He that has an ear let him hear...

March 2024

HUMANITY'S JOURNEY Into Ultimate Victory

TRUMPET SOUNDS Teaching Series

The Company of the Called and Chosen (Part 2)



Humanity's Journey into Ultimate Victory

"For no one is cast off by the Lord forever" Lamentations 3:31

Matthew 22:14

For many are called, but few are chosen.

*(All scripture is from the KJV/NKJV unless otherwise indicate; all parentheses found in Scripture texts are added for more literal clarification.)

Multitudes of People who have heard the gospel message and responded to God's *invitation* to be saved from all past sin through faith in Jesus Christ have, sad to say, failed to understand they must then continue to go on to "work out" their initial salvation" to its ultimate and complete end.

Philippians 2:12

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

The phrase "work out" in the above Greek text literally means to fully <u>accomplish</u> and finish the process of salvation that initially begins when we <u>answer God's call</u> to genuinely repent (turn from all sin to God) and follow Jesus Christ as a true disciple. As Jesus said in the following verses...

Matthew 10:22

"...But he who endures to the end will be saved."

Matthew 16:24

"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me." NLT

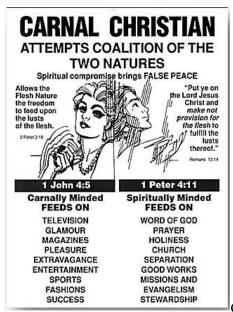
Mark 1:14

"The time promised by God has come at last!" he (Jesus) announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News of the gospel!" NLT (Parenthesis mine for contextual clarity).

Those who have initially been saved by coming to Jesus Christ by answering God's call to repent of their past and present sins often do not realize repentance is only the beginning of the *process of their salvation*.

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How much of salvation's process is able to be *worked out* or accomplished in this lifetime upon earth will ultimately determine not only our quality of life and service for God, here and now on earth, but also our future standing and <u>rank</u> in God's kingdom throughout all of the coming ages. The more fruit we produce, the greater our future heavenly reward:



Matthew 13:23

The one who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

The amount of spiritual fruit we produce will determine our level of authority and our position of responsibility for ruling and reigning with Jesus in His coming earthly kingdom. This will be the reward for those who choose to die to carnality and choose a continual spiritual life of consistent, obedient faith in Jesus Christ while still living upon this

earth. This requires daily dying to our carnal, sinful human nature by living a truly repentant lifestyle.

When we *initially* repent and receive forgiveness of all (past) sin, there is, however, much more work we must allow God to accomplish to experience our ultimate salvation and complete restoration. This will require getting rid of all stones and thorns from our ground (life), so we may have good spiritual ground that will produce much spiritual fruit.

An earnest personal commitment to follow Jesus Christ as a true disciple (daily) is what establishes a spiritually holy, *sanctified life as* well as our intimate relationship with God. A sanctified life literally means a life separated from carnality/sin and set apart for God's will, establishing an intimate personal relationship that enables us *to hear the voice of God and be taught the truth* by his Holy Spirit from the *Word of God*. On the other hand, continuing to live a carnal lifestyle decreases our spiritual perception and God's spiritual power in our lives.

This in turn hinders our *intimacy* with God and our discernment from Him. Without clear discernment Christians lack the needed personal revelation, wisdom, and, most of all, the Holy Spirit's *dunamis* (power) to live a truly overcoming and victorious Christian

life. To have what we need to live this sanctified life requires that...

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John 3:30

He must increase, but I (*my sinful carnal nature*) **must decrease.** *WEB* (*World English Bible; Parentheses mine for clarity*).

We also need to realize that the spiritual transformation God has <u>called</u> (invited) us to experience comes only through the renewing and aligning of our minds with the truth from God's word. This, again, is a *process that takes time and <u>genuine commitment</u>* to Jesus Christ (the word of God), who is the author and the finisher of our faith and salvation.

Romans 12:2

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, <u>but let God</u> transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. NLT

Called and Chosen to Be Separated

In order to be transformed into what God has intended for us to become (a totally new creation), we must not allow our minds to be bogged down with the *cares and affairs of the carnal life* on this earth and then wonder why we are not experiencing the promised "transformation" that is required for being one of God's *chosen saints*. This transformation also involves God's act of *separation* in the lives of his chosen Saints just as it did for the Levites that God chose from among the 12 tribes in the Old Testament. The following verse is what God spoke to the Levites he had chosen out from among the congregation of Israel...

Numbers 16:9

"Hear now, you sons of Levi... the God of Israel has <u>separated</u> <u>you</u> from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the Lord, and to stand before the congregation to serve them."

Those who are among that chosen company known as the Bride of Christ are also referred to as the Bridehood Saints of God in a book entitled Bridehood Saints, published in 1876, by author George D. Watson who wrote the following:

"It says in (Revelation 19:7), "His wife has made herself ready." This truth is regarding the Bride Saints making themselves ready and is to be carried out in this present life. There are certain marks that are mentioned in various places in Scripture as especially belonging to that chosen company spoken of as the Bride of the Lamb... there are various forms of saintly character, and also (various forms) of all those who are to compose this select company of Saints... In (Hebrews 10:23) the Church of the first born is one of the names given to the Bridehood Saints. But who are the Church of the first born according to the exact word in scripture?

Many (erroneously) think it means all who are **saved** (from past sins through faith in Christ) but let us look at what the Bible says. The term must be understood by the words in the Old Testament doctrine regarding the **first born**... God told Moses that all of the <u>first born</u> of the Hebrews should be <u>entirely consecrated to God in a special way</u>, to be his ministers and prophets as **those who were holy**. Thus, the Lord told Moses the Levite's were to be, in a special way the **holy ones** from among the (people of the) 12 tribes...

