

occupation. These all He totally denied Himself of, for He said, "I do nothing of myself." "The words that I speak unto you, I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me He doeth the works." Jno. 5:19; 8; 14:10:24.

Jesus became a living sacrifice in these four particulars. His soul was made an offering for sin in the garden. His body He offered on the cross. His spirit and soul were humbled to the depths and offered in submitting to arrest, trials, false accusations, and mockings. Also in His ministry, for He spoke nothing, chose nothing, thought nothing, felt nothing of Himself. But the Father through the Spirit anointing, possessed and controlled will, heart, mind, body, every power; faculty and part of His entire being. All was moved by the Spirit.

This is the Lord's description of "The more excellent way," the Sons of God state, "Christ in you," life in the heavenlies. It is the open door to full overcoming and sitting down with Christ in His throne—highest privileges offered to man. This is "Thy will be done in earth as it is done in Heaven," producing, "THY KINGDOM COME."

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"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." Matt. 6:10,33.

A SPIRIT REALM there is, a sphere of superior life and operation. John the Baptist announced it as the Kingdom of Heaven. This is the sphere of God's abode wherein He operates in its highest part. Indeed the Holy Spirit is its very atmosphere, to inspire and impart life to those who live in that land. Here the angels of God dwell and have their activity. Even this earth, also Adam and Eve, were created and introduced to existence in this realm, but they fell from there, dragging down earth creation to a lower sense state.

Jesus Christ, by His great atoning sacrifice, death and passion, bridged the chasm thus made between the two states, and between man and God. Thus He made a way for man to cross his chasm and reenter this so delightful land of holy associations and lofty privileges, a state of existence and realm of activities, far superior to the fallen one.

In the life of nature where man begins and continues this earthly sense existence, there ever proceeds in the human consciousness a stream of sensible activity. It is produced by the combination productions of the will, mind, heart and senses. The center of sentient existence

3
where these powers unite is called consciousness, where there is a recognition of that which arises from the senses, mental operations, heart emotion, desire, instinct, passion, appetite, or what is sought for, chosen or rejected. The flowing together of these motions produces the stream of life.

These are the parts composing the soul of man, having a wide range of ability and activity. Animals have souls of much less capability, but they have no spirit, while man has a spirit linked with his soul, which is also of large capability. This makes him a citizen of the spirit sphere giving him capacity to dwell and carry on in the spirit realm.

Satan, fallen angels and demons left their first estate. Not having physical bodies they did not fall into the earth sense state, but into a broken debased spirit state. The atonement of Jesus Christ was made in the realm of physical man. It could not therefore have any application to Satan and fallen angels, for they are not physical beings.

LOST KNOWLEDGE and understanding of this spirit state or heavenly realm came upon man through the fall. He could no longer abide, live or operate therein. So completely has comprehension of these things vanished, that men are ordinarily unaware that they have a spirit, or there is such a sphere of life. Those considered most highly educated confuse soul and spirit and think them identical. So men at their best, naturally considered, come only to live in the higher soulish avocations, not knowing of their spirit natures. Thus the human race of mankind goes on looking downward

and grovelling in the flesh pots of a fallen earth state, knowing nothing of the immense riches of the spirit world, living within their reach. Earth values at best are but a fleeting day of earth existence; while the wealth of eternity might be theirs, if they but came to the life in the spirit realm.

DEGREES there are of being in the spirit realm. This is illustrated by the account of John in the Revelation. At first he starts by being in the Spirit, so an angel speaks to him. Then as Weymouth reads, "I found myself in the Spirit present on the Lord's day." That is in the sights and scenes of the long future Day of the Lord. Then, in the Spirit, he hears the trumpet voice and sees the glorified Christ. Then hearing the trumpet voice he sees a door and is carried in the Spirit into Heaven. Step after step he rises higher and higher.

It is not with these higher latitudes of being in the Spirit that we at present have to do, but it is a more ordinary state, a spiritual state or realm where we should live. A sphere of activity mostly unknown to man, yet where he should properly hold his citizenship. That is the Holy Spirit realm or the Kingdom of Heaven. It is a place, state or realm where God holds supreme sway and entire dominion. Every creature who dwells in this the heavenlies must, of necessity and essentially, be under Divine direction and control. None can dwell steadily there except they come into union and harmony with Christ and the Holy Spirit.

IT IS DANGEROUS to attempt entering this sphere without first attaining proper relations with God. It must result in that terrific disaster of falling into

the dark broken realm where Satan and the fallen spirits are, thus one may become the prey of familiar spirits, most deceptive and destructive.

