

CHAPTER 1

GOD'S ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY

...."God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in many prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they"....

Hebrews 1:1-4 Nasb

ONE "MUST" HAVE A CLEAR DEFINITION OF GOD'S AUTHORITY

In not having a clear definition of God's authority - as defined by the Word of God - it becomes far too easy for one to subject themselves to a "false authority", and as we go on we shall see clearly that ANY submission to a false authority on the part of God's children, betrays only the motivation to live for oneself - independent of God. There are many scriptures found in the Word of God which really paint the picture of how our God is in absolute control of this universe, and how nothing goes unseen by Him. Too often, if our eyes are "allowed" to remain fixed on the physical things and if the affections of our heart are given over to the "world" and its ways, we SOON forget the majesty and power of Almighty God. In Hebrews 1:3 the scripture speaks of God who "upholds all things by the word of His power". Another way to express that is that He upholds all things by the Word of the power of His authority. It is important to note here that the Word of God and the authority of God and the power of God cannot be separated. God alone is the "supreme authority" over ALL things. All "authorities" in the earth that are truly authorities have been instituted by God. There is nothing in the universe that can "overshadow" the authority of God! Therefore, those who desire to serve God faithfully MUST have a deep revelation of the authority of God (Word of God). Surely this is one area (up to this time) wherein the church has been - for the most part - immersed in darkness and, as we shall see as we continue our study, a failure to discern and comprehend the "absoluteness" of God's authority will cause one to fall short in the carrying out of His will for their lives.

ONLY THOSE WHO SEEK TO SERVE GOD FROM A PURE HEART WILL FIND THEMSELVES IN THE POSITION TO RECEIVE THE REVELATION NEEDFUL FOR THEM TO WALK IN THE FULNESS OF GOD'S POWER

There is only one reason why the church does not have (up until this time) a "proper" revelation of God's authority - a "revelation" which would allow them to come into the place of the "spotless and unblemished" Church - and that is because to seek and gain a revelation of God's authority, one is going to have to subject themselves "totally" and "absolutely" to that authority (the Word of God). Only those who seek to serve God from a pure heart will find themselves in the position to receive the revelation needful for them to walk in the fulness of God's power. There have been many "attempts" to both establish and build the Church of Jesus Christ in the "power" of the "flesh" - but these have fallen far, far short of the Glory of God and have "enabled" Satan to build "inroads" into the hearts and minds of many of God's people - thus keeping them in his bondage rather than them reaching the "heights of holiness" which the Father commands (Leviticus 11:44-45).

THE ROOT OF ALL REBELLION, ALL LAWLESSNESS AND ALL INIQUITOUS ACTIVITY

...."How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, they will ponder over you, saying, "Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness and overthrow its cities, who did not allow his prisoners to go home?"....

Isaiah 14:12-17

In this passage we discover the first time that God's authority was put into question. That, of course, was with Satan's rebellion against God and his subsequent removal from Heaven - resulting in the stripping of the authority and anointing which he had been given as an angel of God. We also see in this passage

the beginning of all rebellion, all lawlessness and all iniquitous activity. There are several important things that we must look at in this passage. We can see, first of all, that the Father has decreed and spoken of Lucifer's fall from Heaven and He goes on in verse 13 to explain what was in Lucifer's heart when he sought to overthrow Him,

...."but you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven, I will raise my throne above the stars of God"....

As we stated before, this passage is the root of all rebellion and lawlessness and as we continue on looking at the Scriptures we shall see clearly the "absoluteness" of God's Word and the fact that "ALL" things align themselves either with Jesus Christ - the Lord of Lords and King of Kings - or Satan, the vanquished foe.

SINNING IS A MATTER OF CONDUCT AND REBELLIOUSNESS [OR LAWLESSNESS] IS A MATTER OF HEART-ATTITUDE

...."Again the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, "Thus says the Lord God, "You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God, every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God, you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned, therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you"....

Ezekiel 28:11-17

In the first passage we read (in Isaiah 14) we see the first violation of God's authority. We know that sin is sin, but in our study we are going to see the difference between how lawlessness and rebelliousness "effect" things as opposed to other aspects of sin. Quite simply stated, sinning is a matter of conduct and rebelliousness, or lawlessness, is a matter of heart-attitude. One of the key examples in explaining this more fully is the story of David and his sin of conspiracy to murder and commit adultery as opposed to the story of Korah and those who rebelled against Moses. Why is it that David in his sin was not removed from his place of authority and struck down in the way that Korah - and those who followed after him - were struck down in their rebellion? These are questions which the Holy Spirit shall answer as we continue our study. Satan's intent to set his throne "above" the throne of God was the thing which violated God's authority (the principle of self-exaltation). Every child of God must have a clear revelation of the fact that the "principle of Satan" is rebellion and those who would "truly" serve the Father and His Word must be completely removed from ANY attitude of rebellion (independence) towards Him. Every last one of our heart motivations must have as its source the love of God - which has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit abiding within. We must understand that EVERY action we initiate is either motivated by the love of God or the pride and rebelliousness of Satan - that is, the "fallen nature". Therefore, if we, as a Church, are going to maintain God's authority in this earth we must ourselves be subject to that authority with ALL of our hearts.