Numbers 3:11-12

Behold I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of every first born who opens the womb among the children of Israel. Therefore, the Levites shall be mine.

In (Hebrews 12:23) there is reference to another company of (initially) saved (justified by faith) from the earth, much larger in multitude than the Church of the first born, (this much larger multitude) is called "the General Assembly," and is also translated as the "universal church/Assembly." In (Hebrews 12:23) there is also mention of a universal church or a General Assembly which is made up of the saved from all generations (including OT saints), but out of this universal assembly of "all generations," there is a special tribe like that of the Levite's from among the 12 tribes, called the church of the first born.

This includes the "<u>first born</u>" company of Old Testament saints **that** are members of the bride of Christ.

Hebrews 12:23

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...to the <u>GENERAL ASSEMBLY</u> and the <u>ASSEMBLY of the</u> FIRST BORN who are enrolled in heaven...

Again, remember that this heavenly <u>first born</u> is not those who are <u>first born in time</u>, but those who are <u>first born in rank</u> in the order of their spiritual life, regardless of the time in history in which they lived. (It means the <u>ASSEMBLY of the FIRST BORN</u> are (highest) in rank among the <u>GENERAL ASSEMBLY</u> of "justified/believers." The reason the <u>ASSEMBLY of the FIRST BORN</u> have <u>first rank</u> or higher ranking is because the general assembly are yet to experience sanctification). A mark of Saints belonging to the bride (of Christ), is that of being part of the "<u>elect</u>" (chosen). It is a great pity that the word "elect," was used in the Bible, it has been confused (because of being equated) with pertaining to the word salvation. (Parenthesis mine added for clarity).

The word "elect" does not signify being saved (justified) but refers to a rank or an office to be filled after we are (initially) saved (justified/forgiven) ... thus, the term "elect/chosen" is especially referring to a rank achieved by holiness. The bride idea (of being) made up of the elect, is always that of a selection out from a selection. For instance, God selected the 12 tribes of Jacob, and from them he selected the tribe of Levi out of the 12 tribes, which scripture calls the "elect tribe" and again, Gideon selected 10,000 soldiers from his army, and from this selection another 300 from among them who became the elect/chosen, representing the Bridehood Saints.

Also, Jesus selected 12 apostles, but from these he made another selection of three, Peter, James, and John to witness his transfiguration, and they were also types of the Bridehood company. Hence the **word** elect always refers to a degree of holiness, for some special service for God, or to a special degree of intimacy and fellowship with Christ such as is mentioned in the Bible three times with Peter, James, and John." -End of excerpt- (Emphasis mine and Parentheses for contextual clarity).

Many are Called but Few are Chosen

As Jesus states in... (Matthew 22:14) many are <u>CALLED</u>, (to be Saints) but few are <u>CHOSEN</u>. The word called Is the Greek word NT:2822 kletos (klay-tos'); it means to be <u>invited</u> [or called upon to enter into something], or to be <u>appointed</u>: [assigned to duties, obligations, and responsibilities] (specifically that of a Saint).

To be <u>called</u> then means we are <u>(invited</u> ... and not forced) to enter into accomplishing what God has appointed or destined as our <u>duties</u>, <u>obligations</u>, and <u>responsibilities</u> as born-again believers. The more sanctified we become the more authority and responsibilities we can be entrusted with by God. If we choose to enter into serving God as a sanctified saint and accomplish these things, how well we carry out our duties, obligations, and responsibilities, also determines our *rank as a chosen member* among the *Bridehood Saints*. Those who are *chosen* from among the body of Christ (the general assembly) are those who remain **obedient and are without spot, wrinkle or blemish**.

Ephesians 5:23, 26-27

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as (and also) Christ is the head of the church (His bride/wife) ... That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word ... that he might present to himself a glorious church ... not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it (His bride/wife) should be holy (literally: a Saint) and without blemish. (Parenthesis for literal clarity).



To be part of the *Bride of Christ*, (the church) we must be *chosen out of* the *body of Christ*. Therefore, the idea that all who profess to be Christians are part of the *Bride of Christ* (the genuine church) is not biblical. For it is only those who confess and **forsake carnality and all sin**—*every time they are made aware of it* and are *continually cleansed* by this ongoing

sanctification process to qualify as saints and members of the **Bride of Christ**. It is through the sanctification process that "...His (Jesus') wife has made herself ready (Revelation 19:7).

Again, it is true that until a believer fully dedicates himself to living a holy life and makes a consecrated choice to become a living sacrifice unto God through God's process of sanctification, that believers in Christ do not attain their full stature in Christ, which results in the transformation that the bride of Christ experiences. Those answering the call to believe in Jesus Christ, are fully forgiven (justified) every time they confess and turn away from their sin and, by faith, appropriate the cleansing blood of Jesus in order to retain their status as members in particular of the universal body of Christ, also called the General Assembly, as previously discussed.

1 John 1:9

<u>If we confess our sins</u>, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins (we are initially *justified* saved from all confessed sin), <u>AND ALSO</u> to <u>cleanse us</u> (sanctify us) from <u>ALL</u> unrighteousness. (Parentheses for contextual clarity).

Again, to be called by God is to be <u>invited to accept</u> our assignment of performing the *duties, obligations, and responsibilities* associated with being a true believer and a genuine representative of the true Christian faith. On the other hand, saints are those believers in Christ <u>who are chosen</u> because they have <u>favorably responded to God's call or invitation</u> to sanctify themselves and become consecrated to serving Him only, which results in experiencing a deeper intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, there are and will be many among the General Assembly within the *body of Christ* when He returns who will remain weak in faith due to a lack of spiritual growth because of being carnally minded, hindering their intimacy with Jesus Christ, the Word of God. This is why God tells forgiven believers in Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 12:14

Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at <u>living</u> a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see (literally: experience the presence of) the Lord. NLT

Answering the Call

Saints then answer the call to become dedicated to working out the completion of their salvation by becoming holy (sanctified) and wholly dedicated to serving God. The Greek word <u>chosen</u>, NT:1588 <u>eklektos</u> (ek-lek-tos'); means <u>to select for oneself</u>; denoting a <u>favorite</u>. CWSD: states...

