

Image of Love

The Messenger

Let all your things be done in love

All of us at sometime have inquired of God as to His will for our lives. Although it may be harder to realize than one might first assume, there is one essential will of God for us all.

This book is truly a work of God.
I am only His messenger through whom the Lord of heaven speaks.
I give all honor and praise and glory to God my Father, and my
Lord Jesus Christ.

PREFACE

There is one will of God for us all. One purpose under heaven. One will of God which is essential for all His children, and one thing we are all called to.

It is crucial for us as Christians to know God's will for our life. To realize what He has called us to, and know our Lord's purpose for us as His children.

The importance of knowing God's will for us is made evident in Scripture.

Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.

—Matthew 7:21 KJV

The Father's will is that we believe on His Son. However, this is only the beginning of the will of God for us.

This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent. And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up on the last day.

—John 6:29, 40 KJV

Whereas, this is the beginning of the will of God, it is by no means the end. The Lord has a purpose and a plan for each of us. Wherein, there is a will of God for all of us to have in common.

We who are chosen are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:8. We who are called of God, are also called to be conformed to the image of His Son. Romans 8:29. As God's children, we need to comprehend the fullness of His will, and know to what He has called us. To be conformed to Christ, we need to learn the whole counsel of God's word, and yield ourselves to the work of His Holy Spirit.

I have written this book to elucidate God's will for us as Christians, and as Christ's Church as a whole. To clarify that to which He has called us all. My purpose is to give you a knowledge of what is essential to God's will for us. The goal herein, is that you may be conformed to the image of Christ, the image of love.

The goal of our instruction is love. —1 Timothy 1:5

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I

IMAGE OF CHRIST

BELOVED—TO LEARN OF CHRIST IS TO LEARN OF HIS LOVE

Like so many things in life, our image of Christ, and our life as a Christian, is as a myriad colored truth. The key is: to discover what the essential truth is, and make that the foundation of our life and understanding. Without that foundation of truth, we shall not see Christ's way, or live in His will.

Our goal as Christians is to be like Christ, then let us look to Christ, and learn of Him.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the
Father, but through Me. —John 14:6 NASV

We know Jesus is the Son of God. He and the Father are one. Jesus proclaimed this Himself while on earth. John 10:30. Christ was one with the Father while on earth, and in heaven. They are of one mind, one heart, one purpose, and one nature.

Therefore, as we learn of Christ, we learn of the Father. As we apprehend and embrace the image of Christ, we see the image of God. For Christ is God revealed to us, and our perfect ensample of the fulfillment of the Father's will.

Being one therefore, what moved the Father, moved the Son as well. Their purpose and motive was the same when Christ came to us.

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 KJV

The Father, moved by His love and compassion for us, sent His beloved Son to us. Christ was also moved by this same love and compassion. He came on account of the love He had for us, and the love He had for His Father. From the beginning, Christ was moved by love. All that He accomplished while on earth was born of that love. His works were begotten in love, and it was because of love that He did all things.

God, through His love and compassion, had mercy upon us. He did not judge or condemn us. Rather, the Father through His forbearance gave us His Son, that we may be able to live with Him forever. He wanted to reconcile us to Himself, and draw us into an everlasting covenant of grace through His Son.

Shew us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation.

—Psalm 85:7 KJV

So we might say, God was moved by love, and constrained by mercy. In as much as He loved us, He sent us His Son. Looking upon us with compassion, He did not deal with us according to our failings, but shewed us His mercy. Christ was sent on a mission of mercy. His ministry was one of love and compassion. Jesus is God's love come to us.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. Just as the father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.

—Psalms 103:8,10-11,13 NASV

We have heard that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, and so it is. Yet, the fear of God is rarely taught, and not commonly understood. However, it is essential to our walk with God.

Fear of God, is a deep reverence for the Lord. It is to bow down before the awesome all powerful God, and tremble at His word. It ends in a fear of failing to do what is right in the eyes of God. Godly fear is an absolute respect for God's holy ordinances and commandments, and an accountability between one's self and God.

Moreover, God's word tells us there is no fear in love. That perfect love casts out fear. I John 4:18. Nevertheless, as children of the Lord we fail to abide in the perfect love of God. Though we may not always be moved by love we should always submit to His will and His commandments with contrite hearts, in reverence to our Lord. Godly fear works with the love of God, and our love for God, to lead us into a righteous and holy life in Christ. Those who have lost the fear of the Lord, or their love for Him, are likely to stray from the truth, to ignore God's commandments and His will for their life.

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.

—Hebrews 12:28-29 KJV

Therefore, fear God, children, that you may see the truth, and walk in the way of Christ.

Let us look to Christ, and follow Him.

And they shall call His name Emmanuel...God with us.

—Matthew 1:23 KJV

Jesus Christ, the son of man, came to earth to reach out to us. He came from heaven to lead us into the kingdom of God. He gave up all He had in heaven and relinquished all

that He had as God to come to us as a man, and the servant of man.

Christ, our Lord, gave up His life for us. He gave up all He had to give. His life is a gift in itself, a living sacrifice, and the supreme ensample of giving.

My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?

—Matthew 27: 46 NASV

For Christ to come to earth as a man, and the servant of man, was an endowment of love. To allow himself to be mocked and whipped and beaten was giving. Being crucified for us, certainly that was giving.

However, Christ never gave more than when He took upon Himself the sins of us all. Wherefore, and in that time, Jesus was momentarily abandoned by His beloved Father, and judged in our place. In a real sense Christ was out of communion with His Father. This is the greatest gift, and the greatest ensample of giving that has ever been. It was the supreme act of love of all time.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down
His life for His friends. — John 15:13 KJV

We who know the Lord know this; that He did this out of love. The love of Jesus is fervent, passionate, complete, and perfect. God is love. His love is never ending and without measure. It is overwhelming, awesome, and unimaginable. Who can comprehend the all inclusive love of God?

The love of God is profound in essence, and forever enduring. It transcends our comprehension, and is absolute in abundance. God's love fills the heavens and earth as flowing rivers of passion for mankind.

That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory,
to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man;
That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being
rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with
all the saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and
height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth
knowledge, that ye might be filled with the fullness of God.

—Ephesians 3:16-19 KJV

We all have come to Christ because of His love for us. We love Him because He first loved us. I John. 4:19. We are drawn by His love, kept in His love, and pardoned by an act of His love.

Jesus did all things in love! I Corinthians 16:14.

To truly know God fully is to know the love of Christ. To be replete in the Lord is to be filled with God's love by His Spirit.

Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with

lovingkindness have I drawn thee.
—Jeremiah 31:3 KJV

Therefore, we see that what marked Christ's life and His ministry was love. He is the appearance and perfect ensample of love. It is the first thing we learn of Him as children. All His children everywhere know Him by His love.

Only a child can know this love. And unless we come to Jesus as little children, we can not know Him at all. As we know Jesus, we shall know His love. His love will fill our hearts to overflowing, and we shall be as little children. We shall be the children of the Lord.