TO THE DEGREE THAT ONE'S HEART IS GIVEN TO THE FATHER AND HIS WORD, IT IS TO THAT DEGREE THAT THEY WILL HAVE A REVELATION OF HIS AUTHORITY

The Father NEVER made a provision for His children to serve Him without a heart that was "wholly given" to Him. God's Divine requirement of giving the "whole" heart to Him is the most clearly put forth principle in the Word of God, yet it is the one which is most widely ignored! From the very command to love the Lord with all of our hearts (Luke 10:27) we see the Father's "absoluteness"! To the degree that one's heart is given to the Father and His Word, it is to that degree that they will have a revelation of His authority - both "inherent" (the Word of God) and "delegated" (the true handmaidens and bondservants). Therefore, for the believer to walk in the fulness of their absolute authority in Christ their heart must be WHOLLY GIVEN to God at ALL times.

IN THIS LAST HOUR THERE SHALL BE MANY WHO ARE GREATLY SHOCKED WHEN THEIR DEEDS ARE EXPOSED AS BEING A PRODUCT OF THE "PRINCIPLE OF SATAN" (REBELLION) RATHER THAN THE "PRINCIPLE OF CHRIST" (OBEDIENCE)

To the degree that one "maintains" an element of self-will, it is to that degree that they will "refuse" to subject (submit) themselves to God's authority (the Word of God). We must "whole-heartedly" ALLOW the Holy Spirit to do the deepest work of the Cross within our hearts continually - in order that "all ground" from which the principle of rebellion is put into effect, is both exposed and consumed. As we are faithful to the Father and His Word - and as we continually desire to be submitted to His authority - He is faithful to sanctify us entirely, and in this we have the assurance that the One who called us will also bring that ministry which He has called us to, to fruition (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24). Those whose hearts are hardened in any way, as they attempt" to serve God in their own understanding and "wisdom", are deceived and shall be found to be walking apart from the will of God and in this last hour there shall be many who are greatly shocked when their deeds are exposed as being a product of the "principle of Satan" (rebellion) rather than the "principle of Christ" (obedience).

REVELATION KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S AUTHORITY (WORD) BRINGS FORTH AN "ETERNAL" CHANGE

...."Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. And it came about that as he journeyed, he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but rise, and enter the city, and it shall be told you what you must do"....

Acts 9:1-6

The very first words that came out of Saul's mouth after he had fallen to the ground were "Who are Thou, Lord?" Now Saul had absolutely no idea as to the "person" of the one who was appearing to him, but he clearly discerned that

authority of the words as being "the Lord"! At that point he did not know it was Jesus, but he clearly acknowledged the authority on the words that were spoken to him. Up until this point in his ministry Saul believes he is serving God. He was a good Pharisee, and as far as he knew the "Christians" were a threat to those who served God and needed to be destroyed. But in a split second as the light from Heaven flashed around him, he received a deep and clear revelation of the authority of God. He knew that whoever was speaking to him was the "supreme authority" in the universe and this serves to define clearly the Divine principle of authority which we are putting forth. The key thing we are looking at here is the fact that Saul received a revelation of God's authority, and from this example we can see how this changed his life entirely. And in the same way, as we gain the initial revelation of God's authority, our lives too shall be changed from one of partial obedience and partial consecration to ones which are "wholly" given to God - to live for His purposes and His purposes alone. As we continually place ourselves in a position to receive a continually deeper revelation of God's authority, our lives shall be continually changed and our service before God shall have as its chief characteristic: "perfect obedience". Moments before the light of Heaven shone in Saul's heart he was breathing threats of murder against the disciples of the Lord, but in a split second it was revealed to his heart that Jesus Christ was indeed the Lord of the universe. This is a clear example of what "revelation knowledge" will cause in the life of the believer as they open their hearts wholly to receive from God. In this last hour God is opening the hearts of many people and raising them up to serve Him - in His "absoluteness". It is not insignificant that God used this example of Saul, a man who was so vehemently opposed to the true work of God, for it shows the power of God both "to will and to do".

**ONE WHO HAS A REVELATION OF AUTHORITY WILL ALWAYS
DISCERN ALL THINGS THROUGH THE ONE WHO ABIDES WITHIN
THEM AND "FLESH AND BLOOD" SHALL NO LONGER BE A
"FACTOR" IN THEIR DISCERNMENT**

...."And the men who travelled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice, but seeing no one. And Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and the Lord said to him

in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Behold, here am I, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Thy saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon Thy name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." And Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he arose and was baptized; and he took food and was strengthened"....

