

## **CHAPTER 8**

### **CASTING ALL OF YOUR CARE UPON THE LORD**

..."Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying what shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or wherewithal shall we be clothed? For all these things do the Gentiles seek; for your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof"....

Matthew 6:25-34 KJV

### **THE CHILD OF GOD IS TO BE PROSPEROUS IN ALL THINGS**

In this portion of God's Word we see clearly that everything we need to sustain us physically in this life is included in the provision that God has made for each one of His children. As Jesus continues to speak we see how God has made the provision for all of our needs in order that we might take no thought or care for the meeting of our needs by our own strength. In verse 33 we are told to seek first the Kingdom of God knowing that God will take care of everything else. As the believer begins to focus their eyes (spiritual and physical) on seeking first the Kingdom, they are then on the road to living their life by faith - for they will have come to the realization that the Heavenly Father knows that they need these things and that He is quite capable of providing for them. In verse 31 Jesus says "take no thought" concerning the meeting of our needs. In other words, He is stating emphatically that we should take no thought which raises itself up against the

Word of God which clearly states that God is willing and able to care for us. For the most part the trend in this area of thinking in the church is "self-sufficiency". A false humility which says, "God does not want to hear of my little needs" raises itself up against the Word of God and in reality seeks only to have its "own way" in all things. This lie and deception of the Evil One attempts to keep many children of God in an area of lack, struggling to meet their own needs - having been held in bondage to fear, worry, and unbelief. The child of God is to be prosperous in all things, not held down by the shackles of this world's system of distribution, but rather they are to operate on the spiritual principles found in the Word of God. It is a grievous sin for the believer to depend on their own strength for anything - in light of what God's Word says - for we know that "whatever does not proceed from faith is sin" (Romans 14:23), and our Heavenly Father longs to bless us and keep us in a manner which exceeds abundantly beyond all we could ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). It is in this area of material prosperity for our sustenance that Satan has blinded many believers to the truth of the matter and causes many to walk in their own strength - devoid of faith - firmly basing all of their convictions upon the way of the world, and because of this they allow themselves to be held in bondage to the Evil One and his plans.

## **WE MUST REMOVE ALL FROM OUR LIVES THAT INITIATES FROM THE "FLESH"**

Many believers become "offended" at the message of faith because it challenges those parts of their walk which are not based on the Word of God. They deem a life based on the flesh a more precious thing to hold to than the life of abundance and blessing which God has in store for all those who love and trust Him. We, as believers, must awake to the realities of God's Word, discarding all the lies which the Evil One has fed us in the church - up until this time. It is indeed a glorious day when the child of God awakens to the fact that the Word of God is true and that all those thoughts and pre-conceived notions based on that which is outside the Word of God are nothing less than lies of the Evil One. For too long the church has not walked anywhere near the "absolute life" which our Heavenly Father intended for us to walk in and all because we would not believe the words He spoke to us - forsaking them to rely on our own strength in order to fulfil our own selfish desires. Each of us needs to be honest with ourselves and with God and put aside our foolish ways and place our lives in their "entirety" in His loving hands for the hour is late and there is much work to do! The days of the Evil One

working from within the church are at an end and the manifestation of the "Glorious Church" is near. We must remove "all" from our lives that initiates from the flesh and proceed boldly toward the things of God. It is not surprising that Jesus referred to those who took thought and concern for their own well-being before relying on God, as those of "little faith". In saying this Jesus was pointing to the fact that their faith was not developed very much and this was because they had become so used to meeting their own needs that they had lost sight of the fact that they were valuable in God's sight and that He is both willing and able to sustain them in every way as they carry out His will in the earth. This is no small problem in the church today! Many who would profess their faith in God for the New Birth, continue to rely on "themselves" in other areas (such as the meeting of their needs) - thereby displaying a deep mistrust in God and His Word. Satan has them deceived to the degree that they believe that God expects them to care for themselves. Many believers are content, in times of prosperity, to coast along enjoying their illusion of comfort, but in this last hour all that is of the "flesh" must be removed from the Body of Christ, for it is certain that all those who have been operating outside the Kingdom principles found in the Word of God will be devastated by the Evil One (Matthew 7:26-27) (Hosea 8:1)!