Whereas love is essential, even preeminent to our image of Christ, there is more.

The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, And
to those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death,
Upon them a light dawned. —Matthew 4:16 NASV

Christ came to earth to be a light unto the way of God, and the path to heaven. To illuminate righteousness, holiness, godliness, and the narrow road that leads to everlasting life. He came to lead us out of our darkness, so that we may see the truth, and turn to follow Him.

I am the light of the world; he that follows Me shall not walk
in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
—John 8:12 NASV

Jesus walked so that we would see, and know how to follow Him. All things were done so that we could mirror His example. To be able to walk as He walked, and follow Him. As we see the truth, and walk in His way; we too shall be a light unto the world. When we live in Christ, He lives in us by His Spirit; and His life is a bright light shining forth for all to see, unto the glory of God.

In Him was life; and His life was the light of men.
—John 1:4 KJV

There is only one way, and one truth, and only one through whom is life. That is Christ Jesus.

Our Lord came to free us from our bonds of sin and death. To lift us out of our despair. To proclaim the Gospel of good news that all are welcome through God's grace to come to Him. That we might be reconciled with God through Christ's death, washed clean by His blood; and resurrected anew with Him into life everlasting through His Spirit.

Hallelujah! Praise God in the highest.

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the

world. — John 1:29 KJV

The essence of Christ's ministry was one of reconciliation. He came to reconcile us with God, to lift us up, and draw us into His eternal covenant of grace.

For God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through Him.

—John 3:17 NASV

Jesus came not to judge us, but to take our judgment upon Himself. He came not to condemn, but to edify. Christ walked, lived, and taught in such a way as to be approachable. He was not a stumbling block between Himself and those He wished to reach out to. He was affable, not lecturing. Jesus was open and available to sit down with sinners. Christ's love did not take into account our failings.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. —Romans 5:1-2 KJV

Christ came that we might have faith and grace abundantly. Wherein, all those in Christ are now in right standing with God. That through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ we have forgiveness of our transgressions, and hope of an abundant life. For without Christ there is no hope.

That at that time ye were without Christ...having no hope, and without God in the world.

—Ephesians 2:12 KJV

There is nothing more important than hope for one drowning in despair. Christ is our hope, and the hope of all mankind. He came to lift us out of our misery, to bring hope to man.

Behold My servant, whom I have chosen; My beloved, in whom My soul is well pleased: I will put My spirit upon Him, and He shall shew judgment to the gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear His voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall He not break, and smoking flax shall He not quench, till He send forth judgment unto victory. And in His name shall the gentiles trust.

—Matthew 12:18-21 KJV

This Scripture is a great description of the gentleness of Jesus. I cherish it, and know

that it's true. For until the time of judgment, He is reaching out to all in gentleness, love, compassion, and forbearance.

However, this Scripture tells us something else about Jesus that is important to consider. Although Jesus was the Son of God; the Spirit of God was put upon Him by His Father. This took place just after He was baptized by John, and before the beginning of His ministry.

This was done so we could have faith to follow Christ's ensample, and to do the works that He did. To show us that we are to work through the power of the Holy Spirit, and not in our own strength. For our good works are God's work that He works in us, and through us, to the glory of the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

I can of Mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and My judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me.

—John 5:30 KJV

Jesus sought to glorify His Father, not bring glory to Himself, to direct us to God His Father, and not to speak from Himself. To do so, He would not have been true to Himself, His Father's will, or His ministry. This too was done that we may follow Christ's ensample. We are to direct all to God the Father, and His Son Jesus Christ; through whom is our salvation.

If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the one who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

—John 7:17-18 NASV

Moreover, we know Christ came to earth to do the will of God, His Father.

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent Me.

—John 6:38 KJV

While Jesus walked the earth, He was the consummate servant of the Father, the complete and perfect fulfillment of God's will. Christ was the exact representation of the glory of God, and the image of His beloved Holy Father.

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of His person. —Hebrews 1:3 KJV

God is love. And Christ is the image of God. The image of love.

As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

—I Corinthians 15:49 KJV

We who were lost and in darkness, now find our way in the light of Christ. Though we were dead, now we live, for He lives in us. Our life is His life which is in us through His Holy Spirit. We are being changed into the image of our Lord daily.

We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord.

—II Corinthians 3:18 KJV

All have come to the Lord knowing we can offer nothing, except ourselves. We cast all we have at the foot of the cross, and relinquish our lives unto the Lordship of Christ. As we abandon rule over our own lives, we gain true life, which is found in Christ Jesus our Lord by His Spirit. God through the work of Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, labors to mold us into the image of His Son. As we deny ourselves, we are changed from our fallen corrupted nature, into the image of Christ. As we daily surrender unto our Lord's will and purpose for our lives, we shall see Christ, and walk in His way.

As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. —Colossians 2:6-9 KJV

Come to the Lord all you who are broken in spirit, and with contrite hearts, for this is the sacrifice of God, and He shall not turn you away. Psalm. 51:17. Come in faith as a little child, with arms open wide, and with a pure heart. Come unto Him with a sincere confession of Christ as your Savior, and accept Him as your precious Lord. Come, all you who desire Him, and He will receive you. For Jesus loves you.

Verily I say unto you, unless ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

—Matthew 18:3 KJV

Do not be led astray from the way. There is one dance to be danced. And do not turn from the truth. For there is one true way to live— the life of Christ, the life in Christ, the

life of love.

Look to Jesus beloved, and follow Him. Know Him. For He is our Lord, and in Him is found all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:3. Cling to Jesus, as a child to its mother, and do what is good in His eyes. Let your life be a reflection of His life, and become as the image of Christ. The image of love.

Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The Lord be magnified.

—Psalm 40:16 KJV

THE MASTER GARDENER

A master gardener went out into his garden to find a place to plant the seed of a fruit tree. He walked around his garden until he came upon a small piece of ground.

Now this particular spot of ground was choked by weeds, and most would of passed it by. But the master gardener knew that underneath all those weeds the ground was fertile, and it would be a good place to plant his seed.

The master gardener worked in that little piece of ground until all the weeds were gone. He then carefully prepared the soil, and planted his seed into the ground. He watered the soil, and watched over and tended that plot of land so the seedling sprouted into the sunlight.

The master gardener labored daily, nurturing and caring for his seedling. He kept the weeds from choking the seedling, and the sun shown on it all the day long. He provided all it needed to grow, and it grew into a great and glorious tree, which bore much good fruit. Wherein the master gardener was well pleased, and he loved that tree, and called it his own.

To elucidate: The master gardener is the Lord God, and He searches the earth for those that will be His. The ground, and or soil, are the soul of man, which lays useless. The weeds are the wages of sin and death which prevent the growth of anything good. However, the good Lord comes to us, and prepares us to receive His seed, which is the word of God. He plants His seed within us and works with His Spirit, the living water of God, to bring us into the life in Christ. The Lord then works in us so that we may become all He would have for us, and bear much fruit. Wherein we are His beloved, and He calls us His children.