"The Greek word **eklektos**, does not necessarily imply <u>rejection</u> of what is not chosen, but rather giving favor to who or what is <u>chosen</u>, keeping in view a (special) relationship is to be established between the one doing the choosing (i.e. God) and what or who is being chosen. It involves **preference** and **selec-tion** from among many other persons or things. (Complete Word Study Dictionary).

The **Bride of Christ** is described as being the <u>abiding place</u> of a <u>company of these people</u> that are <u>chosen</u> from among Jews and from among the Gentiles (*e.g.*, 144,000 a prophetic number that will be discussed in later chapters) and these are united in one body (group) as true spiritual Israelites, in whom there is no *guile* (deception).

Revelation 14:4-5

"...for they (the 144,000 are also chosen Saints because they) are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb wheresoever he goes. These were redeemed from among men (humanity's), first fruits unto God and to Lamb... And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Romans 9:6, 8, 11

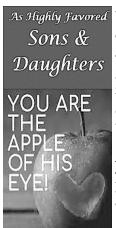
...for not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God's people! ... This means that Abraham's physical descendants are not necessarily children of God revealing that God chooses people according to his own purposes; according to (or from among) those He calls. ALT

Again, as will be scripturally pointed out throughout this study, this elect group of people taken out from among the universal body of Christ (general assembly) are going to be ultimately saved and sanctified by experiencing their "second death" ... while still living up upon this earth. (This subject will be more closely and scripturally examined in coming chapters). As emphasized the company of chosen ones has conformed themselves to Christ with a greater degree of holiness than the masses of those who are born again. They have answered the call to **come out** from among all that defiles and to live a separated and consecrated life of holiness as God's true servants. God says this to those who desire to be a chosen one...

2 Corinthians 6:17

Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

According to the *Complete Word Study Dictionary* (CWSD), the Hebrew word translated here as "<u>RECEIVE</u>" is used only *once* in the Bible and is found in this verse. It is the word NT:1523 eisdechomai (ice-dekh'- omahee), which can also be translated to mean: to be gathered, or to be <u>received into favor</u>, and also denotes having <u>communion</u> (i.e., intercourse) <u>with</u> [i.e., the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings. This is especially true when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level. Not all born-again believers will go on to become the chosen/favored consecrated servants of God.



As Highly Favored Yes, many will receive the invitation to obtain the gift of spiritual life by being born again, but sadly, many among those who do choose life will not be part of this group of *God's chosen ones* who become mature and fruitful and are willing to lay down their lives as a living sacrifice for God. God goes on to say this to those who are separated unto Him and cho-sen by Him...

John 15:16, 19

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain (never die)

NKJV ... The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are

no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. NLT

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2 Corinthians 6:18

'I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty."

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies (gr. "soma" entire being i.e. spirit, soul, flesh) a living sacrifice, HOLY, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Bridehood Saints Shadows, Types and Patterns

Because the Bible tells us that, "many are called but <u>few</u> are chosen" (Matt 22:14) as the "Bridehood Saints" God reveals this truth to us through an abundance of *shadows*, *types* and *patterns* that we find in the Bible.

1 Corinthians 10:11

These things happened to them (Old Testament Israel) as examples (shadows, types and patterns) for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age. NLT

As discussed in the previous chapter, in order to be part of the Bride of Christ, we must be a *saint*. The "saint" is the Greek word (N.T. #40) hagios (hag'-ee-os).

This means a <u>pure</u> and <u>consecrated person</u> (i.e., a person formally dedicated to God's divine purposes).

Hebrews 8:4-5

"... (concerning Old Testament) priests that offer(ed) gifts according to the law... serve as the example and shadow of heavenly (or spiritual) things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: (God), said see, that you make all things according to the pattern shown to you in the mount. (Parenthesis added for literal clarification)

As the ultimate designer for his creation, everything that God created, was according to His *original pattern*. A pattern starts with an *original design* and is used as a *guide* or *model* for *future creations*. The first human being was a man named Adam. He is a perfect illustration of a divine *pattern* that was originally designed by God. Adam also perfectly *foreshadows* the <u>second Adam</u> Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:45, 47

And so, it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit... The first man is (the original pattern) of the earth, earthy (a natural carnal being): the second man (Adam) is the Lord from heaven (the original pattern for a spiritually alive being). (Parenthesis mine for clarification).

Adam's *earthly body* then is a type or representation of the *spiritual body* of Jesus Christ. Jesus went down into the depths of the earth in death, representing the "deep sleep" God put upon Adam when he formed Eve from *a rib* taken out of his body⁴. Out of that *sleep* (representing death), God by His Holy Spirit formed another "extension" from that body.

¹ **The word EXAMPLE** in the Greek text, is Strong's # NT:5262 hupodeigma (hoopod'-igue-mah), which is defined as: a representation (symbology) for the purpose of instruction.

² **The word SHADOW** is Strong's (NT:4639) skia (skee'-ah) CWSD: Metaphorically, a foreshadowing or indication of a future event.

³ **The word PATTERN** is Strong's NT:5179 tupos (too'-pos); meaning using a type (typology) a symbol or representation or model i.e. That is repeatedly used as various examples and shadows to convey God's truth.