## **NOW IS THE TIME TO CONSECRATE OURSELVES UNTO THE LORD AND WALK BY FAITH IN ALL THINGS**

Now is the time to consecrate ourselves unto the Lord and walk by faith in all things. Now is the time to fill our hearts with the Word of God and realize that we have a glorious covenant with the God Who created Heaven and earth. Now is the time to harken unto the voice of the Lord and see Him as He truly is: the Great Provider, and the meeter of all our needs (Philippians 4:19). Let us not be deceived by the Evil One in thinking that we, in any way, outside the Spirit of God, are able to accomplish God's will in this earth. For there is nothing which is good or useful in the flesh (Romans 7:18). Despite the fact that, to this point, the child of God may have to some degree been ensnared and deceived by the Evil One, they need only repent and begin to seek, with "all diligence", the narrow path set out for them in the "Kingdom of Heaven" (God's will) and the Father will restore them to where they should be in every area of their lives. One need not feel threatened by their previous sin and its consequences for when we confess our sins (from the heart) He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness and we need not fear in any way -for the Holy Spirit will lead us

into all truth and our lives of faith will be pleasing to our Heavenly Father. It is never too late to walk in God's perfect will for our lives, but once we realize our service in the Lord has not been what it should be we must repent of our ways (in the flesh) whole-heartedly and begin immediately to sow to the Spirit in all things. When we allow ourselves to take a worry or care of the world Jesus Christ is no longer the primary focus in our walk for as long as we hold onto it. By walking in fear and anxiety we are in essence saying that God is not able or, even worse, not willing (both of which are lies) to meet our needs and by taking this thought - which was placed initially by Satan - we exalt that very thought above the Word of God. How innocent Satan has made reliance on "self" appear to the church, and from this insidious root comes a church which walks in a very small percentage of what she has been called to because she relies for the most part on worldly wisdom and human understanding rather than the Mighty Spirit of God. We can rejoice greatly in the fact that many are consecrating themselves to the life of faith, giving their all for the One Who gave His all for them. Could we be called to anything less? Indeed not! The monster of carnal Christianity, which rejoices only to the degree that the flesh is gratified, is soon to be extinct and the Evil One will be removed from amongst the children of God!

### **A CARE OR WORRY IS A "LOFTY THING"**

In 2 Corinthians 10:5 the Word of God states:

...."we are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ"....

Notice the words that Paul uses here. He writes "we are destroying speculations", now we know that when we destroy something we remove every trace of it so that nothing which existed before exists anymore. In the same way Paul talks of destroying "every lofty thing" raised up against the knowledge of God. We must realize that a care or a worry is a lofty thing because it seeks to exalt itself above the Word of God. Any thought or meditation which is not based on the Word of God is a "speculation" or "lofty thing" and therefore we must rid ourselves of them and seek to destroy anything which is contrary to God's Word in our lives. It is when this is revealed to the believer by the Spirit of God that they will no longer seek in any way to sow to the flesh and they will find that they will

be transformed (by the renewing of their mind) into a pleasing child whose "only desire" is to act on the Word of God - their will having been brought to the place where its only desire is to do the perfect will of God. Once the believer has appropriated the Word of God concerning the casting of their cares upon their benevolent Heavenly Father, then they will have removed much of the ground Satan was able to stand on in their life and thus will have a continually clearer image of the Lord Jesus Christ - no longer bound by distortion and confusion and fear but rather living the life of faith in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**WHEN THE BELIEVER'S HEART IS WELL ESTABLISHED IN GOD'S WORD, FEAR AND WORRY WILL NO LONGER BE AN "ACTIVE" FORCE IN THEIR LIFE**

In 1 Peter 5:5-7 the Word of God states:

..."You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, for God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety (care) upon Him, because He cares for you" ....