THE GOD REALM. Since man, as we find him in his earth state, is in gross ignorance of the spirit realm, there must by some means, come to him, knowledge of his nature, state and privileges. The first thing then to be observed is that this is the God realm. All knowledge of its nature, powers and relationships must therefore, if true and proper, come from God Himself. A Divine insight must be given by the Holy Spirit in revelation. There is no other way. Any means or method professing to inform of these things, that does not come from God and lead to touch with HIM, is from beneath, and will end in dire disaster. And there are plenty of attractive, delusive and false ways offering themselves as substitutes.

God is always and absolutely righteous and holy. There is never a shadow of turning in Him or His acts. If, therefore, one thinks to enter this spirit realm, breathe its Holy Spirit atmosphere, and live its supernatural life, let him at once and ever know, he must pass through the Divinely ordained process of new birth, regeneration, cleansing, purifying, sanctifying, justifying, and re-creating. Become a new creation in Christ Jesus. This state of being in itself is very marvelous and miraculous—A new man in Christ.

THE GIFT OR EFFUSION of the Holy Spirit introduces to this realm. But to live in it requires more than the initial baptism. In recent times, numbers have passed this initial step. But most of them lapse back into

the earthy state. They fail to enter, investigate and experience the mysteries and privileges of the Kingdom of Heaven. Though there is a spirit world all about us, just outside our present sense state of existence, they are entitled to possess. It is necessary to receive the Spirit, for the Divine Spirit is Himself both Guide and Teacher of Bible and illumination. You cannot get far without Him to lead you. Jesus said, "He shall guide you into all truth." "He shall teach you all things." Jno. 14:26; 16:13. As many as come to the attitude of faithfulness to the Holy Spirit, coming under His tutorage as Guide and Teacher, will be led to make a living sacrifice of themselves in entire devotion, as is described in Romans 12:1,2. If they persist in this attitude of listening to the voice of the Spirit, and being led by Him, they will grow up into Christ in all things, and become the mature sons of God.

DIVINE EFFORT TO RESTORE MAN to the supernatural realm has been repeated and continuous. By new ways and plans, by example, by precept, by revelation and by miracle, He has tried to entice and lift man from his degraded physical folly, into the glory, beauty and perfection of that wonderful heavenly sphere which he was created to occupy. It is the design and wish of God to restore man and his activities to that Kingdom of Heaven where God Himself dwells and works, and where man was created to live. He wishes men to be associated with Him in fellowship, as coworkers.

Indeed, when one gets a clear extended view from the Divine Angle through the telescope of all time, sweeping down the ages, he discovers that God has

been at infinite incessant pains to set the miraculous before mankind and show him the way thereto. Bible accounts in vast profusion, of God's dealings with men, are always miraculous. Only in that supernatural realm is God found.

MIRACLES.—We can only engage to recall just briefly a few of that unending procession of miracles that so copiously appear in Scripture.

ARMY MIRACLES.—Begin with a series of what may be seen as Army miracles. Pharaoh and his whole army drowned. Jericho unwalled by walls sinking into the ground—level. Five Amorite Kings—a shower of rocks, and the sun stands still. A young lad routs a whole army. Jonathan and the ground trembling. Asa and the Ethiopians. Jehoshaphat and three armies who are destroyed by one another. Ex. 14:28; Josh. 6:20; 10:11.

OF MIGHTY NATIONAL miracles, here are a few. Ten plagues by the hand of Moses, the Egyptians are spoiled and Israel delivered. The whole nation passed through the Red Sea and the Jordan on dry land. Fed on manna from Heaven for forty years. Water out of the rock. Clothes and shoes waxed not old for forty years. Miraculously inherited the land of Canaan. Ex. 6:29; 7:1; etc.

There arose at times in the earth peculiar men who were of a class by themselves. Some of them lived continuously in the realm of the miraculous. Moses towers above the rest. He was as God to Pharaoh. Aaron was his prophet. He ruled Israel by continuous Divine direction. He had a pillar of fire and cloud. Urim and Thumim. Audible voice from the mercy seat, in face

to face conversation. Num. 9:16-23; 27:21; 12:6-8; Deut. 34:10-12.

Under Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther and Gideon, Israel was delivered.

Samuel was a prophet who lived in the supernatural realm of the Spirit in a remarkable way. 1 Sam. 3:19-21. Enoch walked with God 300 years in the spirit realm. He was translated. Noah was a blameless man. He was transferred from one dispensation to a following one. David was so faithful and powerful in the prophetic Spirit, that his prophetic power was called the Tabernacle of David. Daniel stands out as a mighty prophet of national calling to a great Gentile king and a succession of monarchs following him. He was a prophet to Gentile rulers, his ministry might have been more extensive and useful had these rulers sought to him. Elijah and Elisha were two men who operated very powerfully in the miraculous.

