

# MEDITATIONS ON THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE

....*"This book of the law [the Word of God] shall not depart from [always be in] 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".... Joshua 1:8 NASB*

**December 1st**

## MERCY AND GRACE

\* Mercy is the grace of the forgiven. It is possible to give only that which has been received. The one who has not accepted their own forgiveness cannot extend forgiveness to their brother or sister.

It is the nature of mercy to be gracious. Grace forgives and in so doing unlocks the self-condemned from their prison of guilt. This law *[principle]* operates between God and man and between man and his brothers and sisters. What you loose on earth said Jesus, shall be loosed in Heaven; and likewise, what you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven.

Any resentment harbored toward a brother or sister is a binding force upon their soul. They may take authority over it and free themselves, or they may fail to recognize the source of their bondage and continue in torment. Evil thoughts toward others would be dealt with swiftly if the extent of their damaging influence were even dimly understood. Furthermore, the harmful impact is equally destructive to both the sender and the receiver - the offending and the offended. For the force of evil, as the force of good *[righteousness]*, operates in a spiritually tangible way as powerfully as if it were translated into words or deeds. This is why Jesus said in effect, "The law says do not kill, but I say, do not hate." A man cannot be prosecuted by civil law for wrong thoughts: but in the courts of Heaven, their guilt is sealed even though their sin is yet a mental crime. Many a would be saint has lost their communion with their Heavenly Father and forfeited inner peace because of hate, resentment, and unforgiveness, even when these thoughts have been concealed in the innermost recesses of their heart *[spirit]*.

....*"as he [a man/woman] thinketh [imagines] in his/her heart [spirit], so is he/she".... Proverbs 23:7 NASB*

...."[Now having received the Holy Spirit {Who is the Spirit of Love}, and being led and directed by Him] if you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven [released]; if you retain the sins of anyone, they [the effects of that sin] are retained [both in your life and in their life]".... John 20:23 The Amplified Translation

...."You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' 'But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court'.... Matthew 5:21-22 NASB

It is the work of the Holy Spirit, the purger of souls, to ferret out these enemies of the love of Christ, to bring insight and conviction and guide the offender to repentance and forgiveness. At this point the love of Christ takes over and begins to teach them how to redirect their thoughts in to channels of love, forgiveness, and Grace. They will learn how to free not to bind; how to send a blessing rather than a curse; how to pray constructively rather than to condemn an erring brother or sister.

So shall God's people be healed and His Church prosper because Grace shall flow from member to member, binding breaches and pouring oil upon troubled waters; opening the door for the return of the prodigal and encouraging the faint-hearted.