These scriptures we are dealing with today are perhaps scriptures which many believers are familiar with, but until the child of God "believes" that they are true, and until they are revealed to their heart by the Holy Spirit, their instantaneous reaction to a situation will be one of fear and worry, rather than one of faith. When the believer's heart is well established in God's Word, fear and worry will no longer be an "active" force in their life. This is precisely the way God planned it and all that remains is for the church to act on the Word of God in every area of their walk - for faith (not fear) comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Fear and worry will not have an avenue because all of the faith of the believer whose heart is established will be in God's Word. The Wuest expanded translation of the New Testament really captures the essence of the teaching put forth in 1 Peter 5:5-7. It states:

..."Moreover, all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes Himself to those who set themselves above others, but gives grace to those who are lowly (lowly in the estimation of their own flesh,

but strong in the realization of who they are in Christ Jesus) permit yourselves therefore to be humbled under the mighty hand of God in order that (you) He may exalt in an appropriate season, having deposited with Him once for all the whole of your worry because to Him it is a matter of concern respecting you"....

The "appropriate season" mentioned above comes about as we grow in Christ and as we come to the fulness of the revelation that we are "crucified" to both our flesh and the world (Galatians 2:20) (Galatians 5:24) (Galatians 6:14) and as we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Thus, those seeds of faith which have been planted and nurtured in our hearts bring us into the stage of abundance in our fruit-bearing. The Heavenly Father waits patiently in the life of the believer who is seeking Him until that perfect time in which the believer will receive and enjoy the blessing to the fullest thus bringing the greatest glory to the Father. It is for this reason that the child of God should be seeking whole-heartedly for the Holy Spirit to reveal all which would hinder the reception of blessings from the Father, for the Father loves His children and desires to bless them in every way in order that the name of Jesus might be exalted and lifted up for all men to see. Following the words "appropriate season" this translation states "having deposited with Him once for all the whole of your worry". When one places a sum of money in a night deposit box in a bank they don't place it in the deposit slot keeping their hand on it. Once the decision has been made they freely drop the deposit envelope into the box and its gone so that even if they changed their mind and wanted it back they couldn't get it back - until perhaps the next day. This is exactly the type of attitude we need to develop in casting our care upon the Lord. We need to take that specific worry or care and make a firm decision to place it squarely in the hands of our Heavenly Father. As the believer begins to practice and develop this habit in EVERY situation they are in, it will not be long before their spontaneous reaction in every circumstance will be to look to the Word of God and what it says pertaining to the potential worry or care - and in doing this - lean totally on the integrity of the Heavenly Father to resolve the difficulty by His power. For too long a great many Christians have been content with holding on to worry and care. When any child of God "practices" relying on their own strength they will then hold onto that care, and will, if practised continually, be held in bondage by a spirit of fear to some degree. On the other hand the believer who will immediately look to the Word of God in every circumstance of their life will develop their faith and grow spiritually with each passing day.

## **SATAN IS "MOVED" BY FEAR THE SAME WAY THAT GOD IS MOVED BY FAITH**

As the believer diligently continues to cast all their care on the Father fear will no longer be a driving force in their walk. Satan will not persist long in the life of the believer who - no matter what happens - turns first to the Word of God. This principle of casting one's care is extremely important for many reasons but perhaps one of the main benefits is that we learn to handle the Word of God accurately and unashamedly and become proficient in the use of the sword of the Spirit in every way - thus enabling us to appropriate the fulness of Christ's victory over Satan at Calvary, and this in turn causes us to walk in the fulness of the authority we have been given in Christ Jesus (Luke 10:19) (Mark 16:15-20) in order that the captives might be set free. When one comes to the realization that Satan is moved by fear the same way that God is moved by faith, the believer will see the necessity of removing all habits and practices in their walk which are based in unbelief (fear) and indeed as the Word of God is put first place in the life of the believer and they are transformed by the renewing of their mind, these harmful thought-patterns Satan had used to keep them in some form of fear, will be removed and replaced with thoughts which rise up from the "established heart" rather than from outside through the five physical senses. The heart, which is filled with God's Word, will continually allow the believer to speak forth words of faith (Matthew 12:34-37) and fear will be non-existent, but the heart that has been fed on human wisdom alone and the ways of the world will operate in fear for the heart which is filled with fear will not be able to operate in faith.