In Christ, the word of God lives through His Spirit. The word of God needs the Holy Spirit in order to grow within us. The Spirit and the word work together within us unto all good works, to the Glory of God. In Christ we have the light of life, whom we reach out to, and have the direction in which to grow. The Spirit and the word, at work together, always prepare us to reach out to Christ, and conform us unto the Lord, and all He would have us to be.

THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT

BRETHREN—TO LEARN FROM THE WORD IS TO LEARN BY THE SPIRIT

There are so many different doctrines and dogmas, which various leaders and denominations proclaim as the truth, that one can become overwhelmed by it all. But this is not our Lord's will for us. God is not the author of confusion. All those who are one in Christ have an anointing from God, and we as Christians need not depend on any man to know the truth.

You have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

—I John 2:20 NASV

All truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit, and confirmed to our heart by God's word. God's word is the truth which is unveiled by the Spirit. They are one, and our Lord has ordained they work in harmony in our lives. We are not to extol the one and neglect the other.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

—Psalm 119:105 KJV

It is good to know God's word, and be instructed by it. We have been saved by the word of God, the good news, through which the seeds of righteousness and holiness are planted. Through the word we learn of Christ, the living Word of God come down from heaven, and by which we know how to live righteously within the will of God.

The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

—John 6:63 KJV

It is good we have the Holy Spirit, and know Him. He is our teacher, and the giver of life. He is the living water of God which allows us to grow. It is the Spirit that leads us into all righteousness, holiness, and good works.

I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

—Ezekiel 36:27 NASV

Through God's word and His Spirit we are conformed to the image of Christ. As we with pure hearts submit ourselves to their work in us, we shall see the Light of Christ. Then we shall grow into what the Lord has for us, and bear much fruit unto the Glory of God.

It is good that we know the Scriptures. But it is the Spirit that illuminates the Scriptures to us. It is written in the prophets that we shall be taught of God. John 6:45. The word is our map to the path we are to walk, and the Spirit leads the way. They are both essential to know the Lord, His will, and His way. There is a similitude of their purpose and their work, and they are always in absolute agreement.

Knowledge alone is not enough, and it is not to be an end in and of itself. Knowledge

is perfected in truth and the wisdom of God which is revealed to us by the Spirit. In truth and wisdom we rightfully see in the knowledge of God.

Our house of knowledge is to be laid on a foundation of truth, with pillars of the wisdom of God for discernment, and windows of revelation from His Spirit. The door of our house of knowledge is Jesus Christ, through whom we have access into the counsel of our Lord.

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.

—Isaiah 11:2 NASV

Jesus Christ was the perfect incarnation and revelation of the living Word of God come to earth. He came and enlightened us as to the truth, and the Word of God. For He is the Truth, and the Word of God. Jesus elucidated the heart and will of God for our lives. He is the light of our understanding, and the door through whom we enter into the wisdom and knowledge of God.

When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me. —John 15:26 NASV

The Holy Spirit, which Jesus breathed on His disciples, is also referred to in Scripture as the Spirit of Jesus, and the Spirit of Christ. In the Old Testament He is known as God's Spirit, or the Spirit of the Lord. However, the Holy Spirit is God! The third member, or personage, of the trinity. He is one with Christ, as well as the Father. They are of one mind, one heart, one purpose, and one nature.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. —John 1:1 KJV

Although the Scriptures are a true reflection of the Word of God, they are not a perfect representation of the Word of God in it's fullness. Only Jesus Christ is that. He was the living Word of God come to us, and the embodiment of all truth. And only His Spirit can lead us into all truth, and reveal all wisdom and knowledge to us.

We know the Father through the Son, and we know the Son through the Spirit, and the word of God.

The Word is a living thing. More than that which is written on lifeless parchment. The Lord wishes to write His Word on your hearts.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth. —John 16:13 KJV

The reason there is such a wide divergence of opinion on what the Scriptures say, and what they mean, is that man is hopelessly flawed, and he does not rely on the Spirit of Truth for the revelation of the truth. For there is only one truth. And God has not given us

the spirit of many truths. No. The Spirit of Truth!

Open your heart, and listen to the Spirit of Truth. Open the eyes of your heart so you may see the truth, and know the wisdom of God.

One must be born again to see the Kingdom of God, and to know the truth. Only those born of God shall see the truth. Those in Christ alone shall see the way and know the will of the Father.

Therefore Children of God: meditate on the Scriptures, and seek out the Lord in prayer with a lowly mind and humble heart, always relying on the Spirit of the Lord to speak to you.

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.

—Ephesians 1:17-18 KJV

Our purpose in the pursuit of wisdom and knowledge is to know our Lord Jesus Christ and His calling. The goal of our learning love, so we may understand His way, and live the life of a servant. To ascend to His life of love, being consecrated unto His purpose for us, and fulfill our Lord's will.

Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

—Luke 11:28 KJV

As we prayerfully meditate on Scripture in submission to the teaching of the Holy Spirit, and in the fear of the Lord, our eyes are opened to the revelation of the truth of God's Holy word. When the word of God is planted in our hearts, and in our minds, the Spirit works to bring it to life within us. As we are the temple of the Lord, we need to be filled with the word and the Spirit, that we may be directed to Christ. The Spirit and the word point us to Christ, just as Christ pointed us to the Father.

Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. —James 1:22 KJV

We are to search the Holy Scriptures and learn the whole counsel of the word, submitting ourselves with contrite hearts and broken spirits to the teaching of the Holy Spirit. Come not with unbelief, but with the faith of a child. Come as a child, not as those who say they know the Lord, but lie and have not the truth within them. The ones who are ever learning, never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. II Timothy 3:7. Those who in the vanity of their minds think to apprehend God by committing to memory the Scriptures, yet do not entrust their hearts and their lives unto the Lord. The Lord knows the reasoning of man, and how foolish, vain and futile it is. I Corinthians 3:20. The wisdom of man is as nothing to God.

To this one will I look, to him who is humble and contrite of

spirit, and who trembles at My word.

—Isaiah 66:2 NASV

It is essential that you know the whole counsel of God's word, and submit to it in the fear of the Lord, to apprehend the truth and wisdom of God and be in His will!

We are teachable when we come to the Lord with a lowly heart, and a humble unassuming mind. When we are poor in spirit we shall be blessed with the sweet wisdom and glorious knowledge of the Lord.

Teach me to do Thy will, For Thou art my God; Let Thy good Spirit lead me on level ground.

—Psalms 143:10 NASV

To do the will of our Lord we must learn the word of God. Then we will be able see the truth and be led by the Spirit of the Lord. When we consecrate ourselves to the Lordship of Christ and His commandments the word of God shall live in our heart, and become manifest in our life.

The one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life. —Galatians 6:8 NASV

Life is from the Spirit. The Holy Spirit of promise. We live in Him. And as we live in Him, we also walk in Him. Galatians 5:25. To do so, we need to always be in the Spirit. We need to listen to Him. We need to seek Him, and all He has for us. For to be in the Spirit, and be submitted to God, is to be in the Lord's will.