Acts 9:7-19

Another significant point here is that Jesus used Ananias to go and to minister unto Saul. From all accounts Ananias was a servant of the Lord, yet he was neither designated as an apostle or a prophet - but he was obviously a man who had humbled himself before the Lord and was therefore "available" for use. Looking at this situation through Ananias' eyes, and remembering that Saul was an up and coming young Pharisee who was both very well known and highly respected in the religious circles of the day, Ananias - who had heard of Saul's persecution of the Church - must now go forth in obedience to God - trusting Him that he will not meet his end at the hands of Saul. On the other hand Saul must humble himself before this servant of God - who most certainly had none of the "credentials" which he himself had. If Paul had considered in any way who Ananias was - in relation to his own previous experience - then he most certainly would not have been in the position to both hear - and obey - that which God had sent to Him through Ananias. But because Saul, in a moment's time had "met" his Lord and had been humbled before Him, he was now able to "recognize" the one whom God had sent as having His authority. As we continue our study of spiritual authority we shall view fully the principle of God's "delegated" authority and His "inherent" authority and we shall come to understand clearly God's way of doing things. One of the keys to understanding true spiritual authority - and the delegation of that authority - is this:

that whoever has "met" authority, that is, whoever has a revelation of God as He is, deals purely with "Authority", never "flesh and blood" alone.

In other words, they never come into a place where they are dependent upon what "flesh and blood" has said, but rather all things which are spoken are viewed through the Anointing that abides within them (the Holy Spirit). To summarize: whoever has "met" authority deals purely with authority and never just the person - but the person "in Christ" and all that proceeds from them in that "ascended" position. God has NEVER made the provision for us to obey men, but rather His authority and Anointing on and in men and women. One who has a revelation of authority will always discern all things through the One who abides within them and "flesh and blood" shall no longer be a "factor" in their discernment.

TO REJECT THOSE "SENT" BY THE FATHER IS TO REJECT JESUS!

There are many of God's children who - UP UNTIL THIS TIME -have refused to submit themselves to the Anointing on God's delegated authorities and this is because they do not have a revelation of God's "inherent" authority (the Word of God). It is only as the believer has a revelation of God's inherent authority that they shall be able to recognize that authority on and in the servants of God sent to them. Therefore a refusal to submit oneself to God's authority (the Word of God) shall cause them to reject those "sent" by God, which in turn is counted by God as a rejection of Himself, in much the same way as Jesus said in Acts 9:5:

...."I am Jesus whom you are persecuting"....

From this statement we see that Jesus takes "personally" the actions of all those who come against those who belong to Him. God takes personally the rejection of the "authority" which He has bestowed upon His bondservants and handmaidens. Let us understand clearly that God's Word is His authority in this earth, and in realizing the seriousness of this matter let us subject ourselves fully to His Word by giving it first place in our lives and obeying it - thereby bringing every thought captive to it (2 Corinthians 10:5). Because of the failure of many to give God first place in their lives - and thus be subject to His authority - there has been a hindrance and a delay in God unwrapping His "gifts" to the Church.

WITHOUT RECEIVING THOSE WHO ARE SENT TO HER FOR HER EDIFICATION, THE CHURCH WILL NOT REACH HER FULL POTENTIAL IN CHRIST

It is indeed the Father's desire for each one of His children to operate in the unity of the Spirit and thus come to the place where they are walking in the unity of faith - an absolute faith which is the product of a deep and abiding submission to Him (to His authority). It is also one of the Father's deepest heart desires to manifest Himself powerfully on behalf of His people and, in doing so, cause many great signs and wonders to come to pass as the captives are set free. Yet, because many have refused to subject themselves "wholly" to the authority of God's Word, the Father's hands have been "temporarily" tied and thus many continue on in bondage to the Evil One! One thing is certain, that without receiving those who are sent to her for her edification, the church will not reach her full potential in Christ - and thus shall hinder greatly the flow of the Holy Spirit in the earth! In this last hour, the children of God are not only going to have to have a revelation of His Word, but they are also going to have to be in a position continually to hear the voice of His Spirit - Who will in turn guide them and teach them how to apply the revealed knowledge that they have been blessed with. It is His instruction that "allows" us to live moment by moment in "perfect" obedience - regardless of any outward "circumstances". God's Word and His Spirit are more than enough to cause us to rise above all the schemes of the Evil One who seeks only to cause us to come into division and strife - knowing that if he is successful - even temporarily - then there shall be defeat and failure manifested in the church. Satan's chief scheme is to cause division and strife in the midst of God's people for it is certain that this type of activity (carnality) truly is a "distortion" and "misrepresentation" of God - AS HE TRULY IS! There are many children of God who have a "degree" of revealed knowledge, but in their arrogance and their rebellion they continually choose to apply that which God has blessed them with to suit their "own" purposes - and this of course leads them into all manner of evil. As we continue on in our study of spiritual authority we are going to examine the sin of "presumption" in depth and we are going to see clearly the seriousness of "any" mental assent on our part, pertaining to the will of God. Many children of God - through their "carelessness" - have become "insensitive" towards the Father and His Word and have therefore "lost sight" of His absoluteness and of the Divine Requirement (Luke 10:27) for their lives. Because of these things they have willingly - albeit "unknowingly" - been moved off the path of God's perfect

will and have been held captive by Satan to do his will (2 Timothy 2:26). This is indeed a very serious matter in the eyes of the Father! One can also be sure that this situation shall be remedied by the power of God in this last hour!