### **SPIRITUAL LAW**

In Psalm 55:22 the Lord states:

...."cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken"....

In this portion of God's Word we see clearly that it is the Father's desire for us to cast "all care" upon Him and also the firm promise with it that "He will sustain" us. As the believer feeds continually on the Word of God they will receive a deeper revelation of the faithfulness of God (1 Thessalonians 5:24) (Psalm 33:4) (Psalm 91:4) (Psalm 89), and in doing so will come to the "full realization" that

God is both willing and able to meet our every need and bear our every burden. Quite simply put it always comes down to this one thing: we are either going to believe or disbelieve what God's Word says at any given time in our walk. We are going to exercise faith and lean totally on God and His Word or we are going to exercise unbelief and lean on our own understanding - and that is sin (Romans 14:23)! This spiritual law is at work in our walks at all times, regardless of how small a detail we consider it to be. We, by our words (confession) will activate the law of sin and death or the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:2), and since it is written that the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death we need to partake fully of that freedom by placing God's Word first in our lives and as we do this we will walk with a great degree of proficiency in every area of our lives. Psalm 55:22 also states that:

...."He will never allow the righteous to be shaken"....

When we are exercising our full reliance on the Word of our Heavenly Father we are like trees, tall and straight, deeply rooted in good soil, continually watered, and when life's storms and troublesome circumstances which are attempts by the Evil One to remove us from the narrow path of God's perfect will come, we are not even swayed because our roots are deeply established in God's Word and His faithfulness.

## **"I WILL INDEED MEET ALL OF YOUR NEEDS IF YOU WILL ALLOW ME TO"**

In Psalm 37:29 the Word of God states:

...."The steps of a man are established by the Lord; and He delights in his way. When he stumbles, he shall not be hurled headlong; because the Lord is the One Who holds his hand. I have been young and now I am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging for bread"....

As we meditate on those verses in the Bible which proclaim God's faithfulness we come to the realization that we need not take a thought or care for anything, for we know that He is in control. The Lord said to me one day, "I will indeed meet all of your needs if you will allow Me to". It was at that point that I realized how much our loving Father desires to take full responsibility for our

sustenance in this life and also I realized how much I had robbed Him of the pleasure He derives from blessing His children, as they walk in faith, believing only in what His Word says. All of our actions which do not originate in and by the Spirit of God come from the "flesh" and indicate that we desire to retain control in some form of our lives and this is sin. We cannot "pretend" to walk the faith walk, for the manifestation of the seeds sown in the flesh will become evident in the life of that believer who continually seeks their own. Yet, on the other hand those who seek only to build their foundation on the Word of God (the rock of revelation knowledge) and sow to the Spirit (Galatians 6:8) will be exalted in this earth by the Father and live lives which are pleasing to Him in every way.

### **JESUS LOVED US BEFORE WE EVER DID ANYTHING**

In Galatians 2:20 the Word of God states:

...."I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and delivered Himself up for me"....

It is extremely important for every Christian to realize that Jesus loved us before we ever did anything to even gain a smile from the Father. We know that it is only the exercising of faith which pleases God and as we walk through the turmoil in this world by standing solely on the Word of God it is in this way that we pay our highest respects to our Creator. Jesus loved us and died for us while we were yet sinners and became our justification in the sight of God and we must in no way think that we can through "fleshly" good works, please God. We are in Christ Jesus by the Father's doing and the life which we now live in the flesh we must live by faith in God's Word just as Jesus did to perfection when He walked this earth.