⁴ See (Genesis 2:21-23)

From the first Adam it was *Eve*, and from the second Adam (Jesus Christ) it was His spiritual "Eve" — His *Bridehood Saints*. The new "body" created from <u>Adam's rib</u> was his *extension*, his "Bride" Eve, whose name means "*life Giver*." In the same way the Bridehood Saints are the "new creation" body and extension of Jesus Christ, as his *bride* or his *helpmate*.⁵

These have the Holy Spirit's regenerating life giving, sanctifying power. They were also taken out of (chosen) from the "universal body" of the second Adam" — Jesus Christ. Like Eve, those taken out from among the universal body of Christ, (or the "General Assembly" of believers) are those who are taken from the side of Jesus (indicating being His intimate companion).

These chosen and separated ones are an *extension* of Jesus Christ on earth. Just as the "rib" called *Eve* became natural Adam's extension and **helpmate**, so too the Bride of Christ is the *helpmate*, of the Second spiritual Adam, Jesus Christ.

The Hebrew word for "rib" interestingly enough, refers to being an "extension"—which is defined as: a part that is added to or is joined to something to help it become extended (broadened, enlarged, expanded or drawn out) and to be a continuation (to be extended continually without disconnection) from what it is joined to.

The Bible says that the **body of Christ** is made up of "many parts" (as extensions of Jesus Christ)—the Bridehood Saints are those *extended parts* representing the "ribs" of the body that have been sanctified, or separated, drawn out, enlarged and fully consecrated (dedicated) to God's purposes now and on into the eternal future. However, they are often seen as being <u>less honorable</u> (not having great value, fame or

⁵ **The word <u>helpmate</u>** OT:5048 *neged* (neh'-ghed); from: OT:5046 *nadad* (naw'-gad); SCD (Strong's Concordance Dictionary) says it means: the opposite (side or view); specifically, a <u>counterpart</u>, or a mate; CWSD (Complete Word Studies Dictionary): from the OT:5046 verb meaning: to <u>tell</u>, to <u>report</u>, to <u>make known</u>, to <u>explain</u>, to <u>declare</u>, to <u>announce</u>, to <u>predict</u>, and to <u>share</u>. ALSO used figuratively: to point out what ought to be observed; B/D/B (Brown Driver Briggs Hebrew Dictionary) says: adverbially used to mean: to be before or <u>be in your face</u>.

⁶ **The word <u>RIB</u>** (Strong's OT:6763) tsela` (tsay-law'); meaning: *an extension from the side of.*

⁷ **The word <u>Levite</u>** which were the Old Testament chosen to serve God from among the 12 tribes is the Hebrew word: Leviy (lay-vee'); Strong's OT:3878 meaning = "joined or attached to."

prestige) by the *carnal members found in the <u>General Assembly of born-again believers</u> in Jesus Christ, as just discussed previously. Those in the <i>General Assembly* of born-again believers are part of Christ's body, but who are not extensions of Jesus Christ because they are not intimately joined to Him spiritually. Those not intimately joined to Christ do not have Christ (His anointing) *fully formed in them* when they are carnally minded...

Galatians 4:18

Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until <u>Christ is fully developed</u> in your lives. NLT

Also the spiritually undeveloped lack correct teaching which breeds wrong beliefs and practices or sin that hinders their discernment and intimacy with Jesus Christ (the Word of God). Those who are the **extensions** (i.e., ribs.) within the body (general assembly) of Jesus Christ are His Bridehood Saints the **chosen separated unto God servants** (*ministers*) who, like the ribs within the human body, are intimately surrounded by the *heart* (God's desires) and *lungs* (the spirit) of God. These Bridehood Saints have consecrated themselves to a position of intimacy with their God resulting in being separated chosen from among the *General Assembly (body of Christ)*, to be part of the glorious church (without spot, wrinkle or blemish) to be used by God to help *enlarge* or *build up* the whole body through their *extended life-giving* ministry. They are the example of the continuation of the "greater works" of Jesus here on earth, now and in the future Kingdom of God that is to be established upon earth by Jesus and His (church of) Bridehood Saints at his second coming.

Ephesians 4:11-12

And His (Jesus) gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers... For the reason of maturing those who have fully consecrated themselves of entering into doing the work of being a minister for the purpose I've building up the body of Christ [i.e., General Assem-bly]. AMP [Brackets mine are added for contextual Clarity.]



Again, these Saints are true ministers of God, and have counted the cost to pay the price required for holiness by becoming a *living sacrifice* unto God. They die daily to their carnal self-centered nature. These no longer care to pursue what the world has

to offer, for their greatest pursuit is what is according to the spirit. This maintains their intimately connected relationship with Jesus Christ (through the Word of God). Their lives are a pure and holy tes-timony that brings great praise and glory unto God...

1 Peter 2:9

But you (Saints) are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness (all error and defilement) into his marvelous light. (Parenthesis mine for contextual clarity).

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Separation Anxiety

When God began the separation process in my life back in the early 90's, it was something I didn't fully comprehend at the time. All I knew is that I was no longer a part of what I had once been so involved with in my Christian life. At first, this caused me *great anxiety*. The churches, the programs, the different ministries all eventually disappeared—not to mention most—if not all of my close relationships also were severed (including many within my own family). It seemed I was all *alone*—with no one to turn to—which is exactly what the Lord wanted. This has been the *pattern* for those whom God had chosen for special service for him. Those like Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and also Ruth, Queen Esther, and of course the Apostle Paul, all left their cultures and families behind in order to fulfill their *higher calling*. God wanted my *undivided and full attention* in order to become fully consecrated to His divine purposes in my life. During those years in my separation process, I lost all interest in everything around me, and I also lost my dependence upon things and others for fulfilling my needs. I learned to find my complete joy, contentment and provision for my every need, *by abiding in God's presence*. By His "presence" I mean—by **seeing His "face"** (His perspective) on everything I face.