Many of those ancient men of God lived ahead of their generations. They ascended the Mount of Vision, and made what they saw theirs in experience, thus gaining part in the resurrection with Christ. Matt. 27:52. Included in these were patriarchs, prophets and men of God scattered down along the pages of time's history who wrought powerful incidents in the miracle kingdom. Some made but a single eventful trip, while with others there was a series of events. But God was ever fanning the flame of faith in men who were responsive.

TWO GREAT LAWS, powers or principles there are, which stand out in contrast to each other. Free Moral Agency of man, and Sovereignty in God. Now for a

long period God has waited man's tardy response to His great liberal offer and variously repeated solicitations and dispensations for man's welfare. Only occasionally asserting Sovereignty. But now the day of the Lord has broken in upon the world. Affairs are to change. "God hath determined the times before appointed." They are upon us.

THE PLAN OF GOD is that man and earth shall return to live and sustain in the spirit realm. To accomplish this God's advance step He is now taking, is to choose out, develop, train and re-create a company, till they can dwell in this realm. So then entrance into this state is now an offered privilege to those who hear and heed the invitation. In His Sovereignty the Lord is saying, "Some must enter therein." It is "The determinate council and foreknowledge of God." Heb. 4:5-7; Acts 2:23.

MIRACLE WORKING POWER in its exercise was almost unlimited in its variety. There was control of the elements, as fire, water, rain, sea, storm. Over animals, birds, fish, pestilence, disease, evil men, birth of children, death, food, crops, disaster, etc. Dan. 3:27; 6:27; Josh. 4:11; 1 Sam. 12:18; Judg. 14:6; 15:15,19.

INSIGHT and understanding of the nature, laws, principles and privileges of this heavenly realm were somewhat limited during ancient dispensations. These men were, therefore, the more noteworthy for their attainments. John the Baptist made the first hitherto unheard announcement, "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" Never before such an announcement! Jesus took up the message. He "went about all Galilee, teaching in their

synagogues, and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom." Matt. 4:23.

There was a decided movement toward the kingdom at that time for Jesus said, "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Matt. 11:12. Jesus Himself preached the kingdom, practiced its power, breathed its atmosphere, lived in its manifestation, exhibited its works and glory. He even showed on the Mount of Transfiguration His future appearance therein. On the day of Pentecost He opened the door to His followers to enter and abide in that realm by giving them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Manifestation and operation of the spiritual phase of the kingdom of Heaven was thus brought forth among men for many years in the young Ecclesia. Vast works and a great revolution in world conditions was brought forth. Terrific persecution and opposition was manifest, but failed to stop it. But worldly ways introduced broke the power, till the kingdom disappeared some 1500 years ago, or more.

THE REFORMATION and its revivals came in recent centuries. They resulted in great blessings to the world and many were saved. But the original kingdom power and glory has never been fully restored and established, though individuals and occasions have risen high. The Lord has originated through His individual servants, in the last 100 years, a number of movements toward restoration. The appearing of a clear, substantial, settled permanent kingdom Gospel message and ministry awaits full manifestation. However, we shall not be long

in waiting. A cloud is arising. There is a move of the Lord on foot. Again sounds forth

THE PROCLAMATION—"The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." It is about to appear. Its demonstration is beginning. Accompanying this last day reappearing of the Kingdom of Heaven there will appear also the

STONE KINGDOM—the outward governmental phase of the Kingdom, the Kingdom possessed by the saints of the Most High. "It shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms."—The kingdoms of the Gentiles which Daniel saw in the dream image of Nebuchadnezzar. Then it shall be proclaimed, "The kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdom of our Lord and His Christ." Daniel 2:31-45; 7:18; Revelation 11:15.

When Adam and Eve sinned they made a descent into the soulish realm. The connecting nerve passage or whatever means by which the soul and spirit had communication became dead, so that they lost knowledge of the spirit world and its activities, sights, sounds, odors, flavors and feelings. They were dead to them all.

INTANGIBLE AND UNREAL as seems the spirit realm to the spiritually dead, yet to those who live there it is more real and abiding than the earth realm. Indeed the earth before the fall had its place in the heavenly realm, and will eventually be restored to that state. The difference between the two lies partly in relationships as well as in quality distinctions. The lower realm is out of touch with God. The upper enjoys His associations. There is however a difference between earth substances and substances in Heaven.

The Jerusalem of Heaven is transparent pure gold like clear glass. The gates are pearl. Walls garnished with all manner of precious stones. Trees that yield fruit every month. A sea of glass and a crystal river. Harps, trumpets and musical instruments. Not all figurative. Some of the statements in Revelation have no semblance of being figures. Some who have been permitted to visit the city, tell us they saw a city with these real things and others.