### **EACH WORD WE SPEAK AND EVERY ACTION WE TAKE HAS VERY SERIOUS SPIRITUAL IMPLICATIONS!**

When we take care and worry upon ourselves the thoughts and intentions of our heart are declaring that God is not capable or willing to care for us - which of course is a lie of the greatest proportion! We can now begin to see that each word

we speak and every action we take has very serious spiritual implications. Jesus said "He who is not for me is against Me". There is absolutely no way that this statement can be disregarded if we truly seek to live in God's best and we must find out those things which place us against Him - always keeping ourselves in the position of flowing with the Spirit, for if we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and walk by the Spirit we will not carry out the desires of our flesh (Galatians 5:16). We must come to understand clearly that the flesh sets its desires against our spirit and our spirit against our flesh for they are in opposition to one another (Galatians 5:17). It is this very thing - the "flesh" seeking its own selfish desire - which allows Satan to control the believer to the degree that they conform themselves to this evil world. This problem of carnality is alleviated as the believer continually feeds on the Word of God and thus puts into action the renewed and transformed mind which is now in subjection to the spirit of the believer. From this point they will guard their heart with all diligence and will reap the manifestations of the "established heart". This process is actually very simple, but it hinges totally on the believer's intention of heart to either seek their Lord and His Kingdom or conform to the "world" and its ways. To the degree that they are seeking will be evident in the fruit that they bear. When the believer continually hardens their heart against the Word of God, fear will begin to encompass their life and they will eventually - if this attitude of self-dependence continues - make themselves a stranger to the covenants of promise and, in disregarding the Word of God and continually sowing to the flesh, they will open the door to the Evil One to control their life and neutralize their service. It is this type which best exemplifies the "carnal" Christian and Satan will lead this believer into a life of frustration, failure and tragedy with the full intention of eventually removing them from this earth and out of his way.

### **THE "CARNAL CHRISTIAN" PRESENTS A PERVERTED AND DISTORTED IMAGE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

Because the "carnal" Christian has allowed Satan such a foothold in their life they will be continually used by the Evil One to present to the world a perverted and distorted image of the Lord Jesus Christ. This process has two main purposes in the twisted mind of Satan: one is to deny the Blood of Jesus by making His life and death seem of no importance - thereby causing those who are unbelievers to remain in bondage to fear with no hope for anything. The second purpose is to keep those who are born-again believers operating in

carnality - seeking only those things which gratify their flesh - and in doing this they will not (in their ignorance) use the weapons of their warfare against him. As one looks out upon the church we see that as a body we have "allowed" the Evil One much ground to operate from against us up until this time, but more and more believers are consecrating themselves and seeking to live the life of holiness to which we have all been called and a mighty army such as this earth has never seen before is beginning to march forth - tearing down the strongholds of Satan as they go! As the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) are continually manifested in the life of the consecrated believer, the world, as well as other believers, will witness Jesus Christ in our lives and it shall catch their attention and nurture in them a desire to know Jesus Christ in His fulness in their own lives. From these facts we can now see clearly the importance of living lives "wholly dependent" on the Word of God. As one continually relies on the Word of God for their every need - spirit, soul and body - they shall become a partaker of "His" holiness and a shining light to all who cross their path. When people see our unending peace and continual joy - right in the face of the trials of this evil world - they will not and cannot deny that there is a God and if they will take but one small step of faith toward Him they will also find that He loves them. When a believer sows to the flesh they are serving the forces of evil and when a believer sows to the Spirit they are furthering in some way the Kingdom of Heaven in this earth. Our God is an absolute being and has an absolute nature and as we grow closer to Him we will begin to comprehend that this "absoluteness" extends through all things which pertain to Him and that as Jesus said "he who is not for Me is against Me".

### **THE PEACE - WHICH SURPASSES ALL COMPREHENSION (HUMAN UNDERSTANDING)**

In this last hour God is revealing to His Church a deeper revelation of Himself and His holiness as well as His call to holiness for each believer. As one consecrates themselves wholly unto the Lord, they will experience this deeper revelation of His character - which will in turn increase their desire to know their God and serve Him more fervently. As the child of God begins to appropriate and walk on the promises of God, they will be somewhat staggered at the magnificence of the inheritance that is theirs in Christ and the authority which comes with it (Luke 10:19) (Mark 16:15-20). It is in light of these facts that we see the futility of striving in the flesh when God will meet our every need according to His riches in

glory by Christ Jesus if we will ALLOW Him to (Philippians 4:19).

