

Essential Faith Nuggets

by Leon O. Poole

This devotional book, *Essential Faith Nuggets*, by Leon O. Poole, is a collection of powerful, life changing "nuggets" of truth from God's Word. It is our prayer that this book will encourage you daily in your faith in God and walk with Him.

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Chapter 1 ABIDE

John 15:1-4. To abide means to remain, continue, be present. Those who abide in Christ are never distant from Him; we live in constant fellowship with Him

Such abiding in Christ requires time with Him in prayer, Bible study, and in doing what pleases Him.

Abiding in Christ includes close fellowship with His Church, because He is the Head of it. It pleases God for us to be in a local group with other believers.

The New Testament shows that God deals with His people in the context of His church. That church is NOT such as Roman Catholic, Protestant, or any other religious name. It is ONLY the mystic Body of born again believers in Christ, per John 3:3-5, and Romans 10:9.

The Bible tells us that the Church is the pillar and ground of the truth. Locally, it is that group of believers in which God demonstrates His Presence and power. God cares for and nurtures His Church through the ministries that He has placed in it. Eph.4:11.

Per 1 Tim.4:13-16, God graces His ministers with Holy influence. It guides the Church, nurtures, teaches, encourages, and brings it to maturity, if the believers will allow it.

For that reason believers must present ourselves regularly in the meetings. We must take part in Divine activities in it. Per Titus 3:14, we must support the works of the Church and maintain it. That is one way that our service to God can cause results.

To abide in Christ means much more than just getting saved, and barely getting along as a Christian.

The enormous task of the Great Commission has been given to the whole Body of Christ on earth. One person alone cannot do it. Think of what is going on in the world, because believers are working together.

The work of the Gospel of Christ, through the Church, brings much glory to God and to Christ.

Therefore, let's not be casual or uncaring to the Church. Our attitude to it shows our true attitude to Jesus Christ, Who is the Head of it!

In our "busy-ness" for Christ, we must not neglect to love one another as Jesus said. John 15:12. We dare not despise one another.

Sometimes it requires sacrifice for us to attend Church, rather than to go to the mountains, to the beach, or to loll around the house, on Sunday mornings.

Chapter 2 ASK and SEEK

PLEASE read listed verses

God sent Jesus to teach us His ways. Some things Jesus taught are easier to understand than others. E.g., Mt. 7:7-11. Jesus said to ask, to seek, and to knock if we desire things from God.

Asking differs from seeking and from knocking. They each differ in usage. E.g., we can't just pray for knowledge. We must seek it by Bible study. 2 Tim. 2:15.

Well, we know how to ask, because Jesus said to ask the Father in His Name. John 16:23. To seek means to try to obtain. But how can we knock without touching?

In Rev. 3:20 Jesus said: *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."* The Lord knocks at our heart's door by His voice! Therefore, one way to knock on spiritual things is by our words of faith. Jesus said to do it!

God wants us to enter into His blessings and purposes for us. He wants us to enter into opportunities He makes for us. Some of those doors will only open if we KNOCK!

E.g., 1 Sam. 17: 4-10,45-47. Each man in the Israeli army had an opportunity to fight Goliath. But they let fear of the natural whip them without a fight!

David saw victory by faith, and by his WORDS he knocked on the door. It opened unto triumph and glory to God and to David. It forever changed his life, and the lives of others.

We need to knock by words of faith on doors that God's promises offer us. Goals set by faith can be gained!

We need not live tenuous, fragile, meager lives, ruled by things and conditions in the worldly system. No. John 10:10 shows that Jesus came to give us abundant life. Also: "...be strong...". Eph. 6:10. Faith words are: "I WILL be; I AM strong." Mk. 11:23 can make it a fact.

God said He will supply all our need. Phil. 4:19 (go on out and SEEK it)! Use Words of Faith to KNOCK on doors of Divine provision.

For nearly 20 centuries the door of the "rapture" has been before *every* believer. It has been always ready to open, even if the saints died! When it opens, we SHALL enter! 1 Thes.1:10, 4: 13-18. Glory to God.

"Faith Words" are the means of knocking on things that do not appear. They can't be touched in 'natural' ways. But through Mark 11: 23, Jeremiah 23:29, and Rom. 10: 10, we can KNOCK on them. They will open. Jesus said so!

Some things in God's economy come simply by asking Him for them. We must seek for others, as in 2 Tim.2:15. Still others require urgent KNOCKING. Luke 11:5-13.

We can receive eternal life as a gift from God. Rom.6:23. But Eph.6:12 tells us to lay hold on it. This is not a contradiction: it means we must possess the gift.

Be encouraged. Use Words of faith in God's promises and KNOCK until they open to you! Jesus said that they SHALL open to you. Amen.

FACT VERSES

Fact verses are those statements of facts in the Bible They are not necessarily promises. They are conditions that God and Christ caused, without human help. Jesus mentioned this premise in Acts 1:7.

FACT: "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." (Heb. 8:12).

FACT: "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." (2 Cor.1:20).

FACT: "For he is our peace,..." (Eph. 2:14).

FACT: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." (Isa. 26:3)

FACT: "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." (Psa. 84:11)".

FACT: Jesus can be touched with our infirmities. That means our lack of ability to produce results. See Heb. 4:15.

FACT: "...and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37b).

FACT: "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." (John 15:12).

FACT: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity (love), these three; but the greatest of these is charity." (1 Cor.13:13).

God bless you, I love you. Pastor Poole

Chapter 3 AWAKE!

Eph.5:14-16. *"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."*

This hedonistic society is self indulgent as few generations have been since the flood of Noah. Jesus said it will be like this when He comes again.

The Bible warns not to call good evil and evil good, but people in spiritual darkness do it. There is an urgent need to awake. Understand that the dreaded rise in crime is due to sin.

Crime is nearly never called sin. People don't want to be called sinners, and they prefer "Psychiatric Counseling" to repentance. They would rather be called insane (slang, CRAZY!) than to be called sinners. Yet God says that all have SINNED and come short of the glory of God (Rom.3:23.)

Ponder Isaiah 13:11: *"And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible."*

People who are spiritually asleep hold little difference between right and wrong. To them there is "nothing wrong with a sexual one night stand." They urge to celebrate diversity. They tout homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle. If anyone denounces sin, people howl: "judge", "bigot", or "homophobe", and claim that a "hate crime" has occurred.

That's the way the Sodomites were just before God judged them by fire and brimstone.

Surely, it is time to awake from such darkness; to repent of sins against God. He has never condoned sin, and He never will. Sin does not become delightful to Him, just because sinners cherish and "excuse" it.

It is dreadful for unbelievers to approve of sin. It is worse for believers to do it. We are to awake to righteousness, and sin not. 1 Cor. 15:34.

We must also be alert against false doctrine. To assert that once a person gets saved, no matter how he lives, or what he does, he will still go to heaven is false doctrine. It's NOT so.

God's Word says that NO SIN SHALL ENTER HEAVEN. If one doesn't turn from his sins, he cannot get into heaven when he dies! Rev.21:7.

People hold other false ideas that could damn them before God. E.g., some people say that Christ MUST receive them, unconditionally. But in the Bible God NEVER promises unconditional salvation to anyone! God ALWAYS demands REPENTANCE from sin, and faith in Christ Jesus. Acts 17:31. Let them AWAKE and Christ shall give them light.

Others blame poverty, a bad neighborhood, bad parents, poor schools, and racial tension, as the cause for crime. "Poor things, it's not their fault that they murdered someone!" How dare "right-wing Christians to call it sin!"

Unmarried parents are called "Single Parents." Being an unmarried parent is often the result of sex sin. Of course, not every single parent is a sinner.

Professed believers in Christ are sometimes so like the world, that they cannot prove that they are Christians! Some Christians would force the movies to be "nice", so that they can enjoy them. AWAKE! The SINS of the world CANNOT be made safe for believers to enjoy!

There was a time when Christians were sanctified enough that they didn't GO to theaters at all! It was known as a sin to do so. It still is, and for the same reasons.

Let no one err. Sin is still sin. Neither psychiatry, social diversity, political correctness, nor any thing else can make sin acceptable to God.

EVERY person ought to ponder Hebrews 12:14: *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:" AWAKE.*

Eph.5:14-16 was not written to sinners. It was written to born again, Spirit filled believers. It still is.

Be warned. Sin and ungodliness will be the rule during the reign of the antichrist. Everyone on earth will worship him or face martyrdom for Christ. Christ's coming is the only way to escape that time.

Will you be a devil worshipper or a martyr for Christ? You need be neither! Awake, as the Text says.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved. Acts 16:31. Then live for Him daily, forsaking sin and the ways of the world. 2 Cor.6:17; Eph.4:17.

YOU ought to regularly attend a Church where holy living is taught by God's Word. You ought to be a fervent, earnest Christian. AWAKE! DON'T live like the world lives, lest you receive it's reward.

I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 4 AWESOME TEXT ✍

PLEASE read listed verses.

2 Cor.3:1-6. Verse 4: "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us. Written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. Not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart."

This is an awesome text. What kind of church would Christ "manifestly declare" to be His epistle (letter)? Notice He did not merely write TO them. He declared that they ARE His letter for all men to read.

People make bad remarks about the Corinthian believers. About this *letter of Christ* written by the Spirit of God! They infer that He disavowed them, and so should we. NOT SO! He did correct their errors, but He didn't disapprove His grace that worked in them.

1 Cor. 1:4-9 refers to God's grace that worked in them. Chapter 12:7-11, defined it.

In our text, Paul said God gave him grace to minister to them. Such grace that the Spirit of the Living God wrote on the fleshy tables of their hearts. *What did He write?* He wrote the grace of God, as noted above. Per Hebrews 8:10, God said He would write His law upon people's hearts. That case referred to the House of Israel. The point is that God does write on people's heart. He does it through ministry of His choosing.

Again, 2 Cor.3:3-6. God gave them abundant grace, per 1 Cor. 1:4, and the "gifts of the Spirit" (1Cor.12:7) operated in their meetings. 1 Cor. 14:26. That did not happen because they were morally flawless. It was purely God's grace. See 1 Cor. 6:11. It still is.

God wrote in them, 1 and 2 Corinthians. He wished all men to read them, and for the same grace to be in all believers. They were God's LETTER to all men. He didn't write only to the first century believers.

Those people had God's grace working in them. It pleased God to make them an EXAMPLE to all men. He wrote 1 Cor. 13 to them, and to us. He worked to perfect their "walk" in Christ. He wrote to establish Divine nature, and character, and power in them.

They are God's approved example for every one. Let us beware that we do not despise or reject what they ARE! This is an awesome text.

Dare we scorn God's grace that worked in them? Dare we repudiate God's grace that worked in them? Should we despise His grace which still works in believers today? I BELIEVE THAT NOT!

We should learn from their example and SEEK the grace of God that worked in them! Note 1 Cor. 12:31, 14:1; 14:26-31, 14:37-40. Be not deceived by those that say: "speaking with tongues isn't for us; or its of the devil"

FACT VERSES

Fact verses state facts that God and Christ did for us. They are not always promises. They're conditions that God and Christ caused, without human aid. Jesus showed this premise in Acts 1:7.

FACT: "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." Gen. 1:1.

FACT: "...by Him were all things created...". Col. 1:16-18.

FACT: "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works,...". Eph. 2:10

FACT: "But now has God set the members every one of them in the body, as it has pleased Him." 1 Cor. 12:18.

FACT: "And He is the propitiation (atoning victim) for our sins:..." 1 John 2:2.

FACT: "For He (God) has made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Cor. 5:21.

The FACT and extent of God's grace is so great, that its often hard for us to grasp it.

Think of it! The Creator died on the cross for us, was made sin, went to hell, and rose from the dead on the third day.

In the words of the Hymn: "Oh, the grace that drew salvation's plan: oh, the grace that brought it down to man. Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span, at Calvary."

FACT: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb.7:25.

Fact: "... and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

This ministry letter is sent out to bless and encourage all that read it.

I love you, God bless you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 5 BETTER

Heb.11:1 and 40. Faith is a spiritual substance from God that comes to us by hearing His Word. It enables believers to see what unbelievers cannot see. It enables believers to understand what unbelievers cannot understand.

The better things that God offers believers can't be seen by unbelievers. By faith, believers can look beyond present conditions and gain special help from God.

Unbelievers must 'put up' with what their "luck" or "fate" does to them. Believers see God's faithfulness in directing their steps. All things work together for good to them that love God.

Even death need not terrify believers. Jesus Christ has promised us resurrection from death. Although rising from death to mortal life would be wonderful, God has a BETTER resurrection than that in mind.

Conversely, unbelief leaves many without peace of mind. It also keeps people from other good things that God has for them. At times, such people wonder why God is "on their case." They can't see that it is their unbelief that causes their problems.

For example, some people get saved, but show no interest in the deeper things of God. Unbelief keeps them from seeing and entering more into communion with Him.

Divine healing from God is a prominent blessing from God per the Bible. But a victory BETTER than Divine Healing is to live in Divine health, kept by the power of God. John 10:10.

God has things that are far BETTER for us than we can gain as mortals! Phil. 1:23; 1 Cor. 15:50-51.

For example, to be raised to immortal life has ever been a focal point for people of faith. They could see what unbelievers could not see.

Unbelievers left stone monuments and the Book of the Dead. People of faith saw the promise of God, and rejoiced in hope of rising again to eternal life.

Heb.11 lists the wonderful things that God did for believers in past ages. Still verse 40 states that He has provided BETTER things for us than what they received!

We are invited to be people of faith, and by it to see the promises of God. Also, we can receive the things that we need from God now. The following Scriptures show how: Mat.6:33; 7:7-9; Phil.4:19; Jeremiah 17:7-8; Psalms37:25; 92:13-15.

In addition, we can gain peace of mind. Jesus told us how to get it, John 14:1. He bids us to believe in God and in Jesus Christ. That will give us peace. Notice Rom. 15:13.

With natural eyesight, we may see things that do not cheer us. But with the eye of faith, we can behold life giving provisions from God through Christ. To Him be all glory and praise.

In daily life, we need to view things that we deal with through the eyes of FAITH. That can make us secure.

When you ponder your life, what do you see? Do you see Jer.17:7-8 as applying to you? Do you see Psa.119:89 as a fact? Do you see Titus 1:2 as a fact about God? Do you see 2 Tim.1:7 as a fact about you? Do you see 1 Pet.2:24 as assuring Divine healing/health for you?

FACT VERSES state facts that are recorded in the Bible. They are not necessarily promises. They are conditions that God and Christ have established without human aid. Jesus mentioned this premise in Acts 1:7.

Fact: "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is." Jer.17:7. Is that you?