FAILURE TO SUBMIT ONESELF TO THE AUTHORITY OF GOD SHALL LEAVE THAT ONE UNDER THE "AUTHORITY" (INFLUENCE) OF SATAN

In having a revelation of the truth that God's Word is a manifestation of God's will - and that God's will is the same as His Word - we can therefore state that God's will represents His authority and from this we can state that if we know the will of God (and obey it) THEN we are truly subject to His authority. This is no great mystical secret which is being kept from the Body of Christ! The only reason that this revelation of truth has been clouded at all is the failure of the many to give their heart "wholly" to God. I shall state here again most "implicitly" the need to adhere strictly to the "Divine Requirement" which calls us to submit every fibre of our being to God - to live no longer for ourselves, but rather to carry out His purposes in the earth (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). We must continually live lives of "self-denial" - properly submitting ourselves to God's Word and thus "allowing" that Word - through the power of the Holy Spirit - to order our paths. Too often amongst the children of God the misconception is fuelled that the life of faith is the "hard" life, but this is quite simply a lie of the Evil One! The life of faith is not a life of fear and bondage, but rather a life of blessing, love, power and authority - in Christ! In this last hour those who "choose" a life of wanton pleasure shall soon find out that the failure to trust fully in God's salvation (His Word) shall lead them to experience the torment and bondage of the "curse" rather than the blessings of obedience (Deuteronomy 28). Failure to submit oneself to the authority of God shall leave that one under the "authority" (influence) of Satan (Romans 6:16).

TWO ABSOLUTE PRINCIPLES

In this last of the last hour, it is certain that the wrath of God and the judgement of God shall be upon all those who "align" themselves with Satan in thought and deed!

The two most important requirements for every Christian to have as their standard are:

(1) trusting entirely in the "fulness" of God's salvation

and

(2) obeying His Word (will - authority).

In His Provision (Jesus Christ) God has covered "every" aspect of our lives and therefore we have no excuse to be caught placing our dependence on something apart from a "revelation" of His Holy Word (John 15:5). We MUST come to understand that in this earth "all" things are either a product of God's authority or the counterfeit of submission to God's authority (Word) - which is Satan's rebellion! These are two absolute principles and each one who walks this earth at any given moment is found to be standing on one side or the other. To put it another way, as we earlier expressed, these can be called the "Principle of Obedience" and the "Principle of Rebellion". It is the Father's desire that His children understand the "absoluteness" of these two principles - and thus come to understand that they can not be "mixed" and yet still be counted as being "in Christ" or in the will of God.

THE PRINCIPLE OF THE BODY OF CHRIST - "EVERY" MEMBER SUPPLYING THE WHOLE

There are many things which are a product of "rebellion" that are called falsely as being done in the Name of Jesus and these "all" must be exposed for what they truly are! In this most critical hour the Father shall SURELY vindicate and sanctify that which belongs to Him and expose and judge that which does not (1 Corinthians 3:13)! As we enter in a continually deeper revelation of the "Body of Christ" - and the very principle of that Body (EVERY member supplying the whole) - it MUST be clearly understood that ANY rebellion against God (manifested through the life of one of His children) will lead to a "hindering" and a "tearing down" of the Church, while every act of obedience shall edify the Church and cause Her to be built up and "multiplied" by His power. When the child of God truly has a revelation of the fact that in Christ they have been "translated" into the Kingdom of Heaven, and thus they SEE themselves with their feet firmly planted there, THEN through the "light" that abides within them they shall no longer be subject to the "false authority" which Satan wields over all those whose "affections" are in the world and its ways; and it is THEN they shall

also take (receive) the fulness of the authority which God has given them in Christ (Matthew 28:18) and turn and rend Satan with it continually! It is certain that we need to have all believers driving Satan out of the church instead of spending all of their time just fighting him off - for indeed the one great purpose we have is to destroy the "strongholds" of Satan.

THE GREATEST HINDRANCE TO TRUE MINISTRY

Satan laughs when one with a rebellious heart (one not wholly given to God) preaches the Word or attempts to operate in the authority which they have been given in Christ. It is so important for every believer to continually have their eyes fixed upon Jesus - the author and developer of their faith - for as the believer continually keeps their eyes fixed on "the things which are not seen" (2 Corinthians 4:18) they shall gain a deep and abiding revelation of the fact that everything has its root in the spiritual realm and they shall come to understand that dependence upon the five physical senses to "discern" things will not profit them anything in ministering the Word of God and meeting the needs of God's people. Dependence upon the five physical senses to perceive or discern anything is the "greatest hindrance" to true ministry that the servant of God shall face. God may use the five physical senseS to confirm some things that He has already said by His Spirit, but NEVER are we, as children of God, called to place "any" dependence upon our own understanding (through the five physical senses) regardless of how "good" things look or how "bad" things look.