This perspective came through my times of studying His Word and our conversations that were the result of <u>my questions to Him</u>, and <u>His questions to me</u>, which both answers came by what He would reveal and teach me from his Word.



In the original Hebrew, the word "face" alludes to God 's presence, being His <u>attitude</u> (i.e., beliefs, feel- ings, and values) towards anything or anyone. Thus, living in the light of God's word is required if we are to see God's "face" or to receive *His perspective* (attitude) to guide our beliefs, motives and actions.

Many think the "presence" of God is simply a "feeling" or a "soulish" experience, where we enter into some *mystical place* or receive "Holy Ghost" *goosebumps* or some other *physical or emotional manifestation*. Not that the presence of God is void of physical or emotional feelings but when His Holy Spirit is truly present, the ultimate manifestation is to give us *inspired revelation wisdom* from His Word, which brings encouragement, peace and joy through His *corrections*, *instructions* and *warnings* to our spirit.

When we are weighted down with the cares and the affairs of this natural life and with relationships that distract us or rob us of our peace, then separation from these things is the only way that allows us to seek God's face and experience His presence. At one point I had all of these things weighing me down, as well as my own areas of unhealed issues that were a constant feeding ground for demonic in-fluence that kept me *confused, anxious and depressed*. I struggled with feeling accused and condemned and was more preoccupied with MY *natural life* and MY *feelings* than I was with my spiritual life and growth. Separation from lack of *knowledge, defilement* and *distractions* is what God requires if we are to truly become healed in order to become *wholly "holy,"* by *seeking* and *seeing* God's face (His perspective). The Bible tells us that no one can see God's face and live... *because carnality will die*. Our self-life must be put to death if we want to see God's face and live in His presence. The Psalmist understood this principle...

Psalm 27:8-12

Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation... If my father and my mother forsake me, then you LORD will take care of me and... Teach me Your way, O LORD...

... And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies (i.e. sin and death) ... Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries (i.e. Satan and his demons); For false witnesses have risen against me. (Parenthesis mine for clarity).

The prophet <u>Hosea</u> was told by God to marry a prostitute. This account of Hosea and his defiled wife, symbolizes God's love for all unfaithful (born again) believers, representing God as husband to His apostate church. The apostle Paul alluded to a *husband's* sanctifying influence in his teaching on marriage...

1 Corinthians 7:14

"...the unbelieving wife (also represents God's apostate church) <u>is</u> sanctified by the husband: otherwise, the children will be unholy; but now are they holy. (Parenthesis and emphasis mine for clarity).

Old Testament Israel representing God's unfaithful, apostate church would be rescued from their defiled life because of God's never- ending love, just as Hosea rescued his wife <u>Gomer</u>, whom he deeply loved despite her life of prostitution. So too like Gomer, God's unfaith- ful people will ultimately come to ultimately experience a loving intimate relationship with their God. The Apostle Paul alluded to Hosea's prophecy, in which he stated:

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused (wed) you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ (your husband i.e., head).

Hosea 2:16

"And it shall be, in that day," Says the LORD, "That you (Israel) will call Me Ishi—'My Husband,' And no longer call Me Baali—'My Master,' (i.e., slave owner) ... "I betroth you (receive you in marriage) to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, In loving-kindness and mercy... I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the LORD.

Jeremiah 3:14

Return, O backsliding children,' says the Lord; 'for I am married to you.

God's peop*le* brought to completion, maturity or wholeness by intimacy with their husband who brings salvation (*deliverance and restoration*), through His sanctifying influence qualifies them to be <u>chosen</u> as members of His Bridehood Company of Saints...

1 Corinthians 1:2

Unto the church of God, (called out ones from an assembly of believers) which is at Corinth, to them that are (continuing to be) sanctified in Christ Jesus, (these are) called (invited) to become saints, among all who in every place call upon the name (character and authority) of Jesus Christ our Lord. ALT

Therefore, in order to become a saint, we must accept this invitation that is given to all who all who are born again. This is invitation is for those who desire to come to a <u>higher level of consecration, holiness and intimacy</u> with God, by means of separation from <u>whatever hinders and defiles us</u> in achieving these things. The Apostle Paul called this Invitation the "<u>high calling</u>" of God that comes through an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ (the Word of God). It is an invitation that we should highly prize! Paul said this:

Phil 3:14

I press toward the <u>mark</u> (goal) for the <u>prize</u> (reward) of the <u>high calling</u> of God in Christ Jesus.

The "mark" or the goal of the *high calling* is the **prize** (the reward of holiness) the qualification for being given a position of rulership, alongside Jesus in His earthly Kingdom—which He will establish at His appearing. Jesus Himself taught us that <u>not</u> all born again (friends) of God will be among the Bridehood company...

Matthew 22:11-14

And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a <u>wedding garment</u>... And he said unto him, <u>Friend</u>, how came you in here <u>not having a wed-ding garment</u>? And he was speechless... Then said the king to the servants, bind him hand and foot, and take him away,

⁸ The **CWDS** states: "the Greek verb tense (<u>perfect passive participle</u>) reflects <u>sanctification</u> as a verbal adjective that also denotes action completed in the past but has <u>continuing results</u>."

^{9 &}lt;u>In Christ</u> This phrase literally means: <u>To experience a "union" with</u> Jesus Christ that results in taking on His <u>power</u>, <u>influence</u> and <u>character</u> (being sanctified) because of being united to Him.