Fact: "I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." (Psa.34:4). Has that happened to you?

Fact: "In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul." (Psa.138:3). Has that happened to you?

Fact: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Rom.10:13). Are you saved?

Fact: "...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32). Are you a disciple of Christ?

Fact: "And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." (Psa. 50:15). Do you see the fact that God is interested in you, and is ready to help YOU?

Fact: Jesus Christ has obtained eternal redemption for us Heb. 9:12.

Fact: We must RECEIVE that salvation by faith. John 1:12; Eph.2:8-9; Rom.10:9.

I love you.

Chapter 6 BODY OF CHRIST

PLEASE read all listed Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 12:27. All believers in Christ belong to the same mystic Body of Christ. Each of us have responsibilities, privileges and benefits in it. According to verses 15-19, our self opinions do not negate our membership in it. Also it provides benefits that only responsive members can receive, Eph.4:16. We need to be active in it.

I freely admit that I need each of you. I need what God has put in you as a member of the Mystic Body of Christ. None of us can say that we don't need the other members. Neither can Jesus Christ, though He is the head of the Body, 1 Cor. 12:21. No member is unneeded, and that can be a comfort to us.

I urge you to faithfully attend church because we all NEED for you to do it. When God saved you, He intended for you to fulfill a certain function in the Body of Christ, for the sake of others, and for yourself. You need to interact with other people so that the fullness of God's grace can work in you. Much of God's grace works in the corporate Body of Christ, as in 1 Cor. 14:26. We have to be present to experience such grace.

Though many people get saved outside of a church, yet a church member usually leads them to Christ. Happily, God's grace can work through any member to get people saved. Praise God. Also, God's grace can work through many members to do what one member cannot do by itself.

QUESTION: How can any member affect any others if there is no contact? How shall we exhibit the fruit of the Spirit or bestow any Christian grace upon others without associating with them? How shall even the Gospel of Christ affect people for salvation if they never hear it? Rom. 10:14.

I trust that something of God's grace in this ministry will affect you through this letter. You need that, and I, as a minister, need to offer it to you. Though people attend different churches, yet all believers are members of the same Body. Though I minister to one church group, yet I belong to the Body of Christ, and I need to minister God's grace for the benefit of others. To God and Jesus Christ be all the glory. Amen.

EXCERPTS FROM SUNDAY MORNING.

Jude 20. The activity of "building up ourselves on our most holy faith" is a process. Note that it doesn't say: "building up your faith", but: "building up YOURSELVES". We know from Romans 10:17 that we can obtain and increase our faith by hearing God's Word. But to build up ourselves on that faith is a process.

The moment that a person is born again (John 3:3-5, Rom.10:9-10), we are just as saved as we will ever be in this world. But we are spiritual infants, and must grow up into

Christ in all things, Eph.4:15. We are to increase in the knowledge of God, and that comes by studying His Word, and through experience with Him, as His grace affects us.

All of us have met people whom we felt were "strong Christians". They became strong, by believing and applying what the Scriptures teach. That is the way that the Patriarch Abraham grew strong. Romans 4:17-21, Amplified Bible.

As an example, most people are not "strong" in their first efforts to witness to others about salvation through faith in Christ. But if we study and learn what the Bible says, we can become very strong in doing that. The same is true for other activities which the Bible enjoins upon us. The Bible speaks of being established in the faith. It speaks of being "strong in the Lord (Eph.6:10)", and tells us how.

While it is true that God saves us by His grace, through faith (Eph.2:8-9) yet we have our part to play in working out our salvation, Phil.2:12.

Basically then, "building up ourselves on our most holy faith" means to constantly practice the Word of God, in Christian living. 1 Tim.4:7 urges us to exercise ourselves unto Godliness. As in physical exercise, strength and expertise is gained, so in spiritual exercise we gain strength, and are enabled to move on to deeper things in God.

At one time Jesus told the Apostles that they could not bear some things that He had to tell them yet. They had been with Him for over three years, and they could see Him in person, but they were unable to receive what was to come later. They had to have a special revelation from God to assure them that the Gentiles could be saved as they were, Acts 11:18.

An apparently common problem among believers is that people may hear a message preached in church, but neglect to apply it in daily living. Though ministers are not infallible, yet God does use them to deal with the congregation. Each of us need to avoid doing like James 1:23-24 says.

Every believer who is eager to follow Christ, wants to increase in faith, and Christian character. We deeply want to know our Lord better, and to experience more and more of His grace in our own lives. Amen. But the Bible does not say in vain to build up ourselves on our most holy faith. Though the book of Jude is a single chapter book, it is just as inspired as is John 3:16.

Therefore, in our private and public life, in church and out, we need to be mindful of this little verse in Jude 20. In it God has provided a supernatural means for helping us. I.e., by praying in the Holy Ghost. That means praying in other tongues. See 1 Cor.14:14-15 and Eph.6:18. In Romans 8:26 we are told that the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us.

I have written a small book about faith. It deals with basic and advanced aspects of Biblical faith. Faith is important for us, because without faith, it is impossible to please God. Heb.11:6. I believe that this little book can help and bless you. It is entitled *Faith*.

Chapter 7 CUP

Psalms 23:5: "...*my cup runneth over.*" This signifies an abundance of good things from God. Though I, and millions of others have drank from it, the cup never empties. It always runs over the brim. We have a continual supply of pleasant, desire quenching, satisfying substance from God.

It blesses, encourages us, and lifts us up to greater endeavors, and energizes us to carry out the will of God. Praise His Name. He also anoints our head with oil, (a type of the Holy Spirit) to guide us into all truth. He enlightens us and gives us wisdom and favor with God and man. He strengthens us with His ability and makes a way for us, when there is no way, otherwise. Thus, He sustains us and delivers us and keeps us. Because He IS my Shepherd, I shall not want.

Psalms 116:13: "*I will take the cup of salvation...*". This can remind us that Jesus said: "*This cup is the new testament in my blood...*" (Luke 22:20, 1 Cor. 11:25). All good things that God has provided in Christ, are in that cup. It is ratified by His precious Blood. We are to drink of that cup, because God wants us to have what we need in all areas of life. We are to eat the Bread, the Body of Christ, and thereby gain Divine healing and strength for all our needs. Do you not agree that Phil.4:19 is "in that cup?"

We may renew our strength as the eagles, that we may run and not be weary, walk and not faint. We may experience the fact that in Christ, we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. Romans 8:37. All is given us through His Body and Blood.

Jesus said that whosoever will may come to Him and drink. He also said that a river of living water will flow out of those who believe on Him.

What kind of cup have you been drinking of? If you are discouraged, depressed, defeated, joyless, could it be that you have been drinking from the wrong cup? Those things are not in the Cup of our Lord.

Drinking from apparent facts, symptoms and evidences in this world which contradict the Word of God, will cause spiritual weakness and discouragement. It can even cause death. But Jesus said: 'If you are thirsty, come to Me and drink.' The living water is still available! Praise God.

Wouldn't you rather drink that which is good, and which blesses you and others, than to drink what makes you sad, grieved, angry, vengeful, and ill tempered? Wouldn't you rather drink what is pleasant, instead of deeply pondering about what others have (or have not done) to you?

The Bible portrays the act of drinking living water as the act of pondering deeply; reasoning according to the Scripture, until it begins to satisfy your deep yearnings, bringing peace, comfort, assurance, and reviving and renewing your inner person.

The Scripture contains the pleasures of God. That is, those things that He delights in, and which are such a blessing to mankind. They are so many, that their outflow is compared to a river! Please read Psalms 36:8 now. You see, FELLOWSHIP with God, is to enjoy WITH Him what He enjoys.

We can tell when we have actually drank living water, because it will supernaturally encourage our heart. Often, peace and joy makes us know that we have drank.

Does that happen often to you when you read or hear the Scripture? Has it EVER happened to you? Did you know that you can CAUSE it to happen? Jesus said you can: *"...come unto me, and drink."* John 7:37.

That should happen when we attend Church. There should be times in the meetings when joy and uplifting and blessing causes us to be refreshed and to rejoice.

Of course, the water of God's Word is also for cleansing. Therefore, some- times we may sense a cleansing action in our heart, as the Holy Spirit convicts us, and urges us about things that He wants to deal with. But always when we yield to Him, His comforts assure us.

Notice Psa. 94:17-19. When God's Word especially emboldens us for some action, and we sense strength to do it, that means that we have eaten the living bread.

When the Holy Spirit reveals something of God's Word to us, and we are especially exhilarated by it, that means that we have drank the New Wine of Divine Revelation.

God knows that we need sustenance for all areas of our life. It's all in the Cup of the New Testament. Notice 2 Pet. 1:3. Oh, my friend, God is so rich in mercy, love and grace. Will you drink from His Cup?

God bless you, I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 8 DISCERN

Heb.5:14: *"But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to DISCERN both good and evil."*

This is not talking about the Gift of Discernment listed in 1 Cor. 12:10. This is another area of discernment that every believer CAN develop by using his spiritual senses. They were given at the moment of the New Birth, as in John 3:3-5.

Many believers have trouble in DISCERNING the Lord's dealings, leadings and instructions. Because they do not discern God's correct will, people get into false doctrine.

There are key statements in the Bible that WILL safe-guard new believers, if they will learn them and attend to them. There are provisions for new converts to help them avoid deceptions that are in the world.

One of the most important of those keys is Nu.23:19. God is not a man that He should lie. Again, in Titus 1:2, God CANNOT lie. With that fact established, we now turn to the second key. 1 John 2:21. No lie is of the truth. NEVER! The 4th key is 2 Tim.3:16. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.

That fact is bedrock to Divine assurance, in spite of all contradictions. Therefore, we can discern the Truth about matters of which the Bible directly speaks. If the Bible says something is sin, IT IS SIN, even if it doesn't SEEM so bad to our way of thinking.

On the other hand, a thing is RIGHT, when the Bible says it is, even if people don't THINK so!

Because of these Key Statements in the Holy Scripture, we KNOW right from wrong, when the Bible addresses the issue. The knowledge of the written Word of God is the first spiritual sense to exercise ourselves in. Note Isa.8:20 and 1 John 2:29.

In the Bible, the Word of God, we learn of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the fact and issue of eternal life in Christ. We OUGHT to STUDY (NOT just read occasionally) the Bible intensely.

If we expose our mind to it, it WILL have positive effect on us, and we WILL learn of Jesus Christ. Mt. 11:28-29; John 5:39.

There is another Divine Operator involved in our spiritual education. John 16:13. The Holy Spirit is sent from God the Father and Jesus Christ, to LIVE in believers, and to GUIDE us into ALL TRUTH. Note John 17:17.

One of the ways that the Holy Spirit guides us is by the anointing that every born again believer receives from God. Note 1 John 2:27. This is an ABIDING anointing. Other

types of anointing for SERVICE may not ALWAYS abide in us, but this TEACHING anointing DOES! It is given to TEACH us of all things. Therefore, we should exercise by interaction with the Holy Spirit, and thereby LEARN His witness and dealings with us.

Once we know the WITNESS of the Holy Spirit, we can wax bold in the course of action that He leads us into.

Jesus made reference seven times in the first 3 chapters of Revelation about them that "have ears, hear what the Spirit says to the Churches." That implies that some believers become acute in hearing the Holy Spirit speak.

There is a final safe-guard that even the babies believer CAN do. Heb. 6:12. May we say, 'follow them for whom the promises of God produce results'.

In His many faceted care for us, God has provided MANY factors of safety for us. He has spent long centuries of faithfulness in His Word and dealings with people, to give us an ABSOLUTE foundation for faith in Him.

It is an error to question if MAYBE what the Bible says about a subject could be a mistake. No, what God has said IS NOT a mistake!

Basically then, we have available everything that we need to be correct in discerning what is good, right and acceptable to God in regard to our life, and for the well being of humanity in general.

NO lie is of the Truth. God has NOT changed His mind about what is sin. "Modern" ideas (sometimes lusts) CANNOT change the Truth of God. God DOES love mankind, but He does NOT love everything that sinners do, and He will not acquit the wicked. Nahum 1:3. He WILL forgive our sins, if we repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. But He ISN'T going to just let some people "by" because He's so merciful and kind. No! Acts 17:31, God COMMANDS ALL men EVERYWHERE to repent!

The Lord willing, we will study this subject of DISCERNMENT more in the next issue. Till then, STUDY your BIBLE! God bless you, I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 9 EARS TO HEAR

This was a frequent saying of the Lord Jesus. He said it seven times in Rev. chapters 2-3 alone. For example, Rev.2:7. It must be important.

It cannot mean only physical ears, because physical ears do not hear what the Spirit says. Also, because most people He talked to had physical ears, or they couldn't have heard Him tell them to hear.

In the spiritual sense, our "ears" have to do with things that we are interested in. We pursue and adjust ourselves for what interests us. We study things that are interesting, to gain understanding and knowledge about them. When we do, we can "hear" them, and respond accordingly. We pay little attention to things that we don't care about. We pay no attention to things we don't know.

Jesus expected those who had been taught His ways to pay attention, and obey. He pricked their interest with warnings and promises. If they obeyed, it means that they had ears to hear. God give US ears to hear!

People who want to live in their sins, don't want to hear what the Spirit says, because He demands that they change their lifestyle.

Believers who are eagerly interested in the things of God, seek to hear what the Spirit says. THEY will have ears to hear what the Spirit says. Jesus said: "*My sheep hear My voice* (John 10:27)." His sheep are they who follow Him. He also said the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth.

The Laodacean Church was so interested in their wealth that they lost much of their interest in what pleases God. Such distraction dulled their spiritual hearing, and they became lukewarm. They fell into the trap of Luke 21:34! Lukewarmness COULD cause believers to miss the RAPTURE! They just won't HEAR the Lord when He comes! But that's not all, Jesus warned that He would spue them out of His mouth, if they didn't mend their ways. They wouldn't be His ANYMORE!

Coming to Christ, getting born again, and then living without due regard for doing what Jesus and the Apostles taught, is nearly as dangerous as never being born again at all.

Such people seem so UN-INTERESTED in more than a bare knowledge of God, and of His ways. They have no ears to hear what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God (2Pet.3:18.)

They have no ears (of interest) to hear the need to win lost souls to Christ, or to live a holy, Godly life. They don't seem to care about the Body of Christ, or the RAPTURE of the Church, 1 Thes.4:15-17, or anything that interests true disciples of Christ.

They have ears to hear dirty jokes, cursing and slander, and to indulge in the lusts of sinners, and partake of the ungodly pleasures of this world.