THE BASIC CHARACTERISTIC OF TRUE CHRISTIAN SERVICE IS COMPLETE SUBMISSION TO GOD'S AUTHORITY

The Father desires each one of His children to exercise an absolute faith at all times - a faith which takes as its only source the revealed Word of God. The basic characteristic of true Christian service is complete submission to God's authority - and His authority (Word) alone. The only things that we can truly say that we "know", as Christians, are those things which the Father has revealed to us by His Spirit. Past experience, that is, a knowledge "formulated" by things having been perceived through the "old nature", MUST be set completely aside - in order that our minds might be renewed through the continual filling of our hearts with a superabundance of God's Word. It is only in this way (total dependence upon the Father and His Word) that one shall be found to be "truly" serving God in this

most critical hour. It is to those who have truly humbled themselves before Him that the Father entrusts His authority and His power - and as we go on to study further we shall see this borne out in the lives of various "handmaidens and bondservants" of the Lord. If one is going to be a "delegated authority" of God then they are going to have to meet "certain conditions" - the first of which is a complete and utter submission to His Word. The Christian who has not placed God's Word first in their life shall never be used to any great degree by the Father until they do. If our deepest heart desire is to come into the place of abiding in God's Word then we must eat, sleep, drink and breathe the Word in our remaining time on this earth!

THE FATHER HAS NEVER MADE ANY PROVISION FOR THE "FLESH" TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WILL

...."Then Samuel said to Saul, "The Lord sent me to anoint you as king over His people, over Israel: now therefore, listen to the words of the Lord"....

1 Samuel 15:1

As we look at the story of Saul and Samuel we shall see that this is a very important type and symbol concerning the workings of spiritual authority. We know that it was God's desire that He Himself rule over Israel, but the people wanted a king just as the nations around them had kings - and that is precisely the type of desire produced when God's people fix their eyes and their affections on the "world" and its ways instead of on God and the things above (James 4:4). As the prophet Samuel carried out God's command to anoint Saul King of Israel (in the first part of verse one) he states to Saul that he is sent by the Lord to anoint him King of Israel and then he expresses the truth that is found behind every special anointing of the Lord and that is, "Listen to the words of the Lord". In other words, when one is anointed of God to do a task it is understood on God's part that that one shall be "wholly" dependent upon Him step by step - until the task is completed. Every believer must understand clearly that the Father has NEVER made any provision for the "flesh" to accomplish His will and neither must we (Romans 13:14)! God's work and will must be accomplished by His power - WITHOUT EXCEPTION - and it is a lack of this revelation which has so seriously hindered the spread of God's Kingdom in the earth. The Spirit of the Cross calls us to forsake all dependence upon our own understanding - to depend

wholly upon the Father and His wisdom. It is only through a deep and abiding revelation of God's "inherent" authority (His revealed Word) that the believer is able to approach every aspect of their lives "as unto the Lord".

**THROUGHOUT HISTORY GOD'S JUDGEMENT HAS ALWAYS
FALLEN UPON THAT WHICH HAS NOT BEEN SANCTIFIED
"ENTIRELY" BY HIM**

...."And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the Lord! I have carried out the command of the Lord." But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; but the rest we have utterly destroyed." Then Samuel said to Saul, "Wait and let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak!" And Samuel said, "Is it not true, though you were little in your own eyes, you were made the head of the tribes of Israel? And the Lord anointed you king over Israel, and the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are exterminated,' "Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord, but rushed upon the spoil and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord?" Then Saul said to Samuel, "I did obey the voice of the Lord, and went on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God at Gilgal." And Samuel said, "Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams, for rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king." Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, I have indeed transgressed the command of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice"....

1 Samuel 15:13-24

We see from these verses that Saul believed that he had carried out the will of God. As it is in EVERY case when one "mentally ascends" to the will of God, they truly believe they have accomplished that which God has given them to do -

yet through the darkness which they "allowed" to enter in they were deceived. How numerous are the examples of "fleshly activity" which, up until this time, have plagued the church of Jesus Christ and yet - as with Saul - they believe that those things which they have done are blessed of God. Throughout history God's judgement has always fallen upon that which has not been sanctified "entirely" by Him. So let us "know" beyond a shadow of doubt that our work is God's work and that God's work is our work! This may cause one to stop and reflect on their "works" and lay aside all their "precious" ideas and notions in order to hear from God. May Father enlighten our hearts to see only His will - and our part in it.