^{10 &}lt;u>call upon</u> NT:1941 *epikaleomai* (ep-ee-kal-eh'-om-ahee); meaning: to <u>invoke</u> [bring into existence or summon, put into action for aid or protection] His <u>NAME</u>, meaning His character (nature) and authority.

and cast him into <u>outer darkness</u>;¹¹ there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth... For <u>many are called</u>, but few are chosen.

Please notice that the person whom the King (i.e., Jesus) called a "friend"—who tried to be part of the Bridehood Company of Saints but did not possess a <u>wedding garment</u>. Also notice that this "friend" was bound "<u>hand</u> and <u>foot</u>." The binding of the <u>hands</u> is representing the fact that he was <u>restrained from having power</u> (i.e., power and au-thority are the literal meanings for the word "<u>hand</u>")—and the bind- ing of the "feet" represents …he had things that were <u>hindering him from walking i.e., in holiness</u>. The Bridehood Saints walk in the spirit and holiness and not according to their (carnal) flesh because they don't allow anything to hinder them from <u>walking in holiness</u>.

Galatians 5:16-17

Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful (carnal) nature craves... The sinful (carnal) nature wants to do evil (what is wrong or harmful), which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful (carnal) nature desires. NLT (Parenthesis mine for contextual clarity).

It is only the Bridehood Saints who possess the required "garments" – symbolizing they are covered with the sanctifying pow- er of God and are "pure" because they allow the <u>fire of God</u> to try their faith in order to purify and keep them pure.

Matthew 3:11

"...he (Jesus Christ) shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire. (Parenthesis mine for contextual clarity).

^{11 &}lt;u>OUTER DARKNESS</u> ...this wedding feast represents the marriage supper of the lamb, which takes place in the New Jerusalem, called the bride of Christ (Revelation 21:9-10), which is the home Jesus Christ the Bridehood Saint's husband (Jesus), went away to prepare for them (John 14:2-3). The person cast out of the marriage supper did not have on his garment of righteousness, which means he was not (justified) pardoned from sin, and not allowed to enter the new Jerusalem (revelation 21:27). In the New Jerusalem there is no need for light from the sun for the light of Christ and his Saints are source for light within this holy city (revelation 21:23). Therefore, compared to the <u>natural light</u> of the sunshine and the moonlight that will be the continuing source for light, outside of the New Jerusalem, which is a <u>heavenly city</u>, the natural surroundings outside of the New Jerusalem will be like (outer) darkness, compared to the light that shines in the New Jerusalem.

In (Psalm 45) we have a perfect depiction of the "Bridehood Saints" as being represented by a "Royal Queen" who is at the side of her "king" – dressed in gold, (representing purity).

Psalm 45:9-11

"...upon your right hand (i.e., King Jesus' right hand) did stand [his] queen in gold (purity) from Ophir... Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear; forget also your own people, and your father's house... So shall the king greatly desire your beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him. (Parenthesis mine for contextual clarity).

Again, notice the Bridehood Saints are willing to "forget" (meaning be separated from) their "own people" (Culture) and their "father's house" (their own family descendants) in order to be clothed in gold.

The Bridehood Saints of God are fast approaching the appearance of their bridegroom. Therefore, now is the time to dedicate and totally consecrate our ourselves to a life of purity, if we truly desire to be numbered among the chosen, as a Bridehood Saint and take our royal positions of rulership alongside our beloved King Jesus Christ in His Kingdom...

Revelation 22:10-12

"...for the time is near. Let the one who is doing harm continue to do harm; let the one who is vile continue to be vile; let the one who is righteous continue to live righteously; let the one who is holy continue to be holy. Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds." NLT

Come Guickly Lord Jesus!

Paying the Price for Pure Gold

By Karen Connell

For the past several years God has strongly and continually focused my attention upon the *urgent need* for those of us who want to be a part of the "chosen bride hood Saints," to seek God through his word concerning our need for the Holy Spirit to bring us *higher* in our calling by doing a *deeper* work of sanctification in our lives. Jesus Christ our Lord is truly according to his word coming back for a bride who has paid the price to *prepare and ready herself* by becoming free of all spots, wrinkles and blemishes. Jesus says:

Revelation 3:18 I counsel you to buy from me gold tried in the fire...

There are great <u>harmful liabilities</u> (i.e. iniquities meaning: sinful tendencies/urges that become a hindrance, nuisance or burden) that are created in our <u>human nature</u> (minds/personalities) because of the involvement with our <u>past sin</u> (including sin that has been justified/forgiven but where there still remains a need for being cleansed/sanctified). These <u>liabilities are dangerous</u> if not cleansed by the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit and can affect our human souls (our perceptions, emotions, choices and desires) and are very dangerous when we are <u>not aware of them</u> especially when they are being <u>hidden or defended by pride</u>. When this is the case there is a need for <u>mortification</u> to breakdown and destroy the power of pride in our life. <u>Mortification</u> involves <u>trials</u>, <u>sorrows</u>, <u>chastening</u> and <u>correction from God</u>. It is the price that must be paid for the mortifying process that results in sanctification and brings forth God's <u>pure gold</u> that is hidden in the rock-hard rubble and dirt of our human nature and is incased in pride to a greater or lesser degree within every human being.

Romans 8:13

For if you live according to the flesh (which we all have), you shall die but if you through the Spirit will mortify (NT:2289 thanatoo (than-at-o'-o); CWSD: become dead to or freed from the power of evil/harmful desires leading to) the deeds of the body, then you shall live.

Revelation 3:18-19

I counsel you (pay the price) to buy from me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich; and (pay the price for) white raiment, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; also (pay the price to) anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that you may see... As many as I love, I rebuke (NT:1651 elegcho (el-eng'-kho); CWSD: show to be wrong) and chasten (NT:3811 paideuo (pahee-dyoo'-o); CWSD: to influence ones conscious will and actions by educating and instructing or by corrective punishment): be zealous therefore, and repent.