Others separate themselves from the sins of the world, but live according to their own ideas about the Gospel. They ignore and oppose those who walk in deep, fruitful fellowship with the Lord Jesus. The glory and value of the Church (the Body of Christ) is of little interest to them. They don't hear what the Spirit is saying IN and TO the Churches.

If we have no interest in the things of God, our "ears" don't hear them. Consider: the world knows of the same end time signs that believers do, but the world isn't warned by them as believers are.

Jesus said that end-time signs will show that our redemption is near, Lu.21: 28. The signs that are seen in today's world ought to cause more in us than an uneasiness about the future. They ought to cause corrective responses in our lifestyle, per 1 John 3:1-3.

Psalms 119:25: "...quicken thou me according to thy word." That is an excellent prayer to pray for ourselves, so that we may hear what the Spirit says.

Again, Psalms 119:18: "*Open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.*"

In Eph.1:17-23, Apostle Paul prayed that God would grant the Spirit of revelation in the knowledge of Him, to enlighten our eyes so that we may know what is the hope of His calling.

We can pray these prayers for ourselves. God wants us to hear what He is saying today, and to hear what He WILL say when Jesus shouts in the rapture, 1 Thes.4:16.

Do you have ears to hear? Stir up your interest. Go to Church regularly, STUDY your Bible, PRAY daily, obey the Lord Jesus, EVERYDAY. Your interest in spiritual things will increase, and you can gain acuity to hear what the Spirit says. May God grant it. Amen.

I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 10 LOCK-UP

In St. John 2:18-21, the Jews asked Jesus for a sign, to which He replied: *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."*

Their minds 'Locked-Up' on the Herodian Temple, and they missed what He said. The Bible explains that He meant the Temple of His Body, but they supposed that He was talking about a physical building.

Sadly, this is not the only case of such a 'Lock-Up.' Nicodemus, in chapter 3:1-4, also 'Locked-Up' on the idea of physical birth, though Jesus was talking about Spiritual birth.

Sometimes today, if you ask people if they are a Christian, they 'Lock-Up' on a church denomination, and reply: "Yes, I'm a-- (Church name.)"

Likewise, if you ask some people if they believe on Jesus Christ, they may reply: "Yes," but they 'Lock-Up' on what they suppose is belief.

All of us must deal with 1 Cor. 2:9. *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."*

Verse ten says that the Holy Spirit **reveals** the things of God to us. If He doesn't, for any reason, we simply do not correctly understand them. Thus, for many, faith is a great mystery.

The Bible is a very difficult book to understand unless the Holy Spirit enlightens our mind about it. Jesus said: *"Except a man be born again, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God."*

Many people can quote Scriptures from the Bible, but according to what they say about them, it is certain that they do not rightly grasp what they have quoted.

In Mark 12:24, the Lord Jesus told the Jews that that was the case with their "question." In short, they didn't know what they were talking about!

It is easy to suppose that we understand a statement of Scripture, based on what our eyes see on the page.

I mean that there are things that are hidden to unbelief. It is not that God doesn't want people to know; but the devil blinds people's minds so that they CANNOT see the things of God. 2 Cor. 4:4.

What are we to do about this dilemma? Jesus told us in Matthew 6:33. If a person is only casually interested in the Bible, or is indifferent about its requirements, they will grasp very little of its treasures.

But if we seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, He will add to us, and the Holy Spirit can guide us into all Truth. I.e., the Word of God, John 17:17.

If we receive Jesus Christ as Lord, and are born again, we enter into the Kingdom of God, and if we follow Jesus, we WILL learn of Him. To those who seek Him, God is able to impart the Spirit of Wisdom and of understanding in the knowledge of Him. Eph.1:17-22. It is right for us to ask our Lord for the knowledge of His will, that we might walk worthy of Him in all well pleasing. Col. 1:9-10.

The Scripture further shows our inadequacy in Divine things in 1 Cor. 2:9-15. Please read it carefully, and note that the natural man **CANNOT RECEIVE THE THINGS OF GOD!** Again, a person **MUST** be born again, or he cannot see the Kingdom of God. John 3:3-5.

Sometimes people "believe God" and ask in prayer, but discern no answer to their "prayer of faith," as they suppose. Such people often give up in frustration, or worse, blame God for His perceived indifference to their desperate prayers.

The fact is 2 Cor.1:20. If there is failure in approach to God for His help, the failure is ours, not His. He cannot lie! Num.23:19; Titus 1:2.

Some people ask God for Divine healing, and seeming not to receive it, they suppose and teach that it is no longer God's will to heal today in answer to prayer.

Many other instances of un- belief have produced wrong thinking about God's grace. My friend, God's Word, the Bible, is True as it is written. **HE said:** "*Ask, and it shall be given you.*" Ask Him how to enter into the answer that He gives you.

Other people allow some Christians' failures to make them bitter towards God Himself! As if people's failures make God untrustworthy! As if their anger at God can be avenged by forsaking Him! Foolishness!!

Oh, my friend, Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. No where else is Divine life available for us. John 3:16, Acts 16:31. Don't "Lock-up" on what you think: seek the Lord until you gain the Truth, according to His Word.

I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 11 God and Christ

Please read all Scriptures listed.

Acts 17:22-31. The Gospel places the fact of God and of Christ squarely before us. It shows the severity of sin and its results. It shows God's hatred of sin and His wrath against sinners who do not repent. At the same time, it also shows His infinite love and grace.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). This fulfilled what Isaiah 53:4-6 stated, and provides Romans 5:8-10 and 8:32. Such things being true, the above text is the more potent. God so wants to save penitent sinners that he actually COMMANDS all men everywhere to repent. I.e., to turn from sin, believe on Jesus, and to follow Him.

When the Gospel reaches the hearts of sinners, some hesitate, or even refuse because the Gospel makes them see the need to forsake their sins. They may be afraid they can't, or they may be unwilling to do it. For some, Luke 14:26-33 may sound harsh and demanding. But Luke 14:26-33 is not all that Jesus said about following Him. Look at John 8:31-36. That is certain, Divine proof. Look at James 1:25. That's a sure promise. Look at 2 Pet.1:2-10. That's absolute guarantee. Now look at 2 Cor.13:14. That's FELLOWSHIP, meaning to take part in, to be a partner. John 15:7 is power. But the goal of our progress is Phil.3:8-10. Paul obeyed our text. He did what Jesus said in John 8:3. He did what Jas.1:25 says. He entered into 2 Pet.1:2-10 and he entered into 2 Cor. 13:14. Did it work? Note Phil.4:9, and finally, 2 Tim.4:7-8.

The Scriptures have substance and guarantee salvation which can be gained by obeying the Gospel of Christ. It is not enough to merely assent to it, then do our "own thing". It is not productive to select what we like and reject what we don't agree with. Unless we commit to follow Jesus, and become doers of His Word, and to participate in the Holy Spirit, our experience can stagnate after our new birth experience. Worse, if we insist on living after our carnal impulses and attitudes, we shall DIE! Rom.8:13.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is wonderful in what it provides for us. But it makes awesome requirements of us! Our eternal destiny is determined by our responses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God has wisely commanded all men every where to repent. The Bible requires that our response must be more than mental assent.

The great questions for each of us is: "Am I a believer of the Gospel? Do I CONTINUE to do God's Word? Is Jesus Christ number One to me, more than self, family, job?"

Most of us need help to fully carry out God's will for our lives, and thank God, He offers help. Heb.4:14-16. Make time, and a place for you in which you open your heart to Him. He already knows all about you, but He still invites you to come, because of Heb.7:25.

FACT VERSES IN THE BIBLE.

Acts 2:36 : *"...God hath made that same Jesus...both Lord and Christ"*.

Therefore: *"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* (Phil. 2:10-11).

If we confess Jesus as our Lord, and believe in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead, we shall be saved, Romans 10:9.

On that condition, Jude 24, because: *"...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"* (Rev.1:5).

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:" (Col. 1:14).

By considering the FACTS of what God and Christ have done for us at Calvary, faith comes into our hearts, because our God CANNOT lie!

God has provided for your total victory in any situation that you may be in. He has bidden you to come boldly to the throne of grace, that you may obtain mercy and find grace to help in this time of need. Heb.4:16.

Beloved, a Pastor's heart yearns over God's people. It seems to me that God has assigned the primary emphasis of the Pastoral ministry, to "making Disciples" of those who come to Christ for salvation.

It seems easier to get people to confess Christ, or to make a decision for Christ, than it is for us to develop into faithful, fruitful disciples of Jesus Christ.

A disciple of Jesus Christ is one who has turned from sin, and who daily follows Jesus by obeying His Word. This includes SELF DENIAL. Luke 14:26. In today's hedonistic society, self denial is not popular. Nonetheless, Jesus requires it of all of His disciples.

Our personal commitment to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, will prevent us from being partakers of the sins society. We are in the world, but we are not OF the world, and our way of life is to be vastly different from theirs. Our devotion to Jesus obtains vastly different results than they have, who assume that they can "run their own life" .

Some who profess to be Christians, indicate that going to church is an option of their choice. Heb.10:25 bids us not to "Forsake the assembling of ourselves together...". We are to take part in worship services at church in order to please God and to obtain the benefits that He has placed in the Body of Christ. We are commanded to love one another, and we are to administer to each other the grace that God gives us. That can make our attendance more than a boring duty. God bless you, I love you. Pastor Poole.

Chapter 12 I HAVE IT!

Colossians 1:13-14. All Scripture has great power that we need to grasp. This verse may seem to be a passive statement at first glance. IF we examine it, we may see it as a powerful, active weapon for us. The reason is that when God says that something is true, IT'S TRUE!

The facts that God gives are the foundation and assurance of eternal life. Such statements are the 'victory' over all that opposes our well being.

We need to study them, and agree with them, and then enter into them. They must become SPEAKING REALITY in our heart, mind and mouth. Identify yourself: are you a born again believer? Then all statements like our text apply to you. For example, Eph. 1:6: *"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."*

"Yes," someone says, "but what about my failures?" In one sense, your failures are not the problem, a doubtful mind is the problem. Notice Luke 12:29b.

We can overcome a doubtful mind by relying on such Scriptures as {please read each of these now}, Col. 3:3; 1 John 2:1-2; 1 John 1:9.

Such Words from God need to become 'real' to us and therefore influential in our life.

It is a hard, grievous experience when a doubtful mind begins to accuse and condemn us for our failures. Of course, we are not to ignore, or pretend that we have no failures. But in a sober mind to deal with them according to the Scripture. 1 John 1:9: *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Col. 1:14: *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"*

It is not God's will for us to condemn ourselves to the extent that we cannot arise in faith and overcome our problems. Self condemnation weakens our faith, and often our resolve. We must hear things that build up our faith, and that encourages us to make necessary corrections, including repentance.

Please understand: Redemption depends entirely on what Jesus did for us at Calvary. Possessing redemption depends entirely on our believing it! Eph. 2:8: *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"*

If we neglect, or fail for any reason, to believe on Jesus, we cause His redemptive work at Calvary to avail nothing for our self. Our unbelief does NOT change what He did, but we CANNOT receive it without faith, which is itself, a gift from God. Eph.2:9.

See how the facts of redemption can cause firm, effective faith in God through Christ. Focus on Romans 5:1: *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"*

Focus on Romans 8:1-2. Focus on 1 Peter 2:24. Focus on Col. 3:3.

Any time that God's Word says that we have something, we should believe it, and agree with Him. In the case of our text, WE HAVE IT! We have it, because God, Who CANNOT LIE says that we HAVE IT! Read John 5:24. Our believing response ought to be, "I have it!" Romans 8:37 says that we are more than conquerors through Christ. Agree with Him. We are!

God and Christ are the great "I AM" of Scripture. Through our text and faith, God provides for us to become "I am" in Christ. Instead of focusing on our doubts, feelings, and circumstances, we are to "lock on" to God's Word.

Agree with our text: **"We have it!"** Say it! Say, "I am redeemed!"

God wants us to believe the facts, because they are so! He said so! Let your heart become glad in the facts that Jesus accomplished for us at Calvary. Learn to walk in that assurance. "Feed" on God's Word until doubt is overcome by faith.

Note that Heb. 11:6 says that without faith, it is impossible to please God. But we can gain faith by 'hearing' God's Word, Romans 10:9.

Therefore, when self doubt, or self condemnation begin to 'worry' your mind, stoutly and firmly say: "I HAVE redemption; God says that I have it! Since He says that I have it, and since I believe Him, there can only be one result: I HAVE IT!"

Can you see how the Scripture can become a formidable weapon of faith, in the MOUTH of a BELIEVER? Do you remember that one item of God's armor, (Eph.6:17) is the Sword of the Spirit? We are to use that Sword with our MOUTH. Say it, **"I HAVE REDEMPTION!"**

I love you. God bless you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 13 THE HEAVENLY GIFT

John 3:16 tells us that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son.

Not only did God give His Son, but His Son, Jesus, gave Himself for us. We ought to be aware of that, and to learn why He did it.

Titus 2:14 tells us that Jesus gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Revelation 1:5 tells us that Jesus loved us and washed us from our sins in His own Blood.

Ephesians 5:25-27 tells us that Jesus loved the Church and gave Himself for it that He might sanctify it and cleanse it by the washing of water by the Word. That He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

We may well wonder why God and Jesus went so far to save us. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 2:4 that it is because God is rich in mercy.

God is holy, and He will not compromise His holiness in any degree, though He loved us so much as noted above.

We should be well pleased that He won't, because if He did, heaven would not be better than earth for very long. Any sinner entering heaven would defile it.

God spoke to us by His Son, Whom He has appointed heir of all things. What did He say? *"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."* Luke 13:3.

God and Jesus were so concerned about the danger of mankind perishing, that they were willing to go as far as they did to redeem us. That ought to persuade us of the unspeakable danger that lost people are in.

The Bible tells us that lost People will be cast into the lake of fire, and that they will be there forever. Lost people are those who have not been born again, and received eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

People easily miss the fact that lost souls do not have to DO anything to BECOME lost. Unless they are born again, they already ARE lost. They must believe on Jesus Christ in order to BECOME SAVED. John 8:24.

God is not willing that anyone perish (be lost, as noted above), but that all should come to repentance. I.e., change their mind and way of living THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST. I am NOT talking about religious reform.

Something must happen to our heart, soul and mind. We must be forgiven our sin, and we must be made new creatures in Christ. That is the only thing that can make us acceptable to God, and ready for heaven. That can only happen to us through the power of the Blood of Jesus Christ.

His Blood, through faith in His Blood, makes us clean and acceptable in God's Holy Presence. **NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST CAN DO THAT!** Let **no one** persuade you otherwise. If you rely on anything, or anyone else than Jesus Christ as your very own Savior, you are, and you will **BE** forever lost! That is the message that God gave to mankind through Jesus Christ.