**In Philippians 4:4 the Word of God states:**

...."Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"....

In verse 6 the Word states "be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God". In the casting of our care over on the Lord we start out letting our requests be made known to God in time of need (Hebrews 4:16) and in praying according to God's Word we believe that we have received that which we have asked for and then in doing this, thanksgiving is given and as our thanksgiving multiplies we enter into praise and in praise is the victory. When the believer is praising God for those things which were sought for in prayer and yet the "circumstances" seem to indicate that it will not come to pass - that is faith and indeed is a very high degree of faith which exerts tremendous spiritual pressure upon the forces of evil. As the child of God exerts the force of faith through praise they cannot fail to inherit the blessing. For this pleases the Father greatly and, if necessary, He will move Heaven and earth to bring forth the "physical manifestation" of the blessing in His perfect timing.

In verse 7 the Word says:

...."and the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension (which literally means all human understanding) shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"....

As the believer puts into practice the principles set forth above concerning the receiving of the meeting of their needs - whatever they may be - unbelief will vanish from their prayer life, thus enabling the Father to continually meet the needs of that child of God. If any believer will set themselves by an act of their will to believe God's Word ABOVE ALL ELSE they will experience fully how to receive from the Father and as they continually cast their care upon the Lord, they

will be free to advance in their spiritual growth and they will be prepared perfectly to walk in the perfect will of the Heavenly Father in their remaining time on this earth.

## **PRESS ON TO MATURITY IN SPIRITUAL THINGS**

There comes a time in the life of every believer when they must press on to maturity in spiritual things, seeking the meat of the Word rather than continuing to dwell on the milk of the Word, not re-laying the same foundation continually but rather continually pressing on to the higher calling of our Lord (Hebrews 6:1) (Philippians 3:14).

In verse 8 there is a final exhortation by the apostle Paul:

..."finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute (report), if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things"....

As the believer takes heed to what they hear and speak, every thought will be brought into line with a "revelation" of the Word of God and instead of taking a thought or care they will be continually exercising faith in the integrity of God's Word, and, with each passing day, will receive a deeper revelation of who they really are in Christ Jesus. With this ever expanding revelation of our covenant with God and His faithfulness and ability to fulfil it we will be freed from any bondage to fear and enabled to fulfil our obligation of obedience to God. We shall also become partakers of His holiness and truly the whole of our care will have been cast on Him once and for all. Each time an opportunity is there to be influenced by the cares of this world the Word of God - which fills our hearts - will rise up and cast down any thought which is contrary to it. Once again we see the necessity of basing our lives on the Word of God and to the degree that we do, it will be to that degree that we will be led by the Spirit of God.

## **THE FATHER DESIRES HIS CHILDREN TO BE "IMMERSED" IN HIS WORD**

In Joshua 1:5-9 the Word states:

...."no man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses I will be with You; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, be careful (take heed) to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or the left so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful (take heed) to do according to all that is written in it, for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"....

In verse 8 the Word says to "meditate" on the Word of God day and night. The Hebrew word which is translated "meditate" is the word "hagah" and as in so many other cases the literal meaning of the Hebrew word gives us a fuller meaning. In our society we have a very narrow view of the meaning of the word "meditate" and are apt to conjure up the image of perhaps a guru sitting on the side of a mountain somewhere wasting his time away. But in reality the word "hagah" gives the idea of pondering, studying, and talking the Word of God. From this we can see how completely the Father desires His children to be "immersed" in His Word for He knows that it is only His Word which will put us over in this evil world. We know, of course, that his command to meditate on the Word of God does not literally mean for us to read the Bible twenty four hours a day, but it does mean that we are called to feed and feed on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). In doing so our hearts will be filled with an abundance of that Word and thus we will in turn begin to discern ALL things in light of God's Word - and in doing this we will continually think (meditate) and speak God's Word, and thus our lives shall be encompassed by His love and we shall dwell in the shelter of the Most High and abide in His shadow (Psalm 91:1-3). It grieves the heart of the Father to see His children remain in the grasp of carnality when all of the provision for their freedom has been provided for in Christ. It is as the child of God begins to unite their faith and trust with God's Word that they will be enabled to walk in the perfect will of the Father and experience God's best in their life (absolute life - absolute love - absolute light).