All God's children desire to know Him, and draw closer to Christ. Ever nearer to Thee O Lord we cry. Can there be any better way than through God's Spirit? Shall we deny the sovereign work of the Spirit in our lives?

Truly I say to you: one must be born of the Holy Spirit, the living water of God, to enter into the Kingdom of God. John 3:5. Wherein, it is written: he who believes on Jesus Christ, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. John 7:38.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. —Romans 8:14 KJV

We who are of Christ live by the Holy Spirit. We are to walk and love in the Spirit. We are to listen to the Holy Spirit so He can speak to us, and lead us. Then we are able to allow God to work in us and through us, to the glory of our Lord and the fulfillment of His will.

...And they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd. —John 10:16 NASV

Our reliance on the Holy Spirit is the necessity of good works. For God alone is good. There is nothing good whatsoever that dwells in us, and we can not do anything good without God. All good things come from God. And He wants to pour out all his blessings upon us.

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon

you. —Acts 1:8 NASV

Pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon you, and do not quench the Spirit, but seek to have the full measure of all that your heavenly Father has for you in the Spirit, and in all you do. I entreat you to allow the Spirit to pour out upon you streams of blessings from heaven.

Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you.

—I Timothy 4:14 NASV

We are to seek the spiritual gifts of God to serve one another. I Peter 4:10. Our Lord wishes to bestow upon us gifts for the effectual working of the body. Each of us as Christians are different representations and reflections of Christ and His nature by the gifts that He gives us.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

—Galatians 5:25 KJV

It is absolutely essential to live and walk in the Holy Spirit to be in the will of our Lord God! It is primary to our life in Christ. To serve our Lord we must do so in His Spirit.

The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

—Romans 5:5 NASV

We know life is by the Spirit, as is God's love. And it is necessary that we have His love in us in order to fulfill the will of God. The love of God which works in us and through us to accomplish His will is a work of His Holy Spirit, and is not of ourselves. Whether it is the love of God or our love for God, I am fully persuaded that all love is from God, for God is love.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; against such things there is no law. —Galatians 5:22-23 NASV

Abandon yourselves to Christ, and be conformed to Him by His Spirit. Walk according to God's word that you may have a holy walk before the Lord. Keep yourselves accountable to the whole counsel of God's Holy word in the fear of the Lord, so that you do not stray from the truth. Live in the Spirit. Pray for the Spirit to come upon you to be in communion with the Lord, and receive the fullness of His blessings. Walk in the Spirit and serve the Lord of heaven. Through these things we abide in God's will, and therein give our lives as a worship and an offering unto our Lord, to the praise of His glory.

The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

—John 4:23-24 KJV

III

WORSHIP, PRAISE, AND PRAYER

BLESSED—TO KNOW THE LORD IS TO PRAISE HIM
TO LOVE THE LORD IS TO WORSHIP HIM

There is nothing more becoming to us as children of God than to worship and praise our Lord. It is to be the first fruits of our life and works in Christ. Worship and praise of our Lord sets our hearts right before Him. It is the foundation of all the rest of our works. To do so is to be in harmony with His will. There is nothing else we do that draws us closer to our Lord. For it brings us into communion with Him.

O come let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the
Lord our maker. —Psalm 95:6 KJV

We love our Lord because He loves us, and we worship Him because of our love for Him. In worship we behold the glory of God. Our worship is pure adoration of who He is. It is our heart felt love of our Lord. When we lift up our hearts in worship, we bestow upon Him our gift of love. As we bow down before Him, we consecrate our hearts unto Him.

Praise ye the Lord. Praise, O ye servants of the Lord, praise the
name of the Lord. —Psalm 113:1 KJV

We praise our Lord because we love Him. We praise Him for all that He is, and all He has done. We bless God as we lift Him up in praise. Our praise is a thanksgiving unto our Lord, and a celebration of His glory. As we exalt God, we humble ourselves. When we lift up the name of Jesus Christ, we uphold Him as our Lord.

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and
power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure
they are and were created. —Revelation 4:11 KJV

We are created to be worshippers of God. To be in His will we must worship and

praise our Lord with sincere hearts. By this do we enter into the presence of the Lord, and His throne of grace, wherein He pours out His Spirit upon us. To be effectual in all of our works for the kingdom of God, we must first worship and praise our Lord.

The blossoming of our life in Christ is in worship and praise of God. For as with the fruit tree, the blossom comes before the fruit. So too, we must worship and praise our Lord, that His works may be manifested in us. Our good works are God's work begotten in Christ, and brought forth by the Holy Spirit, that our lives will be a worship and praise of our Lord.

When we worship, we bow down before His throne glorifying God in admiration of all that He is. As we praise, we humbly exalt our Lord proclaiming His holiness, righteousness, and good works. Within the act of worship and praise, we deny ourselves, and confirm Christ as our Lord. Wherein, and in that time, we look to God in glorification and honor of our Lord. Our hearts and our minds are then prepared to do His will. For as we worship in the Spirit of God in praise of our Lord, we shall hear His voice, and know His will for us.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the
Lord. —Psalm 150:6 KJV

Our life is to be a living sacrifice in worship, and an offering of praise to our Lord. When we deny ourselves, and walk in the way of Christ, our life is a worship unto our Lord and Father. As we serve God, our good works shall be an offering of praise unto God, and the glory of His Son Jesus Christ. We are to live to glorify God, and honor our Lord. For thus we were all created.

Therefore, above all things, let us first worship and praise God. May we continually praise the name of our Lord, and worship God with our whole heart. Let our lives be a living sacrifice to God, and His purpose for us, so as to glorify our Lord. May we forever rejoice in Christ with joy and laughter, drawing near to God in His Spirit, and in love as little children.

Whatever you do in word and deed, do in the name of the Lord
Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
—Colossians 3:17 NASV

Worship and praise go hand in hand together. They are the works we do unto God. Prayer is the work we do unto the kingdom of God. We are able to pray according to God's will when our hearts and minds are set right before God through worship and praise, and we are in the Spirit. And God's will is accomplished by the work of His Spirit through the prayers of His children.

When we pray, we are to pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. For He alone is our advocate with the Father, and the atonement for sin. I John 2:1-2. We are able to come to God, and the throne of grace, through the blood of Christ. And He ever lives to intercede for us. Hebrews 7:25.

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do
not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself
intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He

who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is,
because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of
God. —Romans 8:26-27 NASV

The Spirit intercedes for us as well. The Spirit takes the prayers of our heart and translates our true longings, and desires. He clarifies our prayers, and delivers them before the throne of God. The Spirit empowers our prayers, and is our lifeline to God.

THE FISHERMAN

A man sat in his boat upon the water. He desired to know the mysteries of the deep and to catch the fish therein, but could not see because of the reflection on the water. So he took to himself a bucket with no bottom in it and placed it into the water. He saw clearly into the depths, and discovered where the fish were. So then, he was able to cast a line into the water and receive all the bounty thereof.