Some people claim that Christian people are narrow minded. Amen! We are **BECAUSE** our Lord Jesus Christ said, *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

Human philosophy and religions other than New Testament Christianity **CAN NOT** provide what we need to be saved. Hinduism was already three thousand years old, when Jesus came! It was **NOT** "good enough"! The wisdom of Plato, Socrates and Aristotle were **NOT** good enough. The Law of Moses was not good enough!

The Law of Moses showed us our need of a Savior, but it **COULD NOT GIVE US LIFE**. See Romans 8:1-3, and Romans 10:4.

No, my friends, Jesus Christ of Nazareth alone, is the only way to be saved. We must voluntarily receive Him, trust in Him alone for salvation, and daily follow Him in obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

To believe any other way or method of salvation is to believe a lie, no matter how convincing it's philosophy may sound. The eternal lake of fire is the only destiny of such sincere, but deceived souls. **DON'T BE ONE OF THEM!**

God has given His Son. Jesus, the Son of God has given Himself. Jesus has obtained eternal redemption for us through faith in His Blood. **BE WARNED:** if you have not received Jesus Christ as your Savior by a conscious act of faith, and confessed Him as your Lord, **YOU ARE LOST! BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THOU SHALT BE SAVED"**. Acts 16:31.

I love you, God bless you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 14 Hid In Christ

PLEASE read listed verses.

Prov.22:3. By the Word of God, and often by material example, we can foresee the evil. We are counted prudent if we take the steps needed to avoid it. E.g, Luke 13:3; Acts 17:31; Eph.5:5-6. God's Word often warns of the results of sin and wickedness.

As believers we are "hid" in Christ, from the evil. Col.3:3. Christ is THE prudent, wise Man. In Him, God has set before us blessings and promises of His goodness. Through faith, we can foresee the GOOD and enter into it. E.g., Rev.22: 14. Then can you foresee the good through Mt.6:33? And 2 Pet.2:24; Mt. 7:7-9; Mark 11:23-24? Ad infinitum.

Now we can enter into the good, (for example 2 Cor. 9:6-11). But we must beware that we do not "hide" ourselves from the good, through unbelief or neglect.

By *doing* the Word of God, through faith, we can rise up enough to "see" over the horizons of circumstances and foresee what's going to occur in our future!

Born again believers should read and believe Jude 20 and Titus 2:11.

15. Then we can foresee one of the greatest moments of God's power and glory. It will be the greatest glory possible before eternity! 1 Cor. 15:57. THIS is the "blessed hope": THIS is the "glorious appearing".

We can foresee other good things in God's Word. Such as His grace, love, power, and peace.

We should beware that worry and unbelief doesn't make us foresee only evil. If we do that, we may be unable to foresee the good that God has spoken, as in Phil. 4:19. Foreseeing the good that God has promised strengthens us. It helps us and gives us courage. Note Psalms 34:4-6. That's the good that we should foresee.

Thus, the wisdom of God instructs us, so that Mt. 6:33 may work for us. God calls us heirs (Rom.8:17), sons (1 John 3:1-2), and beloved, Phil. 2:12. Shall He renege on His promises? NO!

Therefore, we have peace, assurance and provisions with God's blessings. Prov. 10:22; John 8:12. Are you encouraged to follow Jesus and do His Word? Will you affirm that to Him; praying His mercy and grace to help you? Will you so live as to LET His comforts delight your soul? Take a look at Psa.94:18-19.

You see, if we will come to Jesus, and commit to follow Him, then Hebrews 7:25 applies to us. Glory to God!

FACT VERSES.

"Fact Verses" are facts which are stated in the Bible. They aren't always promises. They're conditions that God and Christ have caused and established, without human contribution. Jesus stated this premise in Acts 1:7.

The FACT is that Jesus is our peace. Eph.2:14.

The FACT is that His blood can purge our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Heb. 9 :14.

The FACT is that whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved.

The FACT is that He is going to appear the second time without sin. Heb. 9:28.

The FACT is that Jesus shall descend from heaven with a shout, and with the voice of the archangel. 1 The. 4:16.

The FACT is that God gives us the victory over death and the grave. 1 Cor. 15:57.

God wants us, His children on the earth, to pray for governmental authorities and for all that are responsible for social quietness. 1 Tim.2:1-4.

I am sure that the above Scripture applies to individuals. I especially believe that it applies to church groups. The reason is Mt.18:19.

The Scripture shows that there are evil spirits and powers that affect life on planet earth. They ever strive to make governments do their will. They succeed too much of the time, in too many ways.

It is possible for believers to affect their efforts, because Jesus gave us His Name and authority to do it. Luke 10:17-19.

Let me ask YOU: "DO you pray in the way that the above Scripture states"?

Our nation NEEDS all the advantages which our prayers CAN give. PRAY!

I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 15 HOLY SPIRIT

St. John 16:7. *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."*

The Lord Jesus said that it was expedient for Him to go away, or the Comforter would not come to the disciples.

The Holy Spirit does so much in the lives of believers that it cannot be fully told on this page. Yet we need to know His works and believe them, for the Holy Spirit makes us alive. John 6:63.

The Holy Spirit regenerates us when we come to Christ for salvation. Titus 3:5. He baptizes us into the Body of Christ. 1 Cor.12:13. The Holy Spirit lives in our human spirit, manifesting Christ in us. We correctly say that Christ dwells in our heart by the Holy Spirit. John 14:7b; 16:13.

Apostle Paul prayed that God would grant saints to be strengthened in our inner man by the Holy Spirit. Eph.3:16.

All of the above functions of the Holy Spirit come under the title Paraclete, used by Jesus in John 14:6. E.g, the Holy Spirit is a strengthener, a teacher, a guide, a helper, an intercessor, and a revealer of Divine things to man in general, and especially to believers.

According to 1 Cor.2:9-15, mankind CANNOT know the things of God, unless the Holy Spirit shows them to us. Even if we read the Scripture, without the Holy Spirit's help, we WILL not and CANNOT know the depths of what is said.

Jesus taught that the world, (unbelievers, un born again people) CANNOT receive the Holy Spirit, and so He does NOT dwell in sinners. John 14:17.

There is another activity of the Holy Spirit that is so precious, and for which we should be so thankful. 1 John 2:27 (Please read it now) says that the anointing (of the Holy Spirit) abides (dwells) in us (born again believers).

The teaching activity of the Holy Spirit is for every born again believer, since all born again believers have a measure of the Holy Spirit, even if they have not been baptized with the Holy Spirit, per Acts 2:4, 10:44-45, 19:6. Even so, they do NOT have the measure available to them in the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

The anointing will teach us the Word of God, whether we are hearing it preached or taught, or if we are simply reading/studying it. It is most blessed to have the Holy Spirit reveal the Scripture to us. We should especially desire this activity of the Holy Spirit when we attend Church, study the Bible or have times of fellowship with God in prayer, praise & worship.

Surely, it was Christ's intent that EVERY believer should have this blessed function of the Holy Spirit. The Scripture shows that Jesus never intended for any believer to omit the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. John 7:38-39.

People who suppose that the Bible pattern of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8,2:4) passed when the Apostles died, are mistaken.

Per Acts 2:39 the baptism with the Holy Spirit accompanied with speaking in other tongues is for all believers from then onward.

The Lord Jesus told His disciples in Acts 1:8 that they would receive power after that the Holy Spirit was come upon them. That power was expressed in miracles, signs and wonders and supernatural knowledge, wisdom and grace.

In 1 Cor. 12:7-11, there is a list of the special manifestations of the Holy Spirit (called gifts of the Spirit in the KJV). In addition, Paul mentions the Spirit of Revelation in the knowledge of God, in Eph.1:16.

Let us mention the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit. 2 Tim.3:16 says: "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...*". There is also a lesser degree of Divine Inspiration that accompanies preaching and teaching, especially at times.

Because of the above information, I have come to regard the Holy Spirit as the Executive Agent of God's power. Remember that it was the Holy Spirit that came upon the Virgin Mary, when Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit in her womb. Lu. 1:35. The Holy Spirit was also present at the time of Genesis 1:2-31.

The Holy Spirit is so vital to us that Rom. 8:9 says that if any man does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. This means the Presence of the Holy Spirit in the reborn ones, not the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus, as noted in John 16:7 considered it VERY IMPORTANT for the Holy Spirit to come to His disciples.

In the words of Acts 19:1-2: "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" This means the baptism with the Holy Spirit, which EVERY believer should receive.

God bless you, I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 16 MAKE IT COUNT!

1 Cor. 13:1-3: *"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

God has provided a way for us to avoid such a calamity. The Holy Spirit guides us into the Truth of God in Christ. He shows us how to obtain the benefits of other Scriptures, in order to avoid what unknowing or unsaved people would surely miss without His help. E.g.,

2 Cor.9:10: *"Now He that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness."*

If there is a question in our heart about an action that comes under 1 Cor.13:1-3, then we can pray that God will give us His blessing as stated in 2 Cor. 9:8-10. That will prevent the failure stated in 1 Cor. 13:1-3. That will make our action count and we won't be profitless.

In Mt. 6:7, Jesus said not to use vain repetitions in our prayers to God. But in Mt. 7:7, He DID say to ask. Our asking then, in order to avoid being vain, must be according to Mk.11:24. That will make our prayers count and we can obtain our requests.

In the Law of Moses, it was said, "Thou shalt not covet." It is a sin to covet. But God WANTS us to obtain things that we need and want. Instead of coveting, which is forbidden, we are to **ASK IN FAITH**. That will make our asking count and we can avoid the sin of covetousness.

God is sensitive to our **desires** as well as to our needs. Notice in Mk.11:24: *"Therefore, I say unto you, whatsoever THINGS ye DESIRE, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*

It is not God that withholds good things from them that ask Him. Psa.84:11 tells us that God will not withhold any good thing from them that walk uprightly.

If our 'praying and doing' is failing, as in doing good deeds without love, we can adjust to God's instructions and **MAKE IT COUNT!**

Sometimes people pray, and upon failing to receive, they say: "God must not have wanted me to have that." If it was a sin, or wrong, that may be so. But If it was within the provisions of God's grace through Jesus Christ, the failure is not due to God's refusal.

We need to learn of God's ways, so that we can act according to His will, and make our life count for good!

In 1 Cor. 15:2, Paul says that we are saved if we keep in memory the Gospel as he preached it, **UNLESS WE HAVE BELIEVED IN VAIN**. If we intend to escape eternal damnation, we **MUST** not be vain in our believing! Acts 16:31 says: *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."*

QUESTION: How would one believe on Jesus in vain? **ANSWER:** by making a profession of faith in Christ and depending on Him to save us, without repentance and following Jesus as our Lord.

I.e., just keep on living in sin as we did before our profession of faith. No! Let us make our faith count! Eternity in the lake of fire is too dreadful to trifle with God's offer of salvation through Jesus Christ.

There is a sure way to make our life, our actions, and our believing count. It is found in Col.3:17: *"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him."*

It is possible to err in our effort to follow Jesus, but if we live according to God's Word, we shall not err, and our life shall count to the glory of God, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

It is true that God said that the human heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. But God has provided a way for our hearts to be cleansed and made pure and right in His sight. God makes our heart right when we believe on Jesus, Rom.3:26.

All of God's benefits to mankind are available to us through Jesus Christ. Therefore, the Scripture urges: *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."* Acts 16:31.

I love you.

Pastor Poole

P.S. Mature Believer, can you "follow" the logic in 1 Cor.13:1-3 and 2 Cor. 9:8-10? I invite your comments.

Chapter 17 So Many Voices

1 Cor. 14:10. *"There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification."*

Many voices cause a flood tide of News; much of it bad. The Lord Jesus taught us how to respond to evil. E.g., on one occasion, two disciples asked for His consent to call down fire from heaven to burn up those who rejected Him. Jesus rebuked them, warning them about the spirit from which that impulse came, Lu. 9: 54-56.

The bad news that we hear now must not cause us to react as sinners do. Bad news goads them to desperate acts of their own contrivance. We must act in faith, not from anxious desperation.

This does not mean that we are to be vapid and do nothing. No, Jesus said that we are the light of the world, and the salt of the earth. Believers are to look to Jesus, and trust Him to lead us in our responses. Please read the first 10 verses of Psalms 37 now.

If we are established in the faith, Psa.112:6-8 should be our INWARD response. We know that evil things will happen, and we can know how it will all finally end. In the meantime, 2 Cor. 10:4-5 and Eph.6:10-18 is given to help us.

Bad, or false news is not the only concern. News that accurately informs us of what is occurring in the Nation and politics, can cause us anxiety. Beware. Anxiety about any cause often leads to wrong acts.

Thus, groups of armed militias are forming, whose purpose is to prevent the erosion of our liberties. Their concept seems just, because we do not wish to lose the benefits of the Constitution, or of National sovereignty.

The danger is that they may unwittingly play into the hand of those who seek to end National sovereignty. (There are virulent forces working to do that.) Without great care, the militias may cause a crack down on our liberties. To repress "anti government" groups, of course!

Believers should remember that Jesus said that all they who take the sword, shall die by the sword. Rather, the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.

On the other hand, could it be that the voices of conservative Talk Shows are voices of Moral Conscience in our Nation? Could that be why their viewpoints are often valid and agreeable? However, more than human morality is needed. The Nation needs true Repentance towards God and faith towards Jesus Christ.

I am persuaded that the voice of conservative radio talk shows is an extension of God's mercy, to alert the nation. No, such voices are not a substitute for the Gospel of Christ.

They may be extensions of God's mercy, "going the second mile" with humanity, to turn us from our sins. God is long-suffering towards us, not willing that we should perish (2Pet.3:9)."

Jesus said in Mt. 24:12, that iniquity (i.e., law-lessness) shall abound. Even so, believers in the U.S. have had the least opposition to living for Christ in the history of the Church.

Now consider: if an economic crash comes to the U.S., won't many think that the Great Tribulation has come!? If social upheaval comes, won't people surmise that the Great Tribulation has begun? If persecution comes, it's likely that many will suppose that the Great Tribulation has surely come.

Per Jesus Christ, such difficulties would but be part of beginning of sorrows. But that is NOT the Great Tribulation! Per Christ, No one yet has experienced how bad the Great Tribulation will be!

It will be worse than the Dark Ages and the Spanish Inquisition. It will be worse than the Black Death of Europe in which it is estimated that 50,000,000 died of the plague! It will be worse than the Ten Plagues of Egypt during the Exodus. It will be worse than any calamity in human history.