Throughout Scripture gold represents the divine character of God's holiness that can be seen in *everything he has created,* and this is made known to us through his *divine language of typology.*

Typology is found within the Scriptures revealing infinite wisdom to our minds and feeding our hearts with truth through the ways and means of His *manifold wisdom* as revealed to us by God.

Ephesians 3:10

To the intent that now the <u>manifold wisdom of God</u> might be made known by the church...

God's "gold" (divine nature) is imparted to believers when they are born again. However, the harmful <u>unsanctified liabilities</u> that are being hidden by pride prevent God's gold from being seen and used to glorify God in the believer's life. Depending upon key factors such as the <u>kinds of sin</u> and the <u>types of bondages and strongholds</u> that sin has erected in our lives, all play a part in determining <u>how long, how much</u>, and <u>what methods are needed</u> for God's sanctifying power to purify and transform us. <u>Finding God's gold</u> (i.e. Seeing and experiencing His nature), requires <u>extracting</u> the dirt and rubble (separation from the sin the old nature has lived in) which will ultimately reveal the gold within our new Godly nature and <u>transform us into usable</u> gold vessels. This is God's goal for His chosen Bridehood saints.

Twice we are told in the Book of Revelation that the city of God (i.e. The New Jerusalem is the dwelling place of the Bridehood Saints) which contains pure gold that appears as clear glass (see Revelation 21:18,21). Gold is the most malleable (workable, shapeable, and pliable) metal in existence on earth, meaning it can be beaten into the thinnest sheets without damaging or destroying it so that it ultimately it becomes transparent. George Watson one of my favorite authors whose influential ministry took place during the latter part of the 19th century, in his book entitled Pure Gold, states that for centuries Bible skeptics in trying to prove the Bible wrong, tried to use the text in (Revelation 21) describing the gold in the heavenly New Jerusalem as being a supposed proof for Scriptural error. It wasn't until the 19th century that science discovered the art of refining gold to its height of perfection. It was also discovered that in this state of perfection it was truly transparent proving the infallibility of God's word. George Watson went on to say the following in his book 8...

"The time came when God had a chemist who experimented with the refining of gold until he brought it into a state of transparency and found that when looking through it had a beautiful <u>green color</u> like an emerald... so glass seems colorless, yet in looking through very thick glass it reflects a beautiful green tint and so yellow gold when made transparent refracts the light like a beautiful emerald. To make gold reach this <u>lofty state</u> of purity requires an enormous degree of heat, which in a certain sense the gold becomes glorified, and is purged from its own self. This is a type of the process of annealing (i.e. heating a metal and allowing it to cool slowly, in order to remove internal stresses making it easier to work with).

⁸ <u>PURE GOLD</u> by George D Watson; excerpts from (pages 7 through 9) www. ForgottenBooks.com

⁹ https://www.quora.com/ls-completely-pure-gold-transparent

This (typifies the) furnace testing through which the Holy Spirit leads those who are the chosen spouse of the Lamb of God.

The scriptures in manifold forms of teaching set forth the truth that <u>after believers are fully sanctified</u> (meaning set apart for God's use only) they are led through processes of severe trials and hot furnace testings, which put to proof (test) every virtue and every grace of their hearts. These test-ings are our conflicts with powers of darkness... these extraordinary testings may sometimes be external, or sometimes internal; they may be mostly in the physical nature, in other cases they mostly may be in the mental area, and in other cases they may be purely spiritual, but in whatever shape the furnace may be the result that God is aiming at is the same, that being the <u>complete mellowing</u>, <u>melting</u>, (of the old nature) and <u>transforming</u> of the whole (<u>new</u>) <u>nature</u> into a beautiful, celestial transparency of <u>Christ</u> like character.

This is the fine artwork of the Holy Spirit when sanctified believers have passed through this furnished refinement, they take on a more intensified form, a more heavenly type of (Christ like) mind than ever before. Just as looking through gold in this highest state of perfection it seems green, so the mind is in this highest state of sanctified life it is in a state of perennial (continual/eternal) verdure (lush green).

Another trait of this gold is its exquisite softness so ... in like manner the soul under the melting of burning love is filled with an unearthly <u>tenderness</u> (also involving an extreme sensitivity to sin) creating a gentleness of speech and a slow, soft, measured walk with God. Loudness and impetuosity are gone. Harshness of judgment is melted away. The mellowness of a beautiful ripeness settles down on one's whole being.

I was so shocked when I read this dear brother's description of the "highest state of the sanctified life being a state of perennial verdure" in which my online English Dictionary states: "perennial" means "continual/eternal" and "verdure" is defined as being "healthy and strong" with reference to "lush green vegetation." My reason for being shocked at this statement is because while my husband and I we're pastoring our Extended Life Christian Training Center somewhere around 2003 or 2004, the Lord gave me a prophetic dream regarding our ministry. Our main assignment from the Lord during our 12 years of pastoring was to equip those we were ministering to with the Holy Spirit's sanctifying power.

These teachings were revelations from God's word focused on bringing healing and deliverance from Satan's *threefold cord of bondage* creating unresolved *rejection, bitterness,* and *pride,* issues. Demonic influences use these to establish *harmful liabilities* in the lives of God's unsanctified people and have greatly hindered their spiritual growth, discernment and personal relationship with God.

Through the following dream I will now share the Lord was showing me that the people we were ministering to at that time represented the majority of professing Christian Believers in this end time age who are choosing carnal pleasures over the work of our second death of sanctification. Spiritually underdeveloped believers are not willing to pay the price of dying to their self-centered, carnal desires. They are not willing to make the effort to *go up higher* in order to escape the coming fiery endtime judgments and find a new level of freedom and safety which God has provided for them who allow His sanctifying work in their lives. In this dream ...