It is through Jesus Christ we see the Father, and we are able to come to Him. It is by the Spirit we reach out to God, and receive all He has for us. Christ is our access to the Father, and His Spirit our voice. We must have the Spirit living within us, and be in Christ for our prayers to be heard.

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be
a worshipper of God and doeth His will, him He heareth.

—John 9:31 KJV

In the NASV, worshipper of God is translated as God-fearing. Worship of God is to bow down in reverence and respect. We must be God-fearing worshippers to come to Him, and be in His will.

When we first come to the Lord, we turn from ourselves and our ways, to Christ. That is the essence of repentance. Afterward, we believe on Him and give Him our heart. He then hears our prayers, and receives us into His fold. That is the essence of salvation.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by
the blood of Jesus. —Hebrews 10:19 KJV

Whereas we are now in Christ, let us come with full assurance before our Lord, and His throne of Grace. For as we are in Him, He is in us, and we are accepted by Him. When we are in Christ, and He is in us, we are in the Father's will.

We are not beggars, and need not plead with God. We have license, by grace, to come before the throne of God, and have favor with the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. We can approach God as friends and fellow heirs to the promise. When we pray, we know our prayers are heard. When we pray according to God's will, our request shall be granted. It is His good pleasure to give to us in abundance all we ask for.

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever
you wish, and it shall be done for you. —John 15:7 NASV

Pray in faith, believing the promises that God has made you, for our Lord is faithful and true to His word. Come with the faith of a child and you shall be answered. Pray with a pure heart, so that your prayers shall be in accordance with God's will. Pray and do not loose heart. Luke 18:1. Let not your prayers end until the answer comes.

Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief.

—Mark 9:24 KJV

If you lack faith in your prayers, then pray to your Lord for faith, and he will give you faith to overflowing. If you do not have a heart for prayer, then come before your Lord and entreat Him to give you a passion for prayer.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

—James 5:16 KJV

The Lord desires our prayers to be passionate, and from our heart. God wants us to come to Him repentant, confessing our sins, sincerely seeking Him in truth, and with a pure heart. Our religious liturgy, or ritual prayers do not please God. We are not to strive in our prayers, but allow the Spirit to lift us up, and lead us in worship, praise, and prayer. Our prayers are a work, they need not be a burden.

Come unto Me, all Ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light. —Matthew 11:28,30 KJV

Worship, praise, and prayer are the first works we are to do for the Lord. They are the fountain that the Spirit of God flows through. And it is by the Spirit that all good works are performed! We are lifted up by the Spirit unto worship, praise, and prayer before our Lord. The Spirit gives us the desire to come to Him. He raises us up unto all good works. All our good works are the Lord's work that He does in us, and through us, to the glory of God.

When we rest in the Lord, He shall take away all of our cares, worries, striving, and dead works. As we live in Christ by His Spirit, we no longer have any need of the religion of man. For we who are led by the Spirit, are no longer under the law. Galatians 5:18. Once we are born again, there is nothing for us to do except submit ourselves to our Lord Jesus by His Spirit, and the word of God. That by the working, leading, and power of the Spirit, we may be lifted up to a righteous and holy walk within the will of God.

Worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Jesus Christ, and have no confidence in the flesh. —Philippians 3:3 KJV

We stand in the Lord when we bow down before Him. There is no way to glorify God without His Spirit. Nothing good can come from our efforts apart from the Lord. Our life is in His life by the Spirit of God. Our works shall stand therein. To be in Him, and His will, we must first worship Him, and exalt His name on high.

We who are the beloved of God, shall worship Him. All those who love the Lord will lift Him in praise. As we worship and praise God in the Spirit, we have communion with Him. When we abide in the Spirit we are better able to speak to our Lord, and He to us as well. As we are in Him, and He is in us, we abide in His will. We, therein, are prepared to

do His work for the furtherance of His kingdom. For we labor in vain when we labor without the Lord, and the groundwork of all our labor in the fields of the Lord is prayer. Through our prayers all the rest of our works for our Lord are established. When we pursue His will, He shall establish His will within us, and through us. Wherein, God may accomplish His work unto everlasting, and the glory of our Lord of heaven.

Therefore, as we all live within the love of the Lord by His Spirit, let us worship Him in His Spirit. Let all who call upon the Lord rejoice in everlasting praise of His name by His Spirit. May we live to abide in Christ, always in prayer, and consecrate our lives as servants of our Lord.

Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house: they will be still praising Thee. Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of Thy countenance. —Psalms 84:4-5, and 89:15 KJV

IV

IMAGE OF LOVE

CHILDREN—TO LOVE CHRIST IS TO
FOLLOW HIM—TO ABIDE IN HIS
LOVE IS TO KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS

God is love. And as we know God, we shall know His love as well. As we have the Spirit of God dwelling within us, we shall in the same way have the heart of God, that is love, mercy, and compassion. As children of God, we will be imitators of Christ. If we truly know Him as our Lord, we will be obedient to His will, and consecrated to His purpose for our life.

And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

—I John 2:3-6 NASV

All who have given their heart to Jesus, and have consecrated their life to the Lord, have the flame of passion within them to please God. For the Holy Spirit works within us to conform us to Christ Jesus our Lord. We are being changed daily into His very nature by the power of the Spirit, and obedience to His word. Our life becomes a reflection of His life as we walk in His Spirit, and obey His commandments.

The foremost is, Hear O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

—Mark 12:29-31 NASV

This is the essence of God's law. These two commandments are the basis of a righteous life. And although we who are in Christ are not under the law, it has not passed away. As Christ is the fulfillment of the law, we who are in Him are not subject to its penalty.

However, we are commanded to first love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. And we are commanded to love our fellow man as well! The depth of our spiritual walk and the measure of all that we do in the Lord is the outgrowth of our love for our Lord. The fulfillment of the second commandment will simply be an outpouring of the love and Spirit of God.

To love God is to desire to draw near to Him, to live in Him, and become like Him. The greater our love for the Lord, the more we will desire to be one with Him. And to be one with God is to be of the same heart and mind, united in spirit and purpose.

We who Love God, and abide in Him by His Spirit, will want to please Him. The more we grow in Christ, the more our desire will grow to do God's will. As we daily surrender our heart and life to His purpose for us, we shall see the truth of His way.

Let all that you do be done in love.

—I Corinthians 16:14 NASV

Whatsoever we do is to be done in love! This is the way of Christ! He walked in love. And if we are to be in Him, we must follow in His way, and walk as He walked. As we follow in His way, we shall live in Him. But if we reject His way, and ignore His commandments, we shall have no place in Him.

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

—John 14:15 NASV

Do we say we love the Lord, but do not love others? Do we proclaim we are the children of God, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have not love in our hearts? Are we living the love of God, esteeming others as better than ourselves? Can we, as Christ's Church, take so lightly the gifts and blessings of God, and withhold that which our Lord is pleading for us to give?

