many are not enduring the persecution, affliction, and tribulation that come with truly following Jesus Christ. Many today will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own desires are they accumulating teachers for themselves who will teach them what they want to hear. “And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” **2Tim 4:3-4**

Yet, in complete blindness to all that is taking place in the spiritual realm, much of the church is perfecting the Laodicean spirit. They are neither cold, nor hot, ...

But the most grievous of all things is the apostasy from truth that is sweeping the church. So many are falling from the faith that is founded on sound doctrine. True faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God. Yet, there is a faith of the Christian masses that bears no resemblance to biblical faith. James had to warn his fellow believers in his day of erring from truth.

Do not err, my beloved brethren. Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.³ **James 1:16, 5:19**

The word ‘err’ in the Greek means ‘to *roam* (from safety, truth, or virtue)’. As the last days increase in darkness and wickedness I have seen more and more beloved brethren “being led away with the error of the wicked” and falling from

³ Note who James calls the sinner: the beloved brethren who are erring from the truth!

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their own steadfastness or stability (2Pe 3:17). Yet, in complete blindness to all that is taking place in the spiritual realm, much of the church is perfecting the Laodicean spirit. They are neither cold, nor hot, but are lukewarm – they offend no one at all. The true Jesus, on the other hand, was made “a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word” (1Pe 2:7-8).

Today you cannot tell the lost from the found. We all dress alike, speak alike, pursue the same goals, watch the same programs, and go to all the same places, yet the saved are in all reality not called to be the same as the world. The saved are called to be “an holy nation, a peculiar people” (1Pe 2:9). Thus, we are not to blend in with the nation we are a part of. We are called as a peculiar people to be holy (i.e. set apart) and to have such a uniqueness or peculiarity that we can rightly be called a nation or a people of our own. That is how very different the people of God are to be from those of this world.

How can we do as the world does or worse yet pattern the church after the passing fads and fashions of this dying and corrupt world, when we are exhorted to be “strangers and pilgrims, [*who*] abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (1Pe 2:11)? We are no longer to live “the rest of [*our*] time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.” 1Pe 4:2 The old life we once had of living for the will of men, for the lusts of men, and for the will of the Gentiles should be long past, now that we are God’s holy children. “For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries” (1Pe 4:3).

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The seeker-sensitive movement seeks to remove the offense of the gospel so that the world is able to easily mingle in our midst – with a comfortableness that sadly betrays how much they are still living just like them. On the contrary, the world ought to be surprised and testify how different and holily we live. “Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*” (1Pe 4:4). People should think it strange that we do not live like them! Was this not the apostolic example left for us? “Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe” (1Th 2:10).

How many of the tens of thousands that throng to the seeker-sensitive mega-churches are being instructed by the sound doctrine of the word of God that they must come out from among the heathen and not touch their ways? Consider

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Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians to come out from the world and be separate, and ask yourself this. Are the seeker-sensitive movement and the mega-church atmosphere more representative of Paul's spirit or of the Corinthian cosmopolitan spirit?

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. **2Co 6:14-7:1**

The popular and growing Christian church today is not growing in sound doctrine. Sound doctrine is being abandoned and put away the same way the Biblical definition of marriage is. The church is not growing in depth of discipleship or in obedience, and truly the fear of God is becoming extinct. Where is the fear of GOD today? We are seeing the richest believers in church history in America, yet poverty embraces the world, and Jesus would say that the American church is destitute and poor. They say "I am rich" and "I am increased with goods, and have need of nothing", yet as Jesus says, thou "knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (**Rev 3:17**). The seeker-sensitive movement is destroying the true church as disciples are wooed from the foundation of sound doctrine into an easy-believism that caters to the desires of the flesh and soul. "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness." **2Pe 3:17**

Where are God's Called Out and Separated People?

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" 1Pe 2:9

Is this the church's greatest hour as so many proclaim? Or is this the collapse of truth and the wholesale forsaking of sound doctrine? So many believe this is the church's greatest hour and point to the incredible success of the mega-churches, drawing their tens of thousands. On top of all this and despite all the

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facts to the contrary, so many of those who try to hold to conservative Biblical doctrine still believe it is impossible to fall away. Truly, Satan is having his way in the church, and no one is taking warning from the scriptures about the times we are in. Paul was NOT speaking of the world when he wrote this warning by the Spirit; he was speaking of the church,

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. **2Tim 3:1-7**

The world has always been corrupt, but God cannot endure when his people become his enemy because they love what is evil. God's people will be truce-breakers, they will not keep the covenant of peace which they have received. God's people will become traitors, even as Jesus warned this was one of the signs of his coming. "And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another." **Mt 24:10** Remember, the born again saint does not have friends who are unsaved, and Jesus said, "And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and *some* of you shall they cause to be put to death." **Lk 21:16**

WARNING: The lost have always been lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, That would be no revelation from the Spirit at all. No, what the Spirit reveals *expressly* for the last days is that God's own people will fulfill these things! God's own people would begin to love their own pleasures rather than pleasing the true and living God. Religion would become another convenience item. This is why the judgment draws nigh, because of the corruption of the sons of God.