I found myself standing at the foot of a very tall Cliff on a rocky and sandy the shore of a large body of water. With me were the people of our congregation. As I looked down the beach I could see a large fiery lava flow head-ing our way. I knew we had to start climbing the Cliff in order to be safe from the lava flow, so I urged the people to follow me up the

Cliff. It was very slow going, and the people started getting very tired almost to the point where they could not keep climbing, when I suddenly came upon a huge ledge and opening in the side of the Cliff that led into a tremendously large cave like structure. I yelled down to the people and told them what I was seeing and to please hurry because the lava was starting to climb higher up the side of the Cliff. Everybody eventually made the climb to the ledge that was in front of the Cave entrance, and they decided to enter the Cave to see what was inside. Before entering the cave, myself I looked down below again to see how high the lava was getting and could definitely see it was still coming up higher. When I entered the cave, I was shocked to find that it was like a huge indoor mall with movie theaters, gaming stores, restaurants and all sorts of entertainment and fun activities. The people were thrilled to find such a place, but I warned them that we could not stay in this place because the lava flow was coming up the side of the Cliff at a very fast pace.

I went back to the entrance of The Cave and noticed there was a ladder rope hanging at one side of the entrance. I could see that it would be a very long an arduous climb to the top, but it was the only way to escape the lava flow. I told the people what I found and that I was going to make the climb and that they should follow me otherwise the lava flow would enter and fill The Cave sealing their doom. Only one person decided to follow me and make the climb up the very long rope ladder to the top of the Cliff.

I started climbing higher and higher up the ladder and the person who had decided to follow me started to make the steep climb but after a very short time they began telling me how tired they were getting and that they couldn't make it. I kept trying to encourage them to press on and not give up, for I was almost at the top. Finally, this person said, "I can't do it,



I'm going back down." At that very moment I made it to the top and I peeked over the edge and as far as the eye could see I saw a beautiful lush green grassy plateau before me. I shouted to the one behind me "don't give up it's so beautiful up here and so lush and so green and grassy and safe!" As I took my last step on to the deep green soft grass and looked back down the side of the Cliff, I saw to my horror that the person who was following me gave up and was gone!

The Lord had given me a series of prophetic dreams during our ministry while serving at our training center, revealing that those we were ministering to would not be able to follow us into the next phase of our ministry. Why they could not continue the journey into their high calling requiring a greater degree of sanctification has become the cornerstone of this ministry's teach-ings, since our beginning in 1995. Sanctification has also been the focus for the books I have written and will continue to write as future assignments from the Lord, to help believers prepare for the Lord's coming. When the Lord finally told us to close down the location of our training center it was because it was time to go in a whole new direction that would be a spiritually higher work than I had ever experienced before, in order to help prepare those who answer God's call to become one of the few God has chosen. So in 2007 we closed down our ministry training center facility and have been following the leading of the Holy Spirit into the place we now find ourselves. The above dream reminded me of the scripture that says...

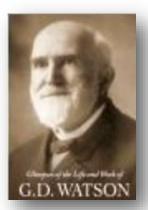
Matthew 7:13-14

13 Enter ye in at the <u>strait GATE</u>: for <u>wide</u> is the <u>gate</u> (the cave opening), and <u>broad is the way</u> (lack of restraint), that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in there, 14 Because <u>strait</u> is the <u>GATE</u>, and <u>narrow is the way</u> (the rope ladder), which leads to life, but few there be that find it.

The word in the Greek text for GATE is (NT:4439 pule (poo'-lay); the CWSD defines it as: the large entrance of an edifice, (which is defined as a large imposing impressive property). This perfectly describes in my dream the imposing and impressive green lush property at the top of the Cliff representing the narrow way to entering into a sanctified life will require determination and great effort. The entrance into the cave was also a large, impressive property but is representing a place of darkness, deception and destruction but is being disguised as pleasure and entertainment for those who are carnally minded. The Bible tells us:

Ephesians 5:11

And have no fellowship with the <u>unfruitful works of darkness</u>, but rather <u>reprove them</u> (make known their shamefulness and how wrong they are).



Others May, You Cannot

If God has called you to be really like Jesus, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience, that you will not be able to follow other people, or measure yourself by other Christians, and in many ways He will seem to let other good people do things which He will not let you do.

Other Christians and ministers who seem very religious and useful, may push themselves, pull wires, and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it; and if you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others may boast of themselves, of their work, of their success, of their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may be allowed to succeed in making money, or may have a legacy left to them, but it is likely God will keep you poor, because He wants you to have something far better than gold, namely, a helpless dependence on Him, that He may have the privilege of supplying your needs day by day out of an un-seen treasury.

The Lord may let others be honored and put forward, and keep

you hidden in obscurity, because He wants you to produce some choice, fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade. He may let others be great but keep you small. He may let others do a work for Him and get the credit for it, but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing; and then to make your work still more precious, He may let others get the credit for the work which you have done, and thus make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.

The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch over you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings, or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem distressed over. So make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign and has a right to do as He pleases with His own. He may not explain to you a thousand things which puzzle your reason in His dealings with you, but if you absolutely sell yourself to be His love slave, He will wrap you up in a jealous love, and bestow upon you many blessings which come only to those who are in the inner circle.

Settle it forever, then, that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that He does not seem to use with others. Now when you are so possessed with the loving God that you are, in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the vestibule of Heaven.

G. D. Watson, in *Living Words* https://www.rarechristianbooks.com/products/author/Watson