We may understand, then, that this spirit world with city, mansions and things and parts, to which we are invited, and are considering, is very real and substantial. Abraham "looked for a city which hath foundations." It is also our privilege, while yet we are earth dwellers, to become partakers of the sights, powers and privileges of the realm of heaven. William Bramwell relates that at times he was in Heaven, and joined in the songs around the throne. Ephesians 2:6; Hebrews 12:22.

THE WAY—Jesus declared, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." Let us see how Christ is the Way. He said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." Luke 9:23,24.

"Though He was Divine by nature, He did not set store upon equality with God, but emptied Himself by taking the nature of a servant; born in human guise, and appearing in human form, He humbly stooped in His obedience even to die, and to die upon the cross." Phil: 2:6-9.

There were several steps in the humiliation of the Divine Son of God.

1. He emptied, stripped, or divested Himself of that glory which He had with the Father before the world was. John 17:5.

2. He assumed or took upon Him the form of a servant, a bond slave. "A body hast thou prepared me." Hebrews 10:5.

3. He became a sin offering, a mercy seat, a propitiation. "He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin." 2 Corinthians 5:21.

4. "Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin." In Gethsemane through the eternal Spirit He offered Himself, His soul. The whole load of sin, sickness, disease, sorrow and suffering of the whole human race "was laid upon Him." Anguish over the guilt of sin as if He had committed it all. It wrung blood from His veins, sorrow from His heart, loud, bitter cries from His mouth. He was at the point of death, but resuscitated by an angel. Luke 22:44; Hebrews 5:5.

5. He died on the cross—gave His body an offering for sin. 1 Peter 1:24; Hebrews 10:5,10.

6. He suffered mock trials, accused as a blasphemer, and impostor, condemnation, scorn, shame, mockery; thorn crown, counted a sinner, set at naught. He went to the extreme humiliation. Luke 23:11.

IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST—little understood and less experienced, is a truth of wide and powerful meaning. Christ identified Himself as we have seen, with sinners. In that way He becomes the way out of sin. Our old man was crucified with Him. As He

identified Himself with us by becoming one of us and bearing the sin of us all, He proposes to identify us with Him by making us partakers of the Divine nature. He asks us to share His humiliation and sacrifice. So He says, "If any man will come after me," that is, go the way I go, be the way I am, "Be my disciple." Be an overcomer and in the Bride: "Let him deny himself." That is, give up his way, and submit to do that which is not his will, choice or pleasure; be ready to "Lose his life for my sake;" "Forsake all that he hath." "Present your bodies a living sacrifice."

If you are persecuted, "Rejoice and be exceeding glad." "Glory in tribulation." "Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations." "But what things were gain to me, these things I counted but loss for Christ." "For whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." Matt. 5:11; Jas. 1:2; Rom. 5:3; Phil. 3:7.

1 Peter 5:5, goes far, as it says, "Yea, all of you be subject one to another." Make a supreme sacrifice of your whole life and will, till the repentance John the Baptist proclaimed is wrought out in you. It reached farther than acts of sin. He pointed to these bad variations of character, calling them hills, valleys, mountains, crooked and rough ways, which should be lowered, raised, straightened, and smoothed—brought to grade. Luke 3:5.

PROCESS—Jesus pointed out the way of the daily cross. By taking which, one gives himself over to a process of crucifixion, by which he is detached, broken loose from and separated from earth attachments. This is wrought

through the power of the Holy Spirit applying the cross. This refines, purifies, and re-creates one who remains in the process, till he can say, "I am crucified with Christ." He no longer shirks or shrinks the cross, but glories in it. Gladly accepts chastening even to scourging; for he realizes it is the narrow way that leads to fulness of life in the Spirit. "If we suffer we shall also reign with Him." 2 Timothy 2:12.

Cross bearing through the Spirit brings one face to face with his personal character traits, which need to be corrected, or re-created. If one be independent in disposition, God may put you in a dependent position. If impatient, put you into trying circumstances. If bad tempered, put you with provoking people. If gossiping or talkative, make you apologize. If covetous, put you in circumstances tending to cure that trait, and make you liberal. These are just a few samples from which the Spirit may apply to your wrong tendencies. Happy the one who discerns the hand of God in his daily crosses. Learn by the Spirit's illumination how to face and go down before your cross, not seeing the individual concerned. Deny your way and silently humbly take the cross way. How few see God in these things. They only see persons, things and circumstances. They miss the Lord and suffer to no profit. "Despise not chastenings."

DIVINE CONTROL was a farther step in self-denial or abnegation of Jesus. If we choose to go all the way with Him, we shall have to imitate or take this step. As Son of man, or as a man in human likeness, He possessed the power of action, choice of location, society and