This is the hour of apostasy that we are in. The church is ever learning, but never coming to the knowledge of the truth. Remember what is truth? Jesus said, "I am ... the truth" (Jn 14:6) and "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." **John 17:17** Where is the sanctifying of the people of God today? The church has become "lovers of their own selves" and "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God". Notice it does not say lovers of pleasures *rather* than lovers of God, but lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. The warning of the Spirit is that people will still "love God". It's just that they will love what **they** love more!

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God's people "have forsaken [God] the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water" ([Jer 2:13](#)). Is it any wonder that they should have "a form of godliness" but deny the power thereof? What we love most will most affect us and most shape us. If we love God more than all, then the power of godliness will shape us into his image, but if we love our ways, our desires, our thoughts, or our pleasures more than him who gave us life, then we will be misshapen by the idols we serve, and the power of God will be denied in our life.

Paul warns of this falling away again and again in his letters and it is always related to departing from the faith and betraying the Lord. "Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" ([2Th 2:3](#)). Men have their libraries of books about "the son of perdition" being the coming antichrist "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." [2Th 2:4](#) Now there is a real beast, a real false prophet, and a specific antichrist that is coming, as revealed in Revelation. But we so often focus on them to the exclusion of what will precede their coming.

False Prophets

There will be many false prophets, and increasingly so, as the age draws to a close. Jesus warned us that one of the signs of the end of the age would be the arising of many false prophets who would come and deceive God's people. "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." [Mt 24:11](#) And look how they come. They will arise – speaking of their great popularity. They will be loved of all men. But Jesus is not concerned about the false prophets of other religions. They have always been around. No, Jesus is concerned primarily about warning us of those who will look like sheep! Remember, he said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." [Mt 7:15](#) They will appear as good Christians (i.e. as sheep). They will rise in popularity, and all men will speak well of them – for this is the mark of a false prophet (Lk 6:26)! "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." [1Jn 4:1](#)

Men Living as Beasts

The Bible speaks of those in the church who will forsake the Spirit and will follow after their own desires. They will be self-willed, presumptuous, and will walk after fleshly desires. They will despise authority and accountability to the truth of the Word. What they know they will know naturally and not spiritually.

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There will be many walking as beasts and increasingly so as the age draws to a close.

But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous *are they*, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption **2Pe 2:10,12**

But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. **Jude 1:10**

Paul dealt with such men many a time and had to warn his sons in the faith of them. “One of themselves, *even* a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians *are* all-way liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.” **Titus 1:12** Most think Paul is referring to wild animals when he tells the Corinthians of his dangers and speaks of having to fight with beasts at Ephesus (1Co 15:32). But Ephesus was a civilized metropolis where there were no wild animals. It is unlikely he is referring to anything but carnal believers who refused to submit to the truth. Paul had to contend with their lower or beastly nature. Strong’s definition of ‘beasts’ bears this out: ‘(figurative) to *encounter* (furious men)’.

*Anti-Christ*s

There will also be many antichrists and increasingly so as the age draws to a close. Jesus warned us as the first sign of the end of the age of such antichrists.

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. **Mt 24:4-5,24**

When Jesus says those who will come will say “I am Christ”, he is not saying as so many suppose that they will claim to be Christ, for the disciples of Jesus Christ would never need to be warned about being deceived by such outright lies. No, the subtlety of Satan’s work of deception is that he will send wolves in sheep’s clothing (Ac 20:29, Mt 7:15). He will plant tares amidst the wheat (Mt 13:25-27). He will manifest false signs and lying wonders (2Th 2:9) – whatever has the outward appearance of light but is inward corruption. “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” **2Co 11:14-15** These antichrists are those who in their own life will say “Jesus is the Christ”. Many of God’s people are being deceived in this day and hour by those claiming “Jesus is the Christ” (i.e. that they

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are Christians) but who spew out false doctrine. This is what Paul spoke of to warn Titus. “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate. **Titus 1:16**

John the beloved speaks much of these antichrists. He said we would know that it is the last time by the many antichrists that come. “Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, **even now** are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.” **1Jn 2:18** “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.” **2Jn 1:7** John defines for us who these antichrists are. They are those who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (1Jn 4:3, 2Jn 1:7), meaning they will deny that we must walk as Jesus walked, by crucifying our flesh and denying ungodliness a place in our life. “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” **1Jn 2:6**