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are they that put their trust in Him. —Psalm 2:11-12 KJV

Our life in Christ is to be sacrosanct unto the Lord. We are to honor our Lord, hold precious His gift of salvation, and take solemnly His call to serve God and man. Our life is to be an offering and a sacrifice to God in love, to the praise of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? —James 2:19-20 KJV

To believe in Christ, and to call Him your Lord, is not the fulfillment of God's will. To be in God, you must first repent, surrender your heart and life to Jesus Christ, deny your own will, and give Christ dominion over all that you are, all that you have, and all that you do.

Afterwards, you are to follow Christ, walk in the Spirit, and live the love of God. Called as a servant, you are to bless the Lord with your life, to live according to His word, and for His good pleasure, by the power and leading of the Spirit.

What is important is not the faith you have, but the working out of your faith through love. Galatians 5:6.

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

—Ephesians 5:1-2 KJV

Jesus was the manifestation of God's love on earth. I John 4:9. We who love the Lord will want to be like Him. We who cherish what the Lord has done for us will want to serve Him as well. For how can we deny our Lord our life, when it is He that is our life?

Shall we continue to turn from His calling, and ignore those in need? Can we close our eyes and harden our hearts to those around us, and still be able to look Christ in the face? How can He be our Lord, if we refuse to be His servant?

Little children, let us not love in word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. —I John 3:18 NASV

It takes more than empty words and praises to glorify God, and fulfill His will. The Lord wants us to share with others that which He has given us. Our possessions, our desires, and our life. He wants us to care.

If we do not heed His reproof now, will we not hear His rebuke later?

Turn to My reproof. Behold, I will pour out My Spirit on you;
I will make My words known to you.

—Proverbs 1:23 NASV

Christ died for us all. We owe Him everything. We owe Him a debt we can not pay. Will you do nothing in return to show Him your thankfulness? What reward shall you be given if you have contempt for His calling to you? Will you try to justify your inaction with excuses on the last day?

O you foolish one.

Every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

—Romans 14:12 KJV

THE SERVANT OF THE KING

There was a man who dwelt in the land of the great king. This man was near death, having nothing at all, and no way to live.

Now, there was no other king in all the earth as great as he. A man well known for his mercy and goodness.

So the man came to the good king, and bowed down before him, saying, "Lord, have compassion on me, and take me into your household. Let me drink of your water, and eat of your bounty, that I may live."

Wherefore the king said, "Come, be refreshed. Stay with us, and receive of my blessings."

The man dwelt in the king's house, and was blessed with all the goodness of the king. As time passed however, the man forgot his former state, and was no longer thankful for the king's kindness.

One day the king called for this man to come to him, for he had something he wanted this man to do for him. However, the man refused, saying, "I will not do what he asks of me."

Again the king called for this man to come to him, and again the man refused, saying, "I have not time for the king."

So the king sent his servants to the man saying, "Come let us go and serve our king." But the man replied, "I will not go, neither will I serve the king, for I have all that I need."

Now, there was another man. He was brought before the king, charged with many crimes. And he fell on his face before the king, and his throne saying, "Lord, have mercy on me. Forgive me for my transgressions against you. I'm heartfully sorry for all I've done, and I repent of my evil ways."

Therefore, the good king had mercy on the man, and forgave him all of his transgressions saying, "Come, live with me."

So the man worshipped the king, and loved him greatly. From that day on, he would not leave the king's side, seeking in every way to please his lord.

Which of these men, would you say, had the king's love and favor?

Why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? —Luke 6:46 KJV

There are those who say yes to God, but do not do His will.

Life as a Christian is to be a servant. A servant of God and of man. To be a servant is to have the heart of our Lord. To have the heart of our Lord is to be like Christ, and follow in His way. For to be a follower of Christ, and His disciple, is to be His servant.

The Lord is calling to you. Will you come and serve Him? Do you love Him above all else? Are you thankful for His mercy and goodness towards you?

If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love;
just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in
His love. —John 15:10 NASV

To abide in Christ and His love is to simply do as He says, according to His word, and the leading of the Spirit.

To be a Christian is to be Christ like.

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in Him.

—I John 4:16 NASV

The one evident quality of a Christian must be love. We are called to love our Lord, and our fellow man. As we live a life of love, we live in God. We are called to holiness, godliness, righteousness, but he that loves the Lord and man fulfills the law and commandments of God. Romans 13:8. If we have not love, we are nothing! I Corinthians 13:2.

We serve our Lord because we love Him. And we serve others, moved by the love and compassion of God through His Spirit. Otherwise, our works shall profit us nothing. I Corinthians 13:3.

The following Scriptures are a description of what love is. Take a moment and meditate on them, and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart.

Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek it's own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

—I Corinthians 13:4-8 NASV

Although we can never measure up to Christ's perfect ensample of love, we should purpose to be like Him as much as we can, and to do what He is calling us to do. For His way is to be our way. And we are called to live the life of Christ.

Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent Me, even so send I you. —John 20:21 KJV

We are all called to the work and ministry of Christ. Called to proclaim to all acceptance in Christ Jesus, and to minister to those in need. Called to love those that our Lord brings into our life. Called to be available to the leading of His Spirit for His good pleasure and to imitate Christ.

Although we as individuals are not all called to the same work, or to a ministry, we are still called to be as Christ in what we do. Called to place our Lord, and His purpose for us first, and above all else. We as Christians are to do as He would do, and respond to the opportunities that He brings our way.

Our life in the Lord is much like the fruit tree. As the tree lives to grow, so too, we are to live in Christ to grow into what He would have for us. As the tree grows to bear fruit, we are to bear fruit unto righteousness and the glory of God. We are to continue to grow, just like the tree continues to grow to bear much fruit, that we may further do the works of our Lord.

Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing. —Matthew 24:46 KJV

Let us, children, be about the work of our Lord. Let us guard our hearts against

complacency, and redeem the time we have left. May we show the Lord our thankfulness and love for Him by attending to His call to us.

Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. —Hebrews 10:24 KJV

All the Lord wants for us, is to step out and do a little. You need not fear. All you need is to be obedient to His call, to be available. As you are born of God, you are already capable of service. The Lord shall do the work, all you have to do is be willing, and allow the Spirit of God to work through you. We are just the vessels through which God works for the furtherance of His purposes. He works within us to prepare us for service, and through us to accomplish His good pleasure.

The Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men...
—I Thessalonians 3:12 KJV

The Lord is calling to you. Will you answer? He is pleading with you to care for those in need. Will you turn away? He is asking for you to give a little of your life to the One who has given everything for you. Shall you deny Him?

For many are called, but few are chosen.
—Matthew 22:14 KJV

We are called to love one another, to the edification of the body. Ephesians 4:16. Love builds up, and we are all called to love. We as His Church, and each one of us are called to be a light to the world, and share the good news to those lost in darkness. At the same time, every one of us are called to love the other members of the body of Christ. And our love for one another is a witness to Christ, and a light to the world.