The good news is that God has not appointed believers to wrath, 1 Thes.5:9. The good news is that we CAN escape all these terrible things, Lu.21:36; Heb.9:28; Rev.3;10. Notice Romans 10:9, and call upon the Lord today.

Note that if we take part in the lawlessness that is rising up, or if we let our love for Christ grow lukewarm, our future is endangered! Rev.3:20.

My exhortation is that we take our attitude from Psa. 112:6-10. Our God reigns, and He will deliver us in the time of trouble if we follow Jesus.

Jude verse 24: *"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,"*

I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 18 Work of the Holy Spirit

The work of the Holy Spirit in us is so vital that it is correct to say that without His working in us, we wouldn't know Jesus. The most basic things of Christianity would be as mysterious to us as they are to unbelievers.

Jesus defined the work of the Holy Spirit within believers in St. John 16:7-13. (Please read it now.) The Holy Spirit, working through the Gospel, convicts us and draws us to Christ. He bears witness with our spirit. He strengthens us and expresses divine love and peace in us.

Every born again believer has some measure of the Holy Spirit activity, otherwise, a person does not belong to Jesus. Rom. 8:9. The Holy Spirit REVEALS the Lord Jesus to us. Jesus dwells in our heart in the Person of the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is synonymous with being filled with Jesus. They are one and the same with God the Father **in nature**. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with God. That agrees with 2 Cor. 6:17-18.

Jude 24 tells us to 'pray in the Holy Ghost.' We receive the ability to do that when we are baptized with the Holy Spirit and speak with other tongues as He gives us utterance. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is *always* consummated with speaking with other tongues by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

In the baptism with the Holy Spirit believers are emersed in the Holy Spirit. Through speaking with other tongues we are made Divinely acquainted with the supernatural working of God.

The special supernatural Gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to us as the Holy Spirit wills. 1 Cor. 12:11.

There is another work of the Holy Spirit that is often over looked. See 1 Cor. 12:13. Without that, no one is a member of the Body of Christ, the Church! Unbelievers may join a church group, but they are not a member of Christ's Church! They have simply adopted that Church's requirements for membership. That, by itself, does not save them. Note John 3:3-5.

Then there are the anointings of the Holy Spirit. 1 John 2:27. That is an anointing from God by which we *KNOW* Divine things. Every believer has this anointing. There are other anointings. The Lord Jesus, while He was on the earth, received TWO anointings from God. Acts 10:38. He now has a third one. Heb.1:9. We ought not to confuse the anointings of the Holy Spirit with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are distinct, although they work together. The Gifts are special manifestations; they are not always manifested in us. The anointing of 1 John 2:27 ABIDES in us.

Other activities of the Holy Spirit in believers included that of sealing us to the day of redemption. Eph.1:13 and 4:30. All of these things are IN the third principle of the Doctrine of Christ, per Heb.6:1-2.

We should realize that if we neglect or reject this third principle of the Doctrine of Christ, we CANNOT go on to perfection per Heb.6:1-3. Therefore, every believer ought to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and live every day, filled with Him. If not, we WILL miss much of what God has prepared for us.

Nothing in this lesson suggest that a person must be baptized with the Holy Spirit in order to be saved from our sins. NOT SO! We are saved from our sins and receive eternal life in one way, and one way ONLY. That is, Eph. 2:8-9.

The intent of Heb.6:1-3 is that believers who are already born again through faith by God's grace can enter into blessings of the principles of the Doctrine of Christ, and therein be permitted by God to go on unto perfection. That cannot happen by any human endeavor apart from God's grace and power.

Conflict rises when people confuse the baptism with the Holy Spirit with the new birth, John 3:3-5 and Acts 1:8. More confusion rises when people confuse Church membership with the new birth.

Please understand: there is NOTHING that anyone CAN **do** in order to get saved, (born again) and receive eternal life as a GIFT from God, except Acts 16:31.

One reason that we need to STUDY the Doctrine of Christ is so that we may know the Truth and not be confused about anything. John 16:13.

Salvation, forgiveness of our sins, and the hope of eternal life is available to mankind ONLY through the Blood of Jesus Christ. They are received ONLY by God's grace through faith. Eph.2:8-9.

When we are saved and have God's gift of eternal life, then we need to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit, so that He can complete in us what Jesus intends for us in the fullness of redemption. I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 19 PURE IN HEART

Jesus said: *"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."* Mt. 5:8

Apostle John stated that hatred blinds eyes, so that a person who hates people walks in darkness 1 John 5:11

James states that where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. James 3:16.

Hosea 4:11 says that whoredom and wine take away the heart.

Jesus said that if our eye is evil, our whole body shall be full of darkness. Mt. 6:23.

These Scriptures teach us the effects of our thought life, and attitude patterns.

If they concerned only unsaved people, that would be bad enough. But Believers can fall into similar traps.

If we opine that others doctrines are wrong, we can become so negative that our heart becomes hard, and if we harbor strife towards them, then we are adversely affected, per James 3:16.

This does not say that we ought to compromise on bad doctrine. There are many false doctrines, religions, and ideologies. We must reject them, but we must not fall into the trap of becoming so negative that EVERY body is wrong but "me"!

We need to know how to live in the world, in which there is so much that is wrong, according to God's Word.

Among believers, Jesus commanded us to love one another. John 15:12. If we obey Him, we will not become hardened and blinded by negatives, strifes, hatreds, rejection or self righteousness. The value of love is that it works NO ill to his neighbor. Rom.13:10. Love suffers long and is kind, love envies not. 1 Cor.13:4.

Love, therefore, keeps our hearts from those things that pollute and blind us. The comfort of love enables us to be likeminded, of one accord, of one mind. Phil.2:1-2.

There is an easy tendency to get impatient with those who don't see things like we do. But each of us are at some degree of maturity, and we have to allow each other to grow up in the Lord. The tragedy is that some never grow up, but stagnate at one level of spiritual understanding.

Spiritual stagnation, or even spiritual death, are dangers of hardening our hearts by strife, envy, ill will, and rejection of other believers. Gal.5:15. We have to let Jesus be the Head of the Body! He will deal with those who are in error. He deals with us, doesn't He?

Let us remember that all of us see through a glass, darkly, now. But the time is coming, if we are faithful, when we shall see clearly, and understand even as we are known. Lord, hasten the day!

Therefore, let each of us be faithful, and walk in the light that God has given us. God is love, and God is Light. In Him is no darkness at all.

If we want to see God, we must be pure of heart, open in love to others, at rest within ourselves. At the same time, we must avoid error, and all snares that beset us. Not an easy task, but one which the Holy Spirit of God will help us do. The anointing of the Holy Spirit will teach us all things. It is Truth, and is no lie. 1 John 2:27.

Chapter 20 QUICKEN

Psalms 119:25: "...quicken thou me according to thy word."

The word 'quicken', as it is used here, means to live, to revive, to give life, to restore.

This text asks God to give us life, to revive spiritual vigor, and to help us to live according to His Word.

We know what Paul meant when he said: the things that I want to do, I do not; and what I don't want to do, that is what I do. Oh, wretched man that I am." We know that God's Word is right, but we come short in obeying it.

Because that is true, this text so aptly applies to us. "Quicken thou me according to thy word." Give me life, Oh, Lord: energy, ability and strength to do according to your will for me. Revive me with desire and motive to do what you wish.

Many people plan to get saved before they die, but they keep putting it off.

They are in danger of going to hell, because they are not yet saved. If they died now, unsaved, they would certainly go there. Good intentions are not enough! They must be born again in order to be saved. John 3:3-5. NO ONE can go to heaven unless they are born again.

Many people "believe" on Jesus, in the form of knowing that He is God's Son, and that He died on the cross. But they have no relationship with Him; they have not committed to follow Him; they do not serve and obey Him. In short, they do not personally KNOW Him as their own Savior. There is a vast difference in those two points.

If that is the case with you, you would be wise to pray Psalms 119:25. "Quicken thou me, Oh, God, so that I may know that I am saved and so that I can follow Jesus."

The Bible tells us exactly HOW to be saved. Romans 10:9: *That if thou (you) shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine (your) heart that God has raised Him from the dead, thou(you) shalt be saved.*"

This means that if YOU say with your mouth that Jesus IS YOUR Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. Instantly! Then you need to commit yourself to follow Jesus, by obeying His Word, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Although true believers are born again, we still need the Lord to quicken us, so that we may be all that He intends for us.

Psalms 119:25 becomes more meaningful to us with specific application.

For instance, Romans 8:37: *"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."*

If that is not a real fact for us, we would be right to pray: "Quicken Thou me according to Romans 8:37." "Let it become 'real'; a fact in my life, everyday!"

Other Scriptures are equally as powerful, but we easily miss their power, vitality and blessing if they aren't 'real' to us.

E.g., we have God Almighty dwelling in us, by His Spirit, but much of the time we seem so unaware of Him! "Quicken... make me aware of it! Revive that fact in my conscience! Let me live always, constantly aware of your Presence, oh Lord."

May I suggest some verses to be quickened to us? I'm sure you can think of others for your own needs.

Acts 16:31. Do you have real assurance that you are saved? "Quicken Thou me..."

Ephesians 5:1-2. Do you daily follow Jesus, and walk in love? "Quicken Thou me..."

1 Thessalonians 5:18. Are you thankful? "Quicken Thou me..."

1 Peter 1:15. Are you holy? "Quicken Thou me..."

1 Corinthians 4:2. Are you faithful to the Lord Jesus? "Quicken Thou me..."

John 15:5. Do you abide in Christ, and produce fruit to God? "Quicken Thou me..."

Mark 11:24. When you pray, do you believe that the answer is yours? "Quicken Thou me..."

John 4:35. Do you have a 'vision' to win lost souls to Christ? "Quicken Thou me..."

Titus 2:11-12. Is God's grace actively teaching you how to live for Him?"Quicken Thou me..."

1 Thessalonians 4:16. Are you ready and looking for Christ to come in the air to receive us to Himself? "Quicken Thou me..."

You can easily see how effective Psalms 119:25 can be in our daily life. May I suggest: make Psalms 119:25 part of your daily prayers. God bless you.

I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 21 RENEW

Ephesians 4:23: *"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;"*

Our mind needs to be renewed because so much in the world "saps" our spiritual zeal and vigor. How can we be renewed? What does that mean? It means to make our minds new with God's Word, with fresh zeal, and a different outlook on life.

We are to 'look' at things differently than unsaved people do. We have better things, and a better focal point, to 'look' at than unsaved people have, because we are to look to Jesus, the Author & finisher of our faith. We are to 'look' at what God's Word, the Bible says about every thing that concerns us. Through faith, we can 'see' things that unbelievers do not, and indeed, cannot 'see'.

One way that we can "renew our mind" is to learn the things that the Lord given for our benefit. They are written in the Holy Bible.

Why not study it, and gain what is freely offered to us from God? It is not simply a story; it is the Record that God gave of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is the record of the eternal facts of salvation.

We ought not to neglect the eternal welfare of our eternal soul. Our body WILL cease to exist on the earth when we die. But our soul will NEVER cease to exist, either in heaven or in hell!

The need to possess eternal life for our soul is FAR greater & more important than our bodily comfort & pleasure. To possess heavenly treasures & Divinely given abilities is FAR more important than material substances, social treasures & pleasures that benefit our mortal beings for a few short years. Even if we live to be 150 years old, that is not even a micro-second of eternal existence, comparatively speaking.

Yet behold, multitudes of people expend GREAT effort & pain to gain temporary possessions that are so highly prized. All the while neglecting and even scorning God's grace that bids repentance (turning away & abstaining from sins) that add to our burdens anyway.

Note the Words of our Lord Jesus: *"But seek ye FIRST the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."* Mt. 6:33.

Let us bring these things to mind. Let our mind be renewed with eternal facts and realities, that are recorded in the Bible. Apostle Peter reminded us of the things that the Holy Prophets & the Apostles of Jesus Christ taught. 2 Pet. 3:1-2.

God's Word, then, is one of the main ways to "renew our mind." If we neglect to renew our mind with God's Word, the sins of the flesh and of the mind begin to renew their

corrupt influence on us. Peter urgently warned against that in the following verses. Please take the time and effort to read them carefully.

2 Peter 2:20-22; 1 Peter 2:1-3. Paul also gave a warning in Hebrews 3:12-15.

How shall we be 'renewed' in our mind? By continuing to ingest God's Word into our heart, through study, hearing it, pondering it, and practicing it.

Thank God, He has given us His Holy Spirit to live in us, and to be our Divine Helper in the things that God's Word enjoins upon us.

The Lord Jesus said that He (the Holy Spirit) will guide us into all truth. Then He explained what He meant by "all Truth." Note John 17:17.

In fact, God is actively working in us to bring about His perfect will in us. See Romans 8:28. Note the following verses, taken from the Amplified Bible, (The Lockman Foundation-1954) Hebrews 13:5-6.

"Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money-[including] greed, avarice, lust and craving for earthly possessions - and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have] for He (God) Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless, nor forsake nor let [you] down, [relax My hold on you].- Assuredly not!

So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my helper, I will not be seized with alarm- I will not fear or dread or be terrified. What can man do to me?

Renew your mind (or acquaint it) with Who it is that says such Words of assurance. God CANNOT LIE! When He speaks about any subject, WHAT He says is the TRUTH about it. That's "the way it IS!"

Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

I love you, God bless you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 22 SIGNS

God and the Lord Jesus Christ believe in signs. They gave many signs in the Bible. Some of the most fascinating signs that Jesus gave, concern events at the close of this age. They are listed in Mt.24 and Luke chapters 17 and 21. Some of those signs will affect the ecology. Others will apply to moral and social conditions on earth.

For example, 2 Thes.2:3 says that "A great falling away" will occur before the antichrist appears, and the time of his mark, 666. The "great falling away" surely is a sign, and I believe it is happening in these days.

Bible scholars generally apply that sign to Christian believers who defect from the faith. Truly, one cannot fall away from something he never had. But think of this: the antichrist is not coming to true, believing Christian believers. He is coming to a godless society, who will worship him.

History shows that a great "falling away" did occur early in post Apostolic times. It was so complete that the dark ages followed! The professed church of Christ practiced ungodliness that often exceeded heathen ungodliness. Still it claimed to be Christ's church. It was far from it! If the "Falling Away" in 2 Thes.2:3 applies only to Christian believers, the church during the dark ages did it! By contrast, today, there are more people coming TO Christ than ever before!

But if the "Falling Away" applies to end time SOCIETY it is happening right now! Socially, we have entered conditions like the times of Noah and of Lot. Jesus said that would happen!

Today there is a common abandonment of morality in all nations. Lawlessness is everywhere.