OBEDIENCE IS "BETTER THAN SACRIFICE" BECAUSE IN SACRIFICE THERE MAY STILL BE AN ELEMENT OF SELF-WILL

In looking at Samuel's word here (in the last portion of scripture) to Saul telling him that "to obey is better than sacrifice", we must come to understand why this is so - for it is no secret that in many areas of the church "sacrificial offering", through various "fleshly" means, is still looked upon as "obedience" on their part. Any lack of an absolute revelation of the "perfect obedience" which the Father requires shall leave the believer depending upon their own understanding as they walk upon what they "think" is service to God, but which, in reality, is not in any way linked to His will. Obedience is better than sacrifice because in "sacrifice" there may still be an element of self-will - and therefore it is perfect obedience alone (perfect obedience being defined as a revelation of God's will perfectly combined with the "unction" of His Spirit) which is "absolute" in honouring God; for it alone takes God's will as its center. There is a lot of "sacrificial" things being done in the church in this last hour and at the root of every one of them is an element of self-will, regardless of how "good" the works look to the undiscerning eye.

IT IS CERTAIN THAT ONE'S AFFECTIONS WILL BE ALIGNED WITH THEIR LORD OR WITH THE "WORLD" AND ITS WAYS

...."Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice"....

1 Samuel 15:24

It is very easy for one to be self-deceived once they allow their heart to become hardened to ANY aspect of the Father's will for their life and ministry. If one continually leans upon their own understanding then it is like a poison which goes into the heart and causes a definite hardening of the "spiritual" arteries - and with the road to communication with the Father and His Word closed to them they become a captive of the Evil One to carry out his will. Spiritual darkness causes one to run to the "world" for their solutions, but, in reality, the darkened wisdom of the world has within it only the capacity for greater darkness and can in no way lead one to the "true" light or provide any lasting (eternal) solution to a problem and, in fact, will only make them worse. It is certain that one's affections will be aligned with their Lord or with the "world" and its ways.

PROLONGED "FELLOWSHIP" WITH THE "WORLD AND ITS WAYS SHALL CAUSE THE BELIEVER TO SEE JESUS CHRIST AS THE WORLD SEES HIM

Many children of God are deceived by the lie that if they step out in faith and obedient action, that God will put them in "over their head". Indeed, the Father puts us continually in "over our head", but in His faithfulness - and through His power - He continually causes us to rise above our situation and keeps us sheltered in the secret place of His presence. Many attempt to justify their "faithless excursions" into the world - which only fuels their desire to lean upon their own understanding in their service to God. Let it be known that prolonged "fellowship" with the "world and its ways shall cause the believer to see Jesus Christ as the world sees Him. Because of this "fellowship" with darkness their image of Him shall be distorted entirely and He shall "seem far away" from them - thus justifying (IN THEIR OWN MIND) their "service" to Him even though that "so-called" service is in the "flesh"!

THE PREREQUISITE TO "ERROR-FREE MINISTRY" IS A HEART WHOLLY WILLING TO DO "ALL" OF THE FATHER'S WILL - AT ALL TIMES

In verse 24 we see once again the danger of having "any" fear of what people think, for that fear will always manifest itself in an action which is contrary to the will of God and shall fuel a "compromising" attitude towards His Holy Word. God, through the spirit of judgement and burning (Isaiah 4:4), is seeking to

rid the five_fold ministry of any "compromising attitudes", in order that His bondservants and handmaidens walk above "error" in ALL of their ways and thus elevate (cause) the church - through the anointing within (and upon) them, to become the "spotless and unblemished" Bride of Christ. There are many who frown upon the thought that one might walk in a state of "sinlessness" and "above error" before the Lord, but it is this simple:

To the degree that one submits themselves to the authority (Word) of God - in ANY given moment, it is to that degree that they shall be found walking above error and apart from sin.

It is only in this position of a complete dependence and submission that the Father is "enabled" to fully empower them for true service! If one chooses to take a "faithless excursion" in unbelief then most certainly they are already in error - and that error shall manifest itself in their ministry! So, therefore, the prerequisite to "error-free ministry" is a heart wholly willing to do "all" of the Father's will - at all times. The Father is always looking for "Perfection" in His people and has made the provision for us to be perfect as He is perfect (Matthew 5:48). - and from this we can "surely" see that a perfect obedience is not beyond our reach - in and by the power of His Spirit.

THE FAILURE TO COMPLY "PERFECTLY" IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S COMMAND IN THIS FINAL HOUR SHALL CAUSE ONE TO BE REMOVED FROM THEIR POSITION AS GOD'S "DELEGATED AUTHORITY"

...."Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord." But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel." And as Samuel turned to go, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. So Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to your neighbour who is better than you. And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind." Then he said, "I have sinned; but please honour me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and go back with me, that I may worship the Lord your God." So Samuel went back following Saul, and Saul worshipped the Lord"....