The world shall know we are Christians by our love for one another, and through the caring and compassion we have for those outside the Church.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. —John 13:34 NASV

This is the heart of God. It is crucial that we look after the needs of our brothers and sisters in love. Our heart's desire must be that every one of the household of the faith is welcomed, befriended, and ministered to. We are to prefer them above ourselves! Romans 12:10. After all, we are all of the same blood. That is the blood of Christ! And the children of God are now our family. What better witness can there be that we are the children of God than our love for one another?

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.
—I Peter 1:22 KJV

Some of the Church, however, are neglected, and cut off from the love of the body. Those that are lowly, or in some way just don't seem to fit in. This is not God's will for

His Church. Christ was lowly Himself, and He came for the humble, the lowly, and the poor in spirit. These are the one's we need to reach out to the most! If we prefer some over others, then how does the love of God dwell within us? How can we say that we love the Lord, if we do not even love those of the Lord?

The one who does not love his brother whom he has seen,
cannot love God whom he has not seen.

—1 John 4:20 NASV

If we do not do what is right before the Lord we shall have no place in Him. We cannot be of God if we do not love our brother. 1 John 3:10. Love is the fruit of a Godly life, and righteousness the evidence of new birth. We shall know that we live in Christ when we love those of Christ. Nothing dead can be of God, or abide in God. He who does not love, is not of God, but abides in death. 1 John 3:14.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

—1 John 4:11 KJV

Therefore, let us have Christ's heart of love and compassion for one another. Let us reach out to the lowly, befriend the lonely, be committed to one another in love, and give those of the Lord first place in our hearts and lives. Wherein all members of His body will be able to declare the love that we have for one another in the Spirit. Colossians 1:8.

Let those that have wealth share with the members of the body that are desperate and poor. May we care for the needs of one another in Christ.

Let us now love one another.

Weep for your brother. Stand up for the martyr. Reach out to the members of the Bride of Christ around the world. In the name of Christ help them!

Many are the habitations of wickedness, but an act of righteousness is rarely seen. May our works be a witness of the love we have for one another in our Lord. And let our good works in Christ be a witness of God's love unto the entire world.

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because
love covers a multitude of sins. —1 Peter 4:8 NASV

We all have shortcomings, and the Church is far less than perfect. But love makes up for our faults. As we overflow with the love of God, our blemishes will fade in the eyes of others.

At the same time, love overlooks the faults of others, and makes allowances for one's failings and shortcomings. When we are filled with the love of God, we shall look upon others with hearts of mercy, compassion, and forbearance.

After all, did not God love us while we were yet in darkness, and sent us His Son. Is not love, in essence, self-sacrifice.

Love is essential to the will of God for our lives, and the healthy working of the Church. For us to reflect an image of Christ, we must be an image of God's love for all to see. As we wish to please our Lord, let us do so, bound together in love, and with the overflowing love of God towards all.

Rejoice with those that rejoice, and weep with those that weep.

—Romans 12:15 NASV

When we rejoice with our brothers and sisters when they are glad, and weep with them when they are sorrowful, we show them we care. This builds a bond within the body, and it ties the hearts of the family of God together. It is a witness of love for the Church, and the manifest evidence that we are one body in Christ.

However, this can only happen when we truly have love in our hearts for one another. When we truly care! We must have the heart of Christ, and the love of God within us.

Children of the Lord, let your heart burn with transcendent desire to be filled with the love of God.

That they may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. —John 17:21 KJV

Let us join hands together in love, and allow the Spirit to unite our hearts as one. For the unity of the body of Christ is by God's Spirit of Truth, and His love. It is from heart to heart, one child of God to another, by the Holy Spirit of the Lord. God's love unites our hearts, and we are joined together by the fellowship of the Spirit of Truth.

There are some that say that theirs' is the only truth and communion with the Lord. But they which believe in such things are in error. God is much greater than you know. He is not constrained by the dogmas of man, but chooses who He wishes to choose, according to His will.

Unity within the bride of Christ is crucial for a healthy Church. We form a bond with each other when we share with one another in love. Learning from each other, we grow in the knowledge of God. Every congregation has its strengths and weaknesses. Each body of believers in Christ has something to teach, as well as to learn, from the next body. God has called us to come together as Christians in love and humility, and become as one before Him.

Therefore, let us abandon our religion, sectarianism, prejudices, and denominational dogma. Reach out to one another in humility, lowliness of heart and spirit, and in love. May we by all means look to learn from each other that we may be fully enlightened as to God's complete and perfect will for us, as individuals, and as the body of Christ.

Children of the Lord, may we allow the Holy Spirit to unite us as one in love, peace, and truth.

The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

—James 3:17-18 KJV

Let us approach all with God's wisdom, that we may be approachable ourselves. Let us reach out in love, gentleness and humility; being affable, so as to make the way open to all who seek the Lord. Let us act peaceably, and with compassion. May we with hearts of mercy and forbearance accept others as they are, and not judge or condemn anyone, for this is not of God.

Despise thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? —Romans 2:4 KJV

Christ is the judge of us all. Yet even Christ judged no one while he was on earth. John 8:15. Christ does not condemn anyone, and the day of the Lord's judgment is yet to come. So then, judgment and condemnation of anyone has no place in our hearts, or in the Church.

Build up, Build up, prepare the way, Remove every obstacle out of the way of My people. For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, I dwell on the high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite. —Isaiah 57:14-15 NASV

The Lord looks to the humble and the lowly, but His eyes are against the proud and the exalted. God hates pride and self-righteousness, but He loves humility, a contrite heart, and a broken spirit. Pride is the folly of man, and death to the believer!

If Christ was walking the earth today He would be with the sinner; ministering to the humble, the lowly, and the ones who are broken and poor in spirit. Jesus would attract the needy, and the impoverished, and would favor those of low esteem. The Lord opposes the proud, and the self-righteous and all those who would justify themselves with their religion, or exonerate their iniquity by reason of moral goodness. Jesus would probably rebuke such as these, just as He rebuked the Pharisees in His day. Matthew 23:13-36.

For the Lord of hosts will have a day of reckoning Against everyone Who is proud and lofty, And against everyone who is lifted up That He may be abased. —Isaiah 2:12 NASV

Do you not know that every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord? Truly they shall be punished! Proverbs 16:5. Repent of your pride, arrogance, and self-righteousness. Humble yourself before God in the fear of the Lord that you may be exalted. Cast away your haughtiness, and put on the cloak of the righteousness and holiness of Christ. Bow down before the throne of God, and exalt the Lord, that you may escape His judgment in the day of wrath.

And I will betroth thee unto me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord.