Now the word ‘ought’ means ‘to owe, to *be under obligation*, to have a duty’. We have a duty and an obligation, a debt of love, that if we claim to live in Jesus (i.e. if we claim to be saved and made alive through the new birth), then we must walk even as Jesus walked. We cannot say (except for his payment for our sins) that, “O that was for Jesus. I don’t need to do that.” Yet, this is exactly what the antichrist spirit does. It rejects that Jesus is come in the flesh and that we must walk as he walked. Antichrists are liars and deceivers who will deny the Father and the Son (1Jn 2:22). What does it mean to deny the Father and the Son? Surely some will openly contradict or hiddenly reject or deny in their teaching the doctrine of the trinity, but this is not John’s first concern. His first concern here is that they will deny and reject the Father and the Son their authority to judge and their authority as God and as King to rule our lives by the Word. It is from this dark pit of error that all other false doctrine will spring.

Sons of Perdition

In each case (the beast, the false prophet, and the antichrist), we have seen two things. First, before the final embodiment of each comes, there will be many who come. Second, these are false brethren who appear as ministers of righteousness but are actually ministers of unrighteousness, which are tares among the wheat. Is not this then what Paul is primarily warning the Thessalonians of concerning “the son of perdition”? By John’s definition an antichrist is anyone who claims to be in Jesus but does not walk as Jesus walked – thus, by their lifestyle, denying that Jesus came to enable us to walk in holiness and righteousness here on the earth in the flesh. These are those “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” **2Th 2:4**

The scripture is crystal clear on this: a great falling away must take place in the church before the Lord's return.
Some of the elect shall deny the faith ...

So many today look for a natural temple to be rebuilt, but **WE** are the temple of God. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" **1Co 3:16** The sons of perdition are people who have been born again, become the temple of God by being indwelt with the Holy Spirit, but who in their life begin to deny the lordship of Jesus by which they were saved. They begin following the Lord and through faithfulness even receive authority from the Lord to do his works, like Judas. But they begin, like him, to have their own motives, their own way of looking at things, their own goals and purposes, and they betray the Lord. It all begins by rejecting Jesus' lordship and beginning to follow our own way of thinking. In doing so, the sons of perdition oppose God by refusing his word. They exalt themselves again as lord of their own lives, being their own authority. As such they show themselves to be god of their own life, or as Paul put it, "so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

True apostles and holy prophets who build the foundation of the church will always be hated, despised, and not well loved, because they will contend with beasts in the church. They will expose the antichrist spirit that is operating in the lives of believers! This is the constant warning of all the apostles, from Paul, to John, to Peter, to Jude, even to James, to warn the brethren to hold to the truth, to "continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of" (**2Tim 3:14**). The scripture is crystal clear on this: a great falling away must take place in the church before the Lord's return. Some of the elect shall deny the faith they once had.

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron **1Tim 4:1-2**

Will We Hear?

But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels *and* in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

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Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending *them*:
Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.
Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee. [Jer 7:23-27](#)

Today is little different than Jeremiah's day or Jesus' day when there were so many different ways of believing, so many different sects and denominations and independent non-denominations, and so little ability to hear the word of correction from our heavenly Father. Jesus continually had to confront those who claimed God was their father and who were the children of the covenant. There were the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Herodians, the scribes, the doctors of the law, and so many others that we know not of, such as the Essenes, yet all of these are very much alive in kind in the church today.⁴ But who of all these people was willing to come under the rule of God into the kingdom of God by hearkening to the word of God? Only a remnant of disciples! Even still, who is willing to hear the reproof, correction, rebuke, and admonishment of the scriptures? Look today at the largest churches worldwide and especially in America and you will see a complete lack of proper reverence and godly fear toward the great and dreadful King of kings and the laws of his kingdom.

I have never seen in all my years of ministry those who are Christians less able to hear correction by the word of God. People today are flocking after the smooth things. They do not want the hard sayings of Jesus. Sadly, much of the church is still basking in its selfish self-centered worship. Much of the church comes to God primarily for what they can get. The judgment of the Lord truly draws near, not only for the wickedness of the evil generation that we live in, but even more so because God's own people have become like the people in the days of Noah – they are NOT moved by fear to prepare for the judgment which is most certainly to come. As in Noah's day when a man of God becomes a preacher of righteousness and warns of the coming judgment of God people dismiss and mock rather than hear and take to heart. Out of all the times Jesus could have picked, Jesus picked the very days of Noah to warn us of.

But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and

⁴ Just because they do not carry the same name, does not mean they are not of the very same spirit. There are indeed many groups who walk today as Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, scribes, doctors of the law, and Essenes. The names have all been changed to hide the guilty (as Satan always does), but the spirit is the same.

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drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. **Mt 24:37-39**

They didn't know what was coming! Not because they hadn't heard, for in 120 years of preaching everyone had heard of Noah and his ark and his call to repentance.⁵ "But I say, Did not Israel know? ... But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."