1 Samuel 15: 25-31

Eventually the deepest thoughts and desires of Saul's heart were exposed. His desire to exalt himself above his God led to his downfall. His failure to comply "perfectly" in obedience to God's command caused him to be removed from his position as God's "delegated authority". As we go on to study further examples of God's people throughout the Word we shall come to see and understand clearly exactly what the Father requires of "all" those who would truly serve Him. The story of Saul is one of the most tragic stories in the Bible, but, as always, the decision to "sow to the flesh" shall reap a harvest of darkness, corruption and ultimately - death.

ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL SURELY SHUT ITS MOUTH IN THE PRESENCE OF A HOLY GOD!

...."Then Samuel said, "Bring me Agag, the king of the Amalekites." And Agag came to him cheerfully. And Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past." But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hewed Agag to pieces before the Lord at Gilgal"....

1 Samuel 15:32-33

As mentioned before, Agag was a type and symbol of the "flesh" and this story is a type of that which shall come to pass in this last hour; for all that seeks to exalt itself above the Word of God (authority of God) shall surely be "hewn to pieces" by the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God and "all" unrighteousness shall surely shut its mouth (Psalm 107:42) in the presence of a holy God!

THE "TWO" COMPONENTS OF PERFECT OBEDIENCE REVISITED

...."Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'....

Matthew 7:21-23

From verse 21 we see clearly that the people Jesus is speaking of here are born-again believers and the "kingdom of Heaven" mentioned here is referring to the Kingdom of God within us (as opposed to our "eternal" destiny). Jesus said, that "He who does the will of My Father, who is in Heaven" and from these words we again see the clear call for perfect obedience. In verse 22 we see an example of the sin of presumption - all these people were doing - and had done - the prophesying, the casting out of demons, and "in His name" performing many miracles - were commanded in the Great Commission, so then where is the problem? "Outwardly" these believers "appear" to have been in the center of God's will, but there is obviously something lacking for the Lord to rebuke them. "Then I will declare to them I never knew you", speaks of the fact that they did not have that "close and intimate fellowship" with Him that is required - and which can only be experienced from the position of a heart that is "wholly given" to the Father and His Word - and thus is entirely (and continually) submitted to His authority. Once again we see the need for the children of God to have a revelation of the two components of "perfect" obedience:

1. to have the revealed knowledge of God's word - which these people did as the Church is called to do these things in His name,

BUT

2. there is a second part and this is where these people missed God! They did not hear the "voice" NOR discern the "unction" of the Holy Spirit.

It was not because they could not hear His voice, but because they did not "truly desire" to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit! Every believer must learn this truth: that for every ounce of revealed knowledge God blesses them with they must wait on Him to - through the power and unction of His Spirit - apply His wisdom and thus show them "how" and "when" to apply the knowledge (revelation of His will) that they have been blessed with!

THE PATH OF PERFECT OBEDIENCE IS THE "NARROW WAY"

One may think that this is a very "fine line" - and indeed it is - but the path of perfect obedience IS the "narrow way" which is spoken of in Matthew 7:13 and in this last hour it shall be a "stumbling block" which many trip over because of

their failure to give their hearts "wholly" to the One who purchased them that they might no longer live for themselves, but entirely for God. It is only the "desire" to walk on the narrow path that will allow (empower) one to - for any "carnal" desire, no matter how small, will cause one to take their eyes off Jesus, and veer to the right or to the left of the "highway of holiness".

IF WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO HEAR THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THEN WE ARE IN A POSITION TO HEAR THE VOICE OF SATAN AND THE "WORLD"

Jesus then goes on to say, "depart from me, you who practice lawlessness". To "practice" lawlessness means that in the deepest fibre of their being one has "kept part back" from God and thus "self-exaltation" and "self-indulgence" shall be the motivating force of their actions - regardless of how good their works may appear! Therefore, we must take heed to guard our hearts with all diligence and we must allow the Holy Spirit to continually do the deepest work of the Cross in us - so that our "works" might not be consumed by the consuming fire of the Holy Spirit in the day of judgement. As we continue on we shall study the sin of presumption in more detail and we shall see clearly that it is something that must be avoided - AT ALL COST TO OURSELVES. The whole key for the children of God in this last hour is for them to remain continually in a "position" wherein they are able to hear clearly the voice of the Holy Spirit. We must always remember that if we are not in a position to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit then we are in a position to hear the voice of Satan and the "world".

WHATEVER DOES NOT PROCEED FROM AN ABSOLUTE FAITH WORKING THROUGH A PERFECT LOVE AND THEN CARRIED OUT IN "PERFECT OBEDIENCE - IS SIN!

Perhaps the greatest problem in the church right now is the fact that many refuse to call sin, "sin"! If one is not honest before the Father and His Word and they are not desirous of living a life pleasing to Him then they shall surely be deceived into believing that they are "sinless" - while, in reality, they remain in bondage to sin. Remember: Whatever does not proceed from an absolute faith working through a perfect love and then carried out in "perfect obedience - is sin! Any "presumption" (leaning upon one's own understanding) on the part of a believer indicates rebelliousness in the heart towards God! We must learn to

"wait" upon God (as in a "waiter" at a restaurant) in order to both seek and find that which we are called to. We should - IN NO WAY - be seeking for "work to do" which is apart from God - because if we do Satan will see to it that we find it. We must be "sent" by God in ALL that we do - from start to finish! There is a great deal of lawlessness and rebelliousness in the church and it shall be dealt with by God.