Everything that is socially good, proven by thousands of years of human history, is now being forsaken, and that which has proven to be detrimental is being extolled. That which is good is called evil, and that which is evil is called good. God said: "Woe, to them that call evil good and good evil (Isa.5:20)."

There is an increasing willful practice of the sins listed in Romans 1:18-32. That passage concluded with the solemn words: "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

Moral conscience used to exist, even among non churched people. A man's word was his bond, and he did some things just because it was right to do them. Ungodly ethics weren't endorsed in high government offices. Abortion was called murder and was prohibited by law. This doesn't say that everyone then was godly: they weren't. But there was restraint on lawlessness.

Therefore, I suggest that the verse in 2 Thes. 2:3 applies to humanity in general, and is not limited to Christian backsliders.

If so, the appearing of the antichrist is at hand and that is also a sign that the end of the age is near.

Society is rapidly preparing to receive him, and to cooperate with him. One thing hinders his appearing now. That is the true Church of Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit Who is at work in it. According to the Bible, only born again believers are called members of the Body of Christ, the Church. God's Word excludes everyone else. No amount of caviling by unbelieving professors of religion can change that fact.

It is of utmost importance to become born again, through personal faith and commitment to Christ. Jesus said that: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." John 3:3. That is the ONLY way to escape the coming wrath of God upon ungodly humanity.

Romans 10:9: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

After that, there is the requirement to follow Jesus in obedience to the Gospel of Christ, every day. Rom.16:26, Mt. 16:24.

Titus 2:11-13: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"

Heb.9:28: "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

Don't consent to, or indulge yourself in the sins of society around you: follow the Lord Jesus.

I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 23 STRUGGLE

In Genesis 32:24-28 there is the account of Jacob wrestling with an angel of God. Per Romans 15:4, this is written for our learning.

Jacob is not the only one who has attempted to wrestle with God. People struggle with God because we don't know how to get what we need from Him. People often struggle with God, by "bargaining" with Him. "God, if you'll do 'this' for me, I'll do 'that' for you."

If God doesn't o.k. the deal, some feel "let down" and offended at God. At some point in their life, many people have tried such "bargaining". Most of them have been disappointed. Why?

Romans 8:6 tells us that the natural mind of man is enmity towards God. It is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be. Such enmity is automatic, without pre meditation. It is just the way a natural, carnal person thinks and responds towards God. It is one reason that a person MUST be born again to enter the Kingdom of God. We must receive FROM God a new nature and mind.

I tried to "bargain" with God once by asking Him to put a "red flag" on His leading, so that I could surely recognize it. That showed that I was trying to use "fleshly wisdom" to help God lead me! I failed. I really needed to grow in spiritual discernment; to come up to God's ways, rather than "pull Him down" to mine.

Mercifully, God has provided in two main ways to help us. First, through the written Word of God, the Bible. Secondly, by the Holy Spirit, Whom He sends to live in every born again believer in Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit works according to 1 John 2:27, working in our heart, not mainly in our fleshly mind. He uses God's written Word to enlighten us; positive statements from God about His will for our life.

If we refuse God's Word, or if we misunderstand it, WE hinder His working in us.

Clearly, mortal, natural man needs supernatural help from God, in order to escape from our sins, carnality, and from STRUGGLING with God. Through Christ, and His Blood, God provided escape from sin and its results. Per the Bible, we need not struggle to get things from God. Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you Mt.7:7."

When we receive the Gift of God's Holy Spirit, (the Biblical Baptism with the Holy Spirit) we receive added help to escape carnal struggling with God, and to receive what we ask from God.

The Holy Spirit enables us to receive the things that God has prepared for us, 1 Cor. 2:9-10 & 14. When we are "in the Spirit" (aware of special activity of the Holy Spirit) God &

His ways are plainer and easier to receive. It is easier to believe and to be willing towards God.

Psalms 40:8: "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yes, thy law is within my heart."

If you are struggling with God for some desired help from Him, be encouraged. There is a condition of rest, assurance and victory for you. Quit wrestling, struggling, and trying to get God to "come around", and learn to live IN the Holy Spirit.

That is not an option, it is a necessity. "For if ye live after the flesh, (your carnal inclinations) ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." (Romans 8:13)."

Hebrews 4:2-3 bids us to labor to enter into the rest that God offers us. We can do that by asking God to renew our minds with His Word, until faith enables us to overcome our problem.

Jude verse 20-21 bids: "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

I am saying that there is help from the Lord, if we come to Him according to His written Word, believing what He has said. Sometimes, and for some things, that requires a sustained time of deep heart searching, repentance and dedicating ourselves to Him, lest our natural humanity hinder His will for us.

Isaiah 53:6 is so true for all of us. We have turned everyone to our own ways. But the Lord is our helper, and He will help us overcome our natural weaknesses, if we seek Him. Notice Matthew 7:8: "For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Being a victorious Christian believer means much more than the first confession of Christ. It means a daily learning from Him, and obedience to Him.

Are you a victorious Christian believer? Do you want to be? Would you like to be "close" enough to God, so that any time that you pray, you know that He is listening and is ready to help you? Do you want to get answers from Him? Do you need supernatural help from God about a problem in your life?

If discouragement and failure grieve you; if it seems that life is "stacked" against you, you can get help from Jesus Christ.

The Scripture says that God satisfies the longing soul. The Lord Jesus said: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Mt. 11:28-29).

You can quit struggling, simply by believing what He has promised, and has already done for you at Calvary.

Call upon Him today. He loved you enough to die on the cross for you. That means that He loves you enough to care about your needs now.

God bless you, I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 24 SWORD

Heb.4:12: *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

The Amplified translation in this verse, calls God's Word: Effective, active, powerful.

I have come to appreciate this statement as being friendly and helpful, not as something to be dreaded. God does not intend His Sword as a threat against His children, but as an instrument of deliverance.

Again, the Word of God is called the sword of the Spirit in Eph.6:17. Note also Psalms 107:20. *"He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions."*

"Destructions" might be anything that causes us to offend the Lord, or which causes us distress. Notice that God sent His Word and healed and delivered them.

Sin causes inner, personal distress. Often the distress is our awareness that we have done wrong, and we cannot seem to be at ease or to feel good about what we did. Sin causes other forms of distress that shows up in various ways. If you have ever sinned against a dear friend, you may know how that sins can cause inner distress. All of us have sinned against the dearest Friend that anyone can have; Jesus Christ. Romans 3:23.

Isa. 48:22 shows why the foregoing facts are true. God says that there is no peace to the wicked.

If you have ever wished for automatic victory over temptation, you have longed for what God's Word can do for you. It can cause immediate correct response.

In truly born again believers, impulses to sin and the temptations that we suffer, work in and through the "Old Nature." They do not originate in our "New Nature in Christ."

If we can get rid of those impulses, if we can be strong in "right, Godly living" we can live in victory. Getting rid of them is the work of the Sword in our TEXT. It makes a "clean cut" and it separates from us that which is bad. Note Isa.55:11; Acts 20:32; and Romans 1:16.

What we need to help us, even if we are unwilling, or unable to comply with God's will, is IN the Word of God. Mt. 4:4; 2 Pet.1:3.

Instead of struggling with conviction against wrong, let that conviction minister strength to you. Let God's Word deliver and change you! It can set us free from the "old self", the person we were before we came to Christ. E.g., 1 Cor. 6:9-11.

If you are "hung up" on some point of needed obedience to God, let His Word "cut you loose." Rom. 1:16-17.

When we are saved, we come into one level of faith. However, it also takes faith to follow Jesus as a disciple, and to move on to the next level from 'babyhood.' Micah. 2:7b. Carefully read the following Scriptures: Psalms 119:104, 111, 113, 125, 127-128, 165, 169.

Lay down your anxieties; let His Word do its work in you. Acts 20:32. Come to God in prayer, ASK Him to work in your heart by His Word. Think deeply on His Word that applies to your concerns. It is the Word of LIFE and it will help you.

FACT: In Him we have redemption, even the forgiveness of sins, Col.1:14.

FACT: Salvation is OF the Lord. Eph. 2:8-9.

FACT: God IS willing and ready to help us, if we will turn to Him, in faith and repentance. John 3:16.

FACT: Since God went to such extremes to help us when we were His enemies by wicked works, HOW MUCH MORE is He willing and ready to help us, when we come to Him as His children, asking for His help. Heb. 9:14.

FACT: Jesus has redeemed us by His Blood. Col. 1:14.

FACT: Jesus' Blood delivers us from the wrath to come. 1 Thes. 1:10.

FACT: Jesus loved us and washed us from our sins in His Own Blood. Rev. 1:5.

No icon of religion dares to make the claims that Jesus made. The blood of none of them can take away sins. Only the true Messiah can point to His empty tomb. All other 'messiah's' and 'founders' of religions are FALSE! Rom.1:4.

By the FACTS mentioned above, and more in the Bible, God's Word declares redemption for all, whosoever will. The invitation is "out", not only to come to God for our past sinful life, but to help us now follow Jesus in faith and true holiness. Heb. 4:16.

See how God's Word separates us from uncertainty, by declaring the FACTS AS THEY ARE, in Christ Jesus? I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 25 TAKE HEED (Pay attention)

Mark 4:24 Amplified: *"Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you, and more [besides] will be given to you who hear."*

Study to know WHAT it says, and ponder it deeply to understand WHAT IT MEANS. Then the virtue in it will come to you, and true knowledge from God will make you free from uncertainty.

We all feel the need to be more Christ like, and to live in constant victory over sin and temptation. If our best efforts fail, we should cry out to the Lord for a greater measure of His grace, love and power.

In the above text, Jesus taught us how to gain the virtue that we need. Something happens in our heart when we allow God's Word to deeply affect us. There arises out of the Word itself, Holy influence and spiritual strength.

In this parable of the Sower, Jesus showed us how the Kingdom of God "operates." It comes to us in the form of seed, which must be given opportunity to grow and produce its results. If we sow God's Word in our heart and water it with study and attention and obedience to it, it WILL produce in us.

New Christians often need to hear over and over again, the facts of redemption. All believers need to hear again and again, even the most familiar of Scriptures.

Taking heed to what we hear means more than knowing a verse is in the Bible. It means to allow the Scripture to regulate our life.

A Godly life will be a life that is deeply engrossed in the written Word of God, and a life that is led by the Holy Spirit. NO ONE lives close to God, who fails in those two things.

After a number of years in the ministry, I have observed that God's Word is able to work wondrous changes in the life of anyone who will deeply study it.

Extensive, correct study of the Scripture will keep a person from doctrinal error Don't 'spiritualize' the texts to make them fit an idea. Then we must be willing to change, when God reveals the truth to us.

If there is an area of need in your life, regardless of what it is, an honest study and believing of the Scripture WILL bring you to victory. Note John 8:31-32:

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The same is true, if you are seeking Divine Healing from God. Constant study and deep thinking about it and confessing the fact that Jesus bore our sicknesses and carried our diseases (Isa. 53:4-6, 1 Pet. 2:24) will build up your faith until you can receive what Jesus did for us at Calvary.

Note the words of Acts 20:32: *"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."*

No wonder that Jesus urged us to study and ponder the Word of God. Jesus also said that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word of God. Matthew 4:4.

My friend, if you want close fellowship with the Lord; if you want strong assurance for your life now and for eternity, then do what Jesus said in Mark 4:24. An occasional trip to Church, a hit or miss pattern of Bible reading, prayer only when you are desperate, will not enable you to experience what the Bible promises to diligent believers.

The opposite is likely to happen, according to Jesus in Mark 4:14-19.

If you have been truly born again, but are uncomfortable in reading the Bible, or in talking about the Lord Jesus, you have allowed some "weeds" to grow in your heart. Something is wrong.

You need to get so acquainted with the Bible, and with the Holy Spirit that joy is a constant fact in your life. Romans 15:13.

Don't keep living so "far away" from the Lord, that things in this life, even unrighteous things, seem more important to you than the things of God.

Go the Lord in prayer. Ask Him to forgive your sins and failures. Renew your commitment to read the Bible daily and ponder what it says during your waking hours.

Set aside time to pray daily. Become regular in attending a Church where God's Word is taught. Do this so that you may grow in your faith. Growing in grace and faith depends upon you doing these things.

Romans 15:13: *"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."*

That is God's will for you. Don't listen to things, attitudes, and ideas that are wrong. Listen to what God's Word says, and allow it to affect you with God's grace, power, love and peace. James 1:21 says that the engrafted Word of God is able to save our souls.

Jesus came from heaven, died on the cross and rose from the dead so that we can enjoy real, eternal life, now and forever. Don't let anything keep you from it. The beginning point for everyone is Romans 10:9:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

God bless you, I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 26 THE REVELATION

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:" Rev. 1:1.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ is not the revelation of Him in terms and conditions of redemption and deliverance from our sins. That was done through His virgin birth, revelation to Israel and through the Gospel to "whosoever will."

Titus 2:11; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim.2:4-6. declares the terms of salvation through God's grace. Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God, as our Advocate with the Father, as our Lord, was fully revealed to mankind in His redemptive work and passion and resurrection at Calvary. Note John 1:1-14; Rom.1:4; Col.1:14.

As a matter of choice and will, people CAN refuse and deny Jesus as the Savior and Christ. Rev.1:1 ISN'T mainly for such revelation, for that has been accomplished for nearly twenty centuries.

Rather, Rev.1:1 IS for the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world as the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the Righteous Judge, as the wrathful Lamb of God Who comes to judge, slay the wicked and deliver this planet from the bondage of corruption; to fulfill Scripture, and to reign ON the earth forever. Psa.2:6.

These things are taught in the Scriptures, but the unbelieving world doesn't consent to Jesus as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world, as our Savior, and as He Who reigns within the hearts of believers. The unbelievers ignore and deny God's grace in salvation and follow their own ungodliness. To them, Jesus is not yet manifested as Scripture shows that He WILL be. E.g., 2 Tim.4:1; Rev.6:15-16; Mt. 24:30; Zech.14:1-21. All of these things and more, is encompassed in the Revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave unto Him to show to His servants.

The Book of Revelation shows what will happen when Dan.2:34-45 occurs. Revelation shows the conditions and the results of that process and the judgments of God that will occur, per 2 Thes.1:7-8; 2:7-12 and other Scriptures.

Therefore, the Book of the Revelation declares and reveals Jesus Christ as the Almighty God, the Great God and the Righteous Judge and King over all the earth. It reveals Him in full due process and fact, in these roles. It concludes with His Personal appearance in Rev. 19:11-21. It reveals His millennial reign ON the earth, and the final banishment of Satan and all the wicked. It reveals the eternal Kingdom of Christ, which shall not pass away. It reveals His Kingdom and reign and the increase of His government, forever. THIS is the Revelation of Jesus Christ that is not yet revealed to the world.