## **WORRY IS NOTHING LESS THAN MEDITATING ON THE LIES OF THE EVIL ONE**

Worry is nothing less than meditating on the lies of the Evil One. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control are the fruit which are manifest in the life of the believer whose heart is filled with God's Word - and because of this every thought or meditation is brought captive to the Word of God. The believer is either going to meditate on the fear-filled lies of Satan or on the life-giving promises of the Word of God. It is our decision! No wonder Jesus said take heed what you listen to (Mark 4:24). What we feed on will produce life or death. Meditating on the things of this world will produce an attitude of "sowing to the flesh" - which in turn will reap death and darkness in some form. Meditating on the things of God, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, will create an attitude (mental state) of sowing to the Spirit, which will in turn produce eternal (absolute) life. We can now see clearly the need to obey the command to meditate on the Word of God! In Deuteronomy 30:19 the Word states:

..."I call Heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants"....

As believers, we are continually faced each day with a "series of decisions" and we are going to choose the Word of life or the words of death in each one. As we bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ we will always choose life from moment to moment and we will become open channels of God's blessing to all those around us - breathing life to a dying world and a weakened church.

## **THERE ARE BUT "FIVE VEHICLES" BY WHICH THE EVIL ONE CAN ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THE WORD FROM OUR HEARTS**

There are but "five vehicles" by which the Evil One can attempt to remove the Word from our hearts or cause us to lean on our own understanding and they are: affliction (ie. illness), persecution for the Word's sake, the worries of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for things other than God (Mark 4:17-19). As the child of God continually takes their stand on the Word of God IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE Satan will be under their control because they will have exercised their authority in Christ over him. For the most part the church has

not appropriated this authority into their lives and because of this they leave themselves open to attack when, in reality, Satan should be continually fleeing before them! I state emphatically that fear should be non-existent in the life of the Spirit-filled believer and by this I mean that none of their actions should be motivated by fear - but rather by faith in the Word of God. In closing the Lord has instructed me to share a word I received from Him, dealing with the topic which has been put forth.

### **Thus saith the Lord:**

"I am able to fully meet the needs of those who are willing to yield to Me - those who would cease striving to meet their needs by their own power and depend fully on My Word. For I am not able to meet the needs of some of My children the way I desire to because they still maintain the job of meeting their needs themselves. To the degree that My children willingly yield to having their needs met by Me, to that degree they will be met. But to those who continue to strive they will soon see that Satan will steal from them and destroy any avenue they attempt to take in the futility of their own darkened understanding.

I desire to meet EVERY need of My children, even to the smallest detail, but I am hindered greatly by their persistent effort to rely on their own strength - thereby denying the covenant I have made with them. How I long to bless My beloved children with the treasures of Heaven. I have said in My Word that I will withhold no good thing from those that walk uprightly before Me, but for the most part My children seek their security in the elementary things of the world - holding onto them with such fervour that Satan is able to use them to speak out against their brothers and sisters who seek only to walk in the fulness of all that I have provided for them. I say to you this day My son that all who continue to blaspheme My Word shall meet with a form of judgement which is both abrupt and consuming. For the time has come to remove the deceitful and wicked tongue from amongst My Church and truly, truly, I say to you every man will stand before Me and be judged for every evil word which they have not repented of. For have I not said in My Word let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear? Truly, truly I say to you it is time for My children to come to the realization that My Word means exactly what it says. For too long people have viewed My Word through carnal eyes, when in reality it is only My Spirit Who can reveal the mystery of the ages to them. Hold fast My

beloved children, stand firm, for all will reap according to what they have sown and as surely as I have spoken it you will once again be able to distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves Me and one who does not serve Me."

Amen