ONLY AFTER ONE HAS A REVELATION OF THE AUTHORITY OF GOD - AND HAS LEARNED OBEDIENCE TO THAT AUTHORITY - CAN THEY LEAD THE CHILDREN OF GOD INTO THE NARROW PATH OF PERFECT OBEDIENCE

Why do people "band together" in their carnality and rebelliousness and come against those who are walking in the narrow way? Because they have a "common purpose" and that is to justify their actions in the flesh - actions which are a product of their own selfish desire. But on the positive side - as the children of God give themselves wholly to Him and place His Word as the supreme and sole authority in their lives; and as they seek for nothing but to do His will in His way THEN, in their "one accord", God's power shall be freely manifested in the earth and the spirit of rebellion which has rested on the vast majority of God's people shall be put to flight and driven from His church! One who has "met" God and who has an "abiding" revelation of His authority shall have their eyes opened to see that which is of the Spirit of obedience and that which has its origin in lawlessness - both in themselves and in others - and with this blessing comes the great responsibility of walking in love at ALL times - NEVER seeking to exalt oneself and NEVER taking any offense at anything done to them. Only after one has a revelation of the authority of God and has learned obedience to that authority can they lead the children of God into the narrow path of perfect obedience. In other words, the delegated authority cannot in any way, lead the children of God into the fulness of their inheritance in Christ, apart from their own obedience and continued walking in the light. To the degree that one walks in perfect obedience it is to that degree that they shall be used powerfully to "influence" others to a life of absolute consecration and obedience - for it is certain that all God's power and life flows through the gateway of the Cross, and the Spirit thereof.

Let us hear the words of the Father concerning these very issues:

"LOVE WILL DRAW THOSE WHO TRULY LOVE ME NEAR TO ME AND "REPEL" - IN SOME WAY - (OFFEND) THOSE WHOSE HEARTS ARE NOT YET WHOLLY GIVEN"

...."The "force of love" will be predominant in all of your words and actions as you go forth to minister to My people, My beloved bondservants and handmaidens, and as My love is poured out through you and as My people are ministered to, that Love will draw those who truly love Me near to Me and "repel", in some way, (offend) those whose hearts are not yet wholly given. Take no thought: for what anyone "thinks" at any time, for as you go forth, adhering only to Me - hearing only the voice of My Spirit as I direct you moment to moment in the fullness of ministry - those of My children whose hearts are towards Me shall surely be "set free" from all hindrances and unholy attachments, to enter into a deeper revelation of My glory and My love and My faith. This is not a time for the "comfort that kills" to have a hold on the lives of ANY of My children, for in the lateness of the hour every thought must be brought captive to "perfect obedience", and thus shall "true harmony" reign in the midst of the congregations. Then - and only then - will My children see the fullness of My power to accomplish the various tasks at hand. Many of My children "crave" power that they might carry out the "Great Commission", but first and foremost they must realize that it is only as they are "blameless and holy" - seeking only to be found in perfect obedience - that will "allow" My power to flow in such measure as to accomplish "quickly" that which is required of My Church - and thus shall the "Church Age" be brought to a close in a most glorious way!"....

"THE PRIDE OF THE FLESH IS SUFFICIENT FOR NOTHING!"

...."The same "spirit" that causes My children to act "presumptuously - as they attempt to "adhere" to the "Great Commission" - is the same spirit (the spirit of self-sufficiency) which has kept them apart from a "perfect obedience", thus causing them to be "unprepared" and "void of the power and faith it takes to believe that the "actions" they carry out will effect a "true deliverance" in the ones they minister to. Is this not why there is a "definite" power shortage in the "ministers" of healing? For indeed, faith in oneself and "their" ability to discern - in any way - My Word and the voice of My Spirit, shall "never" generate the

power necessary to "defeat" (devastate) the Evil One! Is this not also why there has been a "vast" failure in the efforts of many to "evangelize" the world? Truly I say to you, when I said, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel", and when I said, "They shall lay hands on the sick and they will recover", and when they said, "They shall cast out demons in My name," I never gave these commands as some sort of "general statement", but as with every command I give I demand a "perfect obedience" that is, first, the "reception" of the revelation of My Word, and second, the unction of the Holy Spirit in applying My "wisdom" to the given revelation in the moment when "action" is required by Me. Truly I say to you, every one of the works I call My children to do must be "wrought" by a "sufficiency" found only in Me; for the "pride of the flesh is sufficient for nothing but the "experience" and "impartation" of darkness and death on the part of all those who "lean" upon it!"....

Amen