Now, people wickedly take His Name in vain, they curse Him, deny Him and reject Him. But Phil.2:10 & Rom. 14:11! This is the Revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave Him

to show to His servants. We know Him in and through His first revelation to mankind as the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, John 1:29.

The Book of Revelation shows believers the end and fulfillment of all things as God has promised. Though the wicked seem to triumph now, it will NOT always be so. Therefore, the Book of Revelation is a comfort and assurance to believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It reveals the wrath and terror of Christ upon the wicked. Rev.6:15-17. Jesus and God *WANTS* these things testified in the Churches. Rev.22:16.

Thus, the Book of Revelation shows the final fulfillment and conclusion of the Mystery of God, Rev.10:7. It reveals the Mystery of Israel and their reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ as their Messiah. It reveals the Elect of Israel. Zech.12: 10-14:21; Rev. 7:1-8; 12: 1-17.

While the Revelation IS a comfort and assurance to Church Age believers, Chapters 4-19 are NOT about God's dealings with them. 1 Thes.1:9-10; 5:9. It does not require that the Church go through the Great Tribulation, though believers who come to Christ after the Rapture will endure some parts of it. Note Heb.9:28 & 13:20-21.

In this first News letter of the New Year, I want to urge that you beware of deception. It is the most potent threat to believers at this time. Note, please, Gal.6:7-8; 2 Cor.7:1; 2 Pet. 2:14-22; Heb.12:14. and 1 Pet. 1:15-16.

In the Words of the Lord Jesus: "Watch ye, therefore, and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things and to stand before the Son of Man (Lu.21:36). Ought we not to regard His Word? Why pray that "ye may escape" if we MUST endure the Great Tribulation?

I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 27 MAKE THE TREE GOOD

"Either make the tree good, and his fruit good, or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is know by his fruit." (Mt.12:33).

One might ask: "how can one make a tree good if it is a bad tree? How can one change a tree?" I was locked up on the idea of dealing with a full grown tree. Then one day the Lord showed me that you can make a tree good by planting good seed that the tree will grow from.

As I pondered that, I began to realize that many things that we plant or allow to be planted in us, in time, grow and produce their results. Jesus was saying to plant good seeds and tend them properly, in order to make a good tree and thereby good fruit (results).

We should realize that the produce of a tree can be altered by grafting, but that is not what Jesus said. He said make the TREE good. Later He said that a good tree CANNOT produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. Therefore, a tree is known by its fruit.

Jesus called the Word of God the good seed, in Luke 8:11. Therefore, if we plant God's Word in our heart, believe it and water it, it WILL produce good fruit. God's Word CANNOT produce bad fruit, because it is the GOOD SEED.

Often we think thoughts, and feel things in our emotions, that only produce bad results. The results (fruit) proves that the seed we planted was bad seed!

Note the difference between hope and despair: despair may move people to a worse state of mind by thinking wrong things. That can result in depression and ultimately to suicide. Proverbs 13:12 says that hope deferred makes the heart sick: but when it is come, it is a tree of life. Romans 15:13 shows how God can work with belief to fill us joy and peace; the exact opposite of depression and despair.

Those things are not God's will for us, they are the result (fruit) of thoughts, feelings, conditions and imaginations. God doesn't cause them, PEOPLE do by sowing bad seed in their heart and mind, and by "seeing" the negative, bad and hopeless viewpoint. Then they vigorously water them by worry, fear and doubt.

Therefore, let us guard our heart diligently, and avoid planting bad seeds. Instead let us plant good seed (God's Word) and water it by thinking about it deeply and practicing it faithfully.

2 Cor. 10:4 speaks of 'casting down imaginations". Don't let wrong imaginations take root in the fertile soil of worry, enmity, unbelief or error.

Note the Words of Jesus in John 8:31-32. *"...If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

May we understand then, that if we think on, meditate on and nourish good thoughts we shall have a tree that produces good fruit.

Consider Psalms 119:11: *"Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."*

By planting the Good Seed (God's Word) in our heart and mind, we will make a tree whose fruit can bless anyone.

Note Eph. 4:29: *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers."*

Commonly, moroseful, moody, pessimistic people constantly "see" the negative, 'probable' side of things. They practice that so much that it produces its bad fruit.

In His mercy, God has told us how to plant a good tree, starting with Good Seed. Phil. 4:8:

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

If we obey God's Word, we will not permit envy, jealousy, lust, anger, malice, hatred, strife, slander, gossip, greed, selfishness or foolishness to take root in our heart, and those things will be absent from our lifestyle.

I have seen signs that state: "Silence the violence." But what is in people's heart is going to come out, and no billboard signs can rid society of it.

Jesus said that out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness blasphemies: these are the things that defile a man. *"Make the tree good."*

I love you.

Chapter 28 THE GOSPEL

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; ..." Romans 1:16.

The Gospel places the fact of God and of Christ squarely before mankind. It shows the serious results of sin. It also shows God's righteous anger against sin and sinners, and it shows His infinite love and grace.

Be reminded of John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life (Romans 5:10)."

According to Acts 17: 30-31, God commands all men every where to repent. That means to quit living a sinful life through believing on and following Jesus Christ.

Some hesitate at the call of the Gospel, or refuse to obey, because it makes them see the need to forsake their sins. They may be afraid they can't, or they may be unwilling.

Think about the results of following Jesus.

1. We can know and prove that we are His, if we obey His Word.

"...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;" (John 8:31).

Such proof can't fail. We are His, and He confesses us as His!

2. The person who obeys God's Word shall be blessed. James 1:25. That is an absolute promise.

3. If we add the virtues of Christian grace to our faith, WE SHALL NEVER FALL! 1 Peter 1:10. That is an absolute guarantee.

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." (John 15:7). That is power.

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." (John 14:21). That is fellowship with Jesus and with God.

4. The Gospel offers substance and guarantees salvation. It guarantees judgment for those who refuse to obey the Gospel. The resurrection of Christ from the dead is the proof that God is going to judge those who do not repent. Acts 17:31.

God's blessing can be gained by obeying the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is not enough to agree about the Gospel and then do nothing about following Jesus.

It is an error to select what we like about the Gospel, and reject what we don't agree with.

Unless we commit to following Jesus, WE GUARANTEE OURSELVES eternity in the lake of fire! Revelation 20:15.

So the Gospel of Christ is wonderful in its blessings for us. But its requirements are awesome! Literally, we determine our eternal destiny by how we respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

God knows that we cannot be 'good enough' by our efforts. So He has given us Jesus to be our Savior, if we will receive Him.

The Gospel even tells us exactly HOW to be saved, and to KNOW that we are saved. *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."* (Romans 10:9). Then John 8:31 applies, as noted.

God bless you.

I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 29 VEIL

2 Cor. 3:12-18 tells of an event that happened to Israel. Moses put a veil over his face, so that Israel could not see the end of the Old Covenant, which was done away in Christ.

The blinding of human hearts is not unique to Israel. See 2 Cor.4:3-4. Everyone is affected by lack of seeing answers for what we deal with.

Many varying religious ideas exist because people suppose that their ideas are from God. If its an error, it is NOT from God! Yet people hold to their error, because they don't know the TRUTH. Thus, they are blinded by their error.

God's Word brings the true Light of Christ into our hearts, giving us understanding. He is the light that lightens every man that comes into the world. John 1:9.

Thus, what is written in the Bible is the means of freeing ourselves from the veils that hinder us.

That is one reason that we should study the Bible carefully, and ceaselessly. *"The entrance of thy words giveth light;..."* (Psa. 119:130).

Israel failed because they got their attention fixed on the Law as the END of their efforts. By its legal statutes, they tried to make their OWN righteousness, and rejected God's offer of Divine Righteousness by faith in Christ Jesus. Rom.9:31-32.

For similar reasons, born again believers can miss God's best for themselves. A person can correctly believe God for one part of His grace, yet reject other parts of the same grace.

For example, one can believe unto salvation in Christ, yet miss God's blessing for Divine healing.

Such a person can "see" forgiveness of their sins, and redemption through faith in Christ. They don't "see" Divine healing for themselves by the stripes of Jesus, 1 Pet.2:24.

Such believers could die prematurely of sickness, yet go to heaven. But a veil of unbelief will prevent them from being healed, per 1 Pet.2:24. Jesus wants them to be healed!

Trusted religious leaders often make the veil worse. They argue that God no longer heals by His direct power, but works through medical science. They imply that God abandoned His almighty power, and went to human medical college!

Believers do the same about the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Unbelievers, though they profess belief in Christ, claim that the baptism with the Holy Spirit and speaking with other tongues is of the devil!

Their ideas arise because a veil of unbelief keeps them from understanding what they read in the Bible. In that sense they do not know the Scripture or the power of God. Mt.22:29.

Such religious leaders and blinded believers, believe a lie. They actively promote such lies, and they do satan's work for him! They probably don't know they do.

When believers fix their eyes on such veils, they CANNOT "see" the blessings that God has prepared for them. 1 Cor.2:9. That does not mean that such blessings aren't available.

Because people can be duped by such veils, the Scripture offers the following:

"That the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know...the hope of His calling...the riches of... His inheritance... the exceeding greatness of His power...(Eph.1:17-23)."

Without such wisdom from God we cannot know what God has prepared for us. We urgently NEED to know! PRAY Eph. 1:17-23 for yourself.

My friend, do you struggle with uncertainty, doubt, or fear about the things of God? Can you "see" the deeper things of God for yourself? Do you long to be a strong, true Christian believer in Jesus Christ? If so, you NEED to pray Eph.1:17-23 for yourself.

God is able and willing, to show you the TRUTH. Jesus said that the Truth shall set you free. John 8:31-32.

Perhaps medical science has told you there is nothing that can be done about your physical needs.

The TRUTH is that Jesus bore your sicknesses, carried your sorrows, and bore you sins in His Own Body on the cross. Isa.53:4-5 and 1Pet.2:24

The TRUTH is that you CAN receive Divine Healing from God; you CAN be healed from your sickness. Ask God to open your eyes so that you can believe and receive what Jesus paid for, FOR YOU, at Calvary. God loves you, and wants you to have it! John 3:16.

I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 30 "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life..." John 14:6

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is far more than a good man Who lived a long time ago.

He is the Way to live a full and blessed life. He is the Truth of God in Person. He is eternal life in human form. Everything that flows from Him, is Divine; is Truth and it is eternal.

To see one way that that applies to believers, consider Mark 11:22-25. (Please read it.) Remember that it is the Way, the Truth and the Life that is speaking. Neither God nor Jesus Christ are separate from their Words. Rather, their Words reveal them to mankind.

Verse 22 states: "*Have faith in God.*" Verse 23 defines the faith that He intends. Verse 24 is the assured results of such faith.

In some cases, God's power is released to CREATE something. In other cases, it is released to ERRADICATE something. Verse 25 has an example.

Through verse 23, Jesus taught us how to forgive. True, Biblical forgiveness is as extra-natural to mortal man as is the faith of God, unless we grasp it by faith.

How does it work? Romans 10:10: "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

God's Word bids us to forgive those who offend us. God's Word gives us faith to do it with. Then our mouth says what we are believing in our heart. *At that moment the Truth of God causes a miracle!*

The offence that we forgive no longer exists, anywhere! The miracle is that something that once existed, DOESN'T exist anymore! It's just GONE! Such forgiveness is divine, eternal life working in us. It takes its nature from God, Who forgives us and blots out our sins if we believe on Jesus. They don't exist anymore, anywhere!

Jesus, the Way, shows us the way to deal with things that non believers can't deal with. They don't know how!

The Life that Jesus gives is marked by freedom from bondage.

Reader, according to Jesus Christ, Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, if you say in faith, "I forgive...", YOU create a **NEW CONDITION**. You have used the faith of God to enter into a Divine experience: the act of forgiving.

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. By Him we may gain all of God's blessings if we use the faith of God to enter into them.

People who are unsaved, can use the same power to receive forgiveness of their sins, and to be saved. See Romans 10:9.

In the same way, a sick person can use the faith of God to receive Divine healing from God.

The eternal truth is that Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, redeemed us and took away our sins with His Blood. Col. 1:14; John 1:29; 1 John 3:5.

Now consider the following Scriptures: The power of Christ, as the Way the truth and the Life, is to deliver us from our sins, Rev.1:5. It is to heal our diseases, 1 Peter 2:24. It is to provide for us, Mt. 6:33; Phil.4:19.

My friends, it is God's will for us to learn to use faith in such a manner. Jesus said that all things are possible to him that believes. Mark 9:23.

The Bible tells us that we can build up ourselves on our most holy faith. Jude verse 20.

It tells us to be strong in the Lord, and the power of His might. Eph.6:10.

We can have a life that is far better than the old way of sin and self will that we lived before we were born again. God yearns for us to do it. Will you do it?

"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, ..." Acts 16:31.

If you 'lock up' on things or conditions of failure, a depressing *attitude* of failure hinders your vision of hope. That will limit the extent of your faith, and lock you to a "dead end" present.

But faith is the substance and the evidence of things not seen by natural eye sight. Faith gives you purpose and direction and it causes you to press on to ultimate fulfillment.

Energy to press onward rises out of a vision of hope. God's promises are things that we can hope for, and we can receive them by faith. Faith fuels our will and causes the effort needed to gain what God has promised.

I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 31 Spiritual Welfare

PLEASE READ LISTED VERSES.

I have a deep concern for your spiritual welfare. I am concerned about a more subtle danger than that of outright persecution. That is, the tendency to be content with a shallow Christian experience.

The hidden riches of God's grace are never known, even by born again believers, until they are revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, 1 Cor.2:9. The beauty and the power of Christ's way of life, as shown in the Gospel, is missed by those who fail to live according to the Word of God.

When we practice doing the Word of God in various situations in life, our inner man is wakened to the Presence and power of God Who lives in us. John 8:12, 31-36; 14:21-23. When we practice the Word, it's effects on our inner man is like a sleeping person waking up. This is stated in Eph.5:14. According to Jesus, we are foolish if we don't do what His Word says. Our experiences of doing our "own thing" proves to us His accuracy.

A person who has been born again, but fails to closely follow Jesus by entering into the deeper things of God, stays immature. Heb.5:12-14. Notice what 1 Pet.2:1-3 says about how to grow, spiritually speaking.

Jesus expressed concern about spiritual drowsiness and its dangers, in Lu.21:34-36 and other places. Notice also what the Holy Spirit inspired in Heb.10:25.