Rom 10:19,21 The problem is not that people have not heard, but in hearing they do not open their ears or their hearts. The same was true in the early church, for so Stephen says to the religious of his day. "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye."

Acts 7:51 The problem is no one believed the word that was preached, neither by Noah, nor by Stephen, because it was not a smooth word. It brought rebuke and reproof. Have we forgotten that Noah condemned the world as a preacher of righteousness (Heb 11:6, 2Pe 2:5)? Jesus said when he returns, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" **Lk 18:8** And we know where true faith comes from. It comes from hearing and hearing by the word of God.

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. **Rom 10:16-18**

Jesus then seriously wonders if when he comes he will find anyone hearing by the word of God. Will anyone truly hear what the word of God says – not what men say, not the doctrines and teachings of your church or denomination, not the views and opinions of your favorite teacher, but "what saith the scriptures" (Rom 4:3, Gal 4:30)! Men take greatly liberty with the word of God to pick and choose the parts they like and to discard the parts they do not like. They do not give the whole counsel of the word of God (Ac 20:27), but only their pet doctrines. So many use the sweet parts of the word of God to draw disciples after themselves but cast away anything that might cause one to walk away on account of truth. But not so Jesus! He was willing to lose all for the sake of truth and the will of his father. To his own devoted twelve he gives this challenge, "Will ye also go away?" **Jn 6:67**

⁵ Though we have no record of such, the news of Noah and his message would easily have spread around the world in this length of time, for there have always been travelers roaming the world telling of distant news, and Noah would have been a spectacle, a laughing-stock to all the earth.

The Call to Return

*"All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full;
unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again." **Ecc 1:7***

The fear of the LORD is our call to return to the Lord himself, not for what we can get, but because he *is* the beginning, the source of all we hope for and desire. The fear of God is that instinctual driving force, that call of our spiritual nature beckoning us all from seeking after our ways to return to him. When we were first birthed into the kingdom of God we were born into the pure freshwaters of the word of God. We were birthed in the river of life. "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." **Rev 22:1**

But so many of us leave that narrow and tribulation-filled way in seeking after more spacious and seemingly peaceful places. The sea is an enticing place where the mere expanse of its openness and freedom can be intoxicating – once we lose our fear! All things continually flow toward the deep abyss of the sea. We find ourselves migrating slowly to its broad expanse only to find that the purity and freshness of the stream is lost and traded for the cloudy salinity of the waters that cover the earth. Many never make it back to the purity of the streams that flow from the mountain snows, yet it is the calling in every heart to return and find that most needful part. David said, "If I ... dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me." **Ps 139:9-10**

But where does his right hand lead us? Back to that confined and narrow place from which we began, only to labor upstream hundreds of miles all against the currents of mighty waters? For what, to arrive beaten and battered having suffered the loss of all things? Yes, "for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things" (Php 3:8)! We will indeed suffer the loss of all things in order to return to the purity of the waters that issue forth from the throne of his authority. "For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river" (**Isaiah 66:12**). The peace that he extends to each of us is not a peaceful river, but a peace that can only be found as we fight our embattled way back up that river. To return to these pure waters is to labor to return to the door of salvation – the Lordship of Jesus Christ. "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." **Heb 4:11** True faith will cause us to labor to draw near to God. It will cause us to diligently seek him (Heb 11:6).

We all must return to the subjection of the Lamb that sits upon the throne. We are saved by making Jesus Lord of our life, yet it is too easy to drift from this narrow gate into the place where we choose our own way again, where he is effectively no longer Lord of our life, but we are. In that case we may believe, but we no longer follow; we are adrift. We will have to fight against the flood of our own

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desires, as well as those of others. We will have to swim against the many deep, dark, and murky waters of the doctrines and traditions of men. We must hear his call to return to him, for deep calls unto deep (Ps 42:7). This is the way to return to the purity of the Word. We must return to the waters that flow from the throne of the Lamb that was slain, but is alive from the dead. We must return to the Word of God that issues out from his authority. Our return to the spawning grounds will be a journey where death is constantly set before us, and the fear of losing **our** life in the pursuit of his holiness must be willingly cast aside. It is back we must go to “the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God” (**Ps 46:4**).

We will find that we were birthed in the spirit of the fear of the LORD and it is to that holy place that we must return – the beginning of the Lord’s work in us. Have you ever wondered why the very eyes of our beloved Lord are by the rivers of waters? “His eyes *are as the eyes of doves* by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, *and* fitly set.” **Song 5:12** Because he is waiting for us to return there. He has made “a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters” (**Isaiah 43:16**). Let us return and recapture the fear of the LORD.

*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come.
And let him that heareth say, Come.
And let him that is athirst come.
And whosoever will,
let him take
the water of life freely. **Rev 22:17***