There is a great tendency to neglect regular church attendance, because of being "busy" with other things. "Earning a living" and enjoying the "good life" takes so much of our resources, that we can't "find the time" or the will, to deeply pursue the Lord. Sometimes, there isn't much interest either, because our minds and affections are so saturated with natural and material interests.

God has chosen through preaching to save them that believe. 1 Cor. 1:21. Hearing messages via the media, as good as they are, is not a substitute for personal interaction with the Holy Spirit in Spirit filled church meetings.

Not only is neglect of God's Word and attendance at church areas of concern, but so is neglect of prayer. Every person of spiritual stature in the Bible, was a person whose prayer life was more than ritual.

One of the early Spiritual principles in the Gospels is Mt.6:33. We ought to give primary importance to obeying God's Word, to fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and with the people of God, and to fervent prayer. I dare say that "seeking God's kingdom" cannot be done without these things.

We must never forget God's concern for lost souls, John 3:16; 2Pet.3:9. We easily overlook the eternal horror that will be the lot of a person who dies "lost" in sin. There is a heaven to gain, and a hell to shun. Every person we know, including ourselves, are on our way to ONE of those two places! ONLY those who are born again (John3:3-5) CAN go to heaven: EVERY ONE ELSE IS GOING TO HELL! We need to concern ourselves with that fact.

My concern is that we don't neglect these vital things. If we do, we will become spiritually drowsy, and so insensitive that we could miss the glorious meeting with Jesus in the air, 1Thes.4:16-17; Luke 21:36.

I am confident that 1995 will not "naturally" encourage these activities in us. We shall have to MAKE time for them. Though many talk of peace, and sign peace accords, and though efforts are made to "curb crime", the Bible says its going to get worse, 2Tim.3:13. But be of good cheer, Lu.21:28; John 16:33. Our victory does not depend on the world getting better, it depends on BELIEVING and obeying the Word of God! "...If God be for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31-39."

FACT VERSES

Fact Verses are those statements of facts that are recorded in the Bible. They are not necessarily promises. They are conditions that God and Christ have caused and established, without human contribution. Jesus mentioned this premise in Acts 1:7.

THE FACT is that Jesus died on the cross: no man took His life, (though men crucified Him) He laid it down. John 10:17-18.

THE FACT is: "in Him we have redemption through His Blood, Col.1:14".

THE FACT is: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins...(1 John 1:9)". You should have that verse memorized!

THE FACT is: He is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before Him. From Jude 24.

THE FACT is: Who ever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God. 1 Jo.5:1.

Our birth is God's doing, not ours.

THE FACT is "Of His Own will begat He us...(James1:18).

THE FACT IS: Beloved, now are we the sons of God...(1 John3:2)".

THE FACT is: "...if God be for us, who can be against us (Rom.8:31)"?

THE FACT is: He is coming again, to receive us to Himself. John 14:3.

THE FACT is: God is GOD! There is none else. Isaiah 45:5. LET Him be God to you, though obedience, as in Rom.10:9 and 2 Cor.6:14-18.

God and Christ have established these facts as fixed parts of redemption. They CANNOT be changed by man or devil. And they do not fade away with time. They are eternal FACTS.

I love you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 32 WITNESS

1 John 5:10: *"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."*

This God given, unique witness distinguishes true Biblical Christianity from all other religions in the world.

It is not something that is "hyped up", and it is more than an emotional feeling. It is a supernatural activity of the Holy Spirit of God, acting upon our conscience. It makes us aware of the Lord's Presence within us!

It is a deep seated, firm knowing that we are saved by the Grace of God, per Eph.2:8-9. That gives us great assurance, and causes eager desire to be more acquainted with our Lord Jesus. That witness is also active in guiding us. It helps us in times of temptation by making us know that its wrong to do what we are tempted with.

Of course, God can guide us in other ways, and bout other things. But the witness of the Holy Spirit will accompany those other ways also.

The Bible is God's **first** way of instruction and guidance to mankind. The inward witness from God agrees exactly with it.

The Bible is the indestructible, eternal, and credible words from God to man. It reveals Him to us, and it reveals His will for us. It is true not only for believers, but also for unbelievers.

In this way, God gives us a double witness and reference. Therefore, we can KNOW that we are right with God, through the Lord Jesus Christ. Being right with God gives us rest, and peace of heart and mind. Such believers demonstrate a third witness, i.e., a God pleasing, holy life.

Notice 1 Tim.1:5: *"Now the end of the commandment is charity (love) out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned."* The witness of the Holy Spirit works in us to help bring us into that status.

Also, the witness of the Holy Spirit in us causes us to have love, joy, and peace. That is fruit of the spirit, per Gal.5:22-23. Such fruit pleases God, blesses and comforts us, and blesses others around us. It is ours when we believe the Lord.

In addition, the witness of the Holy Spirit can help us gain the power of Jesus Christ for our physical and material needs. He affirms 1 Peter 2:24 (*"...by Whose Stripes ye were healed."*) and Phil. 4:19: *"But My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

The Lord Jesus made Divine Healing available to us at the time He was crucified. The Holy Spirit ministers that power to us, when we believe and receive it by faith.

Such healing is not to be confused with the work of so called "faith healers." Their efforts come from a source besides Jesus Christ. They ought to be avoided, as they are usually demonic. They do not glorify Jesus Christ, and they do not administer His grace. Divine healing from God does glorify Jesus Christ and administer His grace.

Thus, the inward witness that believers have within ourselves is a stable, reliable reference for us. It makes it possible for us to know and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. We are not left to follow empty religious rituals and confusion. We can know Him.

On the basis of the personal revelation of Jesus Christ and of the Gospel to the Apostles, Apostle John wrote: *"And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."* (1 John 5:20.)

Following Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior is a fulfilling, satisfying RELATIONSHIP with the Lord Jesus Himself. He LIVES within us, by means of the Holy Spirit's Presence in our heart.

God offers us eternal life through faith in Christ. Death is NOT the end of human experience! EVERY person WILL experience eternal blessing with the Lord Jesus, OR eternal pain and sorrow in hell. Which one depends on our response to Jesus Christ. Jesus said: *"He that believeth (the Gospel of Christ) and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."* (Mark 16:16).

I love you, God bless you.

Pastor Poole

Chapter 33 JUDGE NOT

PLEASE read listed verses.

Eph. 1:15-20. This shows God's concern for us. He wants us to experience the Spirit of Wisdom from God. Here is four ways to assure that it's from God. #1. It agrees with all of the Word of God, without snagging on other verses. #2. James 3:17. #3. Eph.5:9-10. #4. 1 John 5:6.

As I was praying, the Holy Spirit strongly fixed my mind on two verses. They weren't in mind before. 2 Tim 2:15: "... rightly dividing the Word of Truth." Next Mt. 7:1-2. Then He said: "That's how you do it." I could see it clearly. As I rejoiced in His Presence, and thought on it, He showed me how to teach it.

Mt.7:1. People who do not rightly divide the Word may think that Jesus meant do not judge at all. Not so. That was not all that He said about judging. See John 7:24? How? John 8:14-16 (God is with us through His Word). Also, 1 Cor.5:1-13 and 6:1-4. Note: both people & things are to be judged. 2 Tim.3:16 applies to these verses too.

Does this cross Mt.7:1-2? No. The Holy Spirit showed me: "Judge men and things by the Word of God. NOT by your own ideas and feelings! NOT as exalting your wisdom, ability and righteousness." In mind and heart say and think what the Word says about it. Let the rest of it alone, if you have no Word from God on it."

Thus, the Word of God is the standard. It enables us to judge rightly, and we must.

John 7:24, but mind Rom. 2:1-2. Agree with what God says, and express *that* as YOUR response. His Word is right and He only judges righteous judgment. "That's how you do it."

Mt. 7:2 still applies, for He is going to judge you also. 2 Cor.5:10. But if you are NOT guilty, or if your sins are forgiven, His judgment will not hurt you!

Malice, passion, anger, and vengeance on our part can hurt us and others. The Lord showed me: "Don't use those things to judge with, and they won't judge you!"

Often, we don't know enough to judge rightly, any way. 1 Cor.2:13. See that? Compare what you are dealing with against what God said about it. Make what He said the way that you respond.

"Judge not...". But can you see how to do it? Fix your mind on what God said about it and don't add you own vengeance to it.

"Yeah, but what if I don't KNOW what God's Word says about it?" Then DON'T judge! Instead, study to show your self a workman that needs not to be ashamed. 2 Tim.2:15.

For lack of space, I give only Scripture references in lieu of giving their full text. Please study them to gain what is taught.

✍ FACT VERSES. ✍ Fact verses are statements of facts that are recorded in the Bible. They are not necessarily promises. They are conditions that God and Christ established, without human aid. Jesus mentioned this premise in Acts 1:7.

FACT: The Blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from all sin. 1 John 1:7.

FACT: In Him we have redemption, even the forgiveness of sins. Col.1:14.

FACT: Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. John 1:29.

FACT: Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. Heb. 9:22.

FACT: Jesus has redeemed us by His Blood. Col.1:14.

FACT: The blood of the pass over lamb in the Old Testament was a protection for God's people. Exodus 12:13.

FACT: Jesus' Blood delivers us from the wrath to come. 1 Thes.1:10.

FACT: Jesus loved us and washed us from our sins in His Own blood. Rev.1:5.

We need to recognize, revere and esteem the precious Blood of Jesus Christ. There is no other blood like it in the universe! It only is unique.

No icon of religion dares make the claims that Jesus made. The blood of none of them can take away sins. Only the true Messiah can point to His empty tomb. All others are false.

FACT: Jesus Christ alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He only is the Savior; Lord of lords; King of kings

FACT: "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (1 John 5:12)."

FACT: "For whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved." (Rom.10:13).

FACT: Roman 10:9 is how one calls upon the Lord Jesus in order to be saved. Just DO exactly what it says. God bless you, I love you. Pastor Poole

Chapter 34 LIBERTY ✍️ PLEASE: read all listed verses.

The object of this lesson is to show a little more of what God has promised to them that believe on Jesus Christ. 1 John 3: 3; Titus 2:11-15; Heb. 9:28. Then consider Isaiah 28: 9-10.

Rom. 8:16-25. The groaning of creation is apparent everywhere. For example consider the case of animals. Lions attack, mercilessly kill, and eat harmless gazelles. Gazelles keep on reproducing, but their progeny suffers from the lions. The lioness must eat and feed her cubs.

This has gone on for centuries. Why not just let all lions and gazelles die off and stop their hurting? Why should it continue? This describes a little of Rom. 8:19-21.

Rom. 8:20 is also why God allows the asp and the cockatrice (poisonous serpents) to exist. They contribute to the suffering, but they too, suffer.

God has given hope that all of the creation shall be released from its misery. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord" (Isa.11:9). THAT is why lions and gazelles can't become extinct. That's why gazelles can't just give up. God's Word says there WILL be lions, bears, leopards, wolves (all are predators now) in the millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ. They won't be predators then.

Until then, the predators MUST survive. Therefore, they must eat. No mortal can adjust the problem or ease such groanings of creation.

God has appointed a time when His glory shall be known in all the earth, according to Isa.11: 9. He shall gain His eternal purpose. Jesus Christ knows how, and He has the authority to "fix" things that are locked into frustration now.

Matthew 24:9-14 shows a similar plight for believers. For nearly twenty centuries, God's Blood bought saints have endured fathomless suffering. Millions and millions bore terrible martyrdom. Why didn't Jesus come and deliver them?

Why doesn't the world behave itself, and quit hindering the work of God? Why does satan wage relentless war against the people of God?

The answer is in Rom. 8:21-25. God has purposed to take out of the nations a people for His Name. Many of such holy people will receive glorified, immortal bodies, without dying! *The Church MUST survive until then! Why?* First, because the husbandman has long patience for the precious fruit of the earth, James 5:7. Secondly, because the saints are awaiting the redemption of our body, Rom. 8:23. Therefore, generation after generation, century after century, the saints of God have endured. But look at God's promise of glory. It is the liberty of the sons of God, noted in Rom. 8:19. Praise God.

When will that happen? Rom 8:23 tells us. When will the redemption of our body take place? At 1 Cor.15:51-58. This means that the hope of 1 Thes.4:16-17 is MORE than that of escaping the antichrist. It is *the hope, and the beginning of the fulfillment of Rom. 8:23 and Isaiah 11:9. It is the fulfillment of 1 John 3:2-3.* It is our deliverance from the bondage of corruption. All of creation shall be changed.

At last! Forever, the redeemed shall be free from bodily appetites by which sin tempts us. Note Matt. 22: 30-32. In our glorified bodies, we will not even want or need to be married! Again, Luke 20:27- 36. Freedom from normal, mortal appetites is one part of the glorious liberty of the sons of God, Rom. 8: 23. We shall be gloriously changed, 1 Cor.15: 51.

Adam's race cannot now escape the appetites for food, marriage, sex, and reproduction. God gave them to man in Gen. 1: 28. They WILL continue until we are raptured and changed, 1 Cor. 15:51-52. This is not to disparage the normal appetites of mankind. The holy use of them all is blessed by God. Heb.13:3; 1 Tim. 4:3-5; Psa.127:3.

Having such appetites is NOT an excuse for us to sin! God will judge everyone who defiles their appetites by sinning with them. God, Who subjected creation to the first

condition, will give it a new condition when Jesus comes at 1 Thes. 4: 16-17, and when 1 Cor. 15:57 occurs. Note also that flesh and blood (mortal humanity) cannot inherit that condition. Mortality MUST be changed, and only God can change it. Religious doctrine cannot do it, else Apostle Paul WOULD have done it! He "paid the price." But it didn't happen to Him. Phil.3:8-12.

As the Holy Spirit leads, we are getting more light about the purpose of God for the Body of Christ. We are getting nearer and nearer to the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. "... and unto them that look for Him, shall He appear the second time with out sin unto salvation (Heb.9:28)

Jesus has warned us to watch and pray. Are you ready for the future that God has planned for His people? We can only be ready by being (or becoming) born again and then following Jesus. John 3:3-5; Roman 10:9; Luke 9:23-25.

There is a difference between a human affection and a vision of service from God. A vision from God is a reason and purpose for which you will sacrifice, if need be. An affection is something you simply like.

Many have affections and are content to indulge them. When they are done, nothing remains. But a vision is needed to persevere as in Prov. 29:18. Jesus urged us to obtain a vision. Mt. 6:33.

Abraham and the saints of old had a vision. Heb.11:9-17. Do you have that vision, or only an interest in prosperity for selfish uses? Per the vision, prosperity is God given for the sake of the vision. Your welfare is a benefit of the vision. Psa. 37:3.

FACT: God opens His hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing. Psa. 17:4.

I love you.

Pastor Poole