—Hosea 2:19-20 KJV

Children, abandon your heart and life to Jesus in love, and allow the love of God to move you to serve your Lord. Walk on in the fear of the Lord, and obey His commandments. Live the love of God, and be imitators of Christ. Be yourselves holy, abiding in the Spirit, and conformed to Christ, so all may see God and find the way. Look to the needs of all of God's children, and have compassion toward those without. Turn to the poor and the lowly, for in such is a great harvest. Go into all the world and labor in the fields of the Lord. Come together as one, bound by the same faith, and united in the Spirit of Truth. Shine forth the light of God's love and grace to the world, so by all means that may be the mark of Christ's Church.

If there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ. —Philippians 2:1-5 NASV

THE WORDS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love, where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console, to be understood, as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD
THE VISION

BELIEVERS IN JESUS—TO FOLLOW
CHRIST IS TO WALK IN HIS WAY—
TO ABIDE IN CHRIST IS TO BE
CONSECRATED TO HIS PURPOSE
FOR OUR LIVES

The Lord is above all things. His ways are right. We are called, as Christians and as His Holy Church, to place the Lord above all things in our hearts and lives, and serve Him only. We are to do all our things in love, and walk in righteousness, holiness, and godliness. Some things are of God, and some things are not, but we are to follow His way, and do the things that please Him.

We are all called to abide in His will.

Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent,
and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right,
and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall
fall therein. —Hosea 14:9 KJV

To see the truth and know God's ways we need to humble ourselves before Him in the fear of the Lord. If we desire to know the things of God, and His wisdom, we need to come to Him with a contrite heart and a broken spirit. For pride blinds the mind and hardens the heart. Only one with a humble mind and a lowly heart can see. When we exalt the Lord in reverence, and when we bow down before Him in worship, we shall apprehend the things of God. Wisdom is found in humility, and truth is seen by the lowly. Hope comes to a broken spirit. A heart of compassion is from the Lord. And a servant is one who is surrendered to Christ's Lordship, and His will.

Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart
from evil is understanding. —Job 28:28 KJV

Let us walk in the fear of the Lord, and do what is right before Him. Let us fully give Jesus our hearts, abandon our lives, and follow His way in surrender to His purpose for our lives. May we die to ourselves and remain continually broken before our Lord, in humility seeking the things of God; that we would be able to wisely and with understanding carry out that to which we are called, and be not turned aside to any cause but Christ.

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into
the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it
bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it; and he who
hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal. If any

one serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall
My servant also be; if any one serves Me, the Father will
honor him. —John 12:24-26 NASV

May our works be the evidence of our love for our Lord, that the Father may look down upon us and honor us with His favor. May we work for that which is eternal, keeping our eyes on Jesus, being committed to the path He has called us to, and walk that road to glory.

Even everyone that is called by my name: for I have created
him for my glory... —Isaiah 43:7 KJV

We were created to glorify God, and to have fellowship with Him— all mankind was. The end of all our works is to glorify God. Whether we share the gospel, feed the poor, or work to support our families, we are to do so to glorify God. We are to glorify God, and God alone.

Can we glorify God and man? Can we glorify the Lord Most High and some other god as well? Will God be glorified if we work in the flesh for some worldly endeavor outside the will of God? No!

It is much preferable to fail at what we may set ourselves to, than to bring glory to any but the one true God. All of our things must be done according to Scripture, within the will of God, and by the leading of the Spirit of the Lord. The outcome is up to God, not man. The end does not justify the means to that end! If the work is of the Lord, then the outcome must be left in His hands. Whatever desires or intentions we may have must be tempered by the ensample of Jesus, the word of God, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
—John 14:20 NASV

In Jesus Christ, and through your own personal intimate relationship with Jesus Christ is the one and only way to have fellowship with God. We who are the chosen of the Lord are one with God, united in Christ by His Spirit. Every other way is a lie, and shall not bring you into fellowship with God. You can not enter into heaven unless you are born of the living water of God and the Holy Spirit of the Lord. Romans 3:5.

Religion is man's way to justify one's self with God— Christ Jesus is God's way to reconcile himself with man. True Christianity is not a religion but a life in Christ Jesus through the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit. Some hold to the facade of Christianity while they deny the Lord their heart and life. They are liars, and hypocrites, and have not the truth within them. These shall have no place in God's Kingdom.

Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to
render to every man according to what he has done.

—Revelation 22:12 NASV

Can we so easily disregard the souls of those that are perishing, or turn away from those in need? Shall we, because of our lack of love become blind to the despair of others? Have we in the poverty of our compassion hardened our hearts to their cries?

Will we awaken from our sleep in time to see the truth of Christ's way, and recover ourselves from our own errant ways, that we may escape His judgment?

When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth? —Luke 18:8 KJV

Man's heart is already growing cold, you can see it every day. You look into the eyes of the lost, and see the death. They unveil themselves by their lies. You see the prophecies being fulfilled before your eyes. How is it then that some of you can not read the signs of the times?

Now is the season. The end of days anon.

The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

—Matthew 13:41-43 KJV

Let us prepare ourselves therefore, and hope in the coming of the Lord. For the time is at hand, and the end of all things is near. The revelation of Jesus Christ will soon be upon us. Now is the time for all of us as Christians to lay down our lives for our Lord. To give ourselves for His gospel, and unto His will.

Blessed is the one whom the Lord shall find doing His will, working in the fields of the Lord.

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles and oracles of God... —Hebrews 5:12 KJV

Have we come so far, and do not see the way of Christ? Are we so learned, and still do not understand the things of God, and what He has called us to?

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. —II Corinthians 5:18 NASV

We as the Church are to work to reconcile the lost to God. Any thing that gets in the way of that, is not of God! The Lord does not work at cross purposes, and we are not to do anything to hinder that which He has called us to. We are to work in harmony with the Holy Spirit, and one with another. Banded together in purpose, with one aim. To fulfill the will of God.

Let us do all of our things in love therefore, and be a light unto the way of Christ Jesus our Lord.

As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

—Romans 10:15 KJV

We are called to go out into all the world and preach the gospel of Christ. To reach out to our neighbor who is lost and in darkness. There are millions perishing without Christ. Still we stay at home and do nothing. Can that be of God?

Christians all over the earth are being persecuted and martyred today for their faith. Let us therefore pray for a heart for the lost, and to share the good news. Let us lay down our lives for our Lord, and freely shed our blood for the Kingdom of God. Christ was a man of sorrows. So, let us not turn away from the sorrows and the sufferings of our Lord.

Jesus began His ministry by reading the prophesy of Isaiah: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

—Luke 4:18-19 KJV

All who are one in Christ are called to this same ministry. We who are truly Christians, the chosen of the Lord, have the same anointing. Whereby in the name of Christ Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit of God, we are set apart to the same tasks. As we are to be followers of Jesus, we are in like manner to be imitators of Him, and His ministry. To be of Christ is to be as He was on earth.

Hearken my beloved brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs to the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him? —James 2:5 KJV

The Lord has called His Church to be ministers to the poor, and those in need. We are to turn and help the impoverished masses, for within them is a great harvest. They are fertile ground for the Lord's seed.

There are rivers of tears that flow over the earth, and clouds of despair that encompass the world. Heaven weeps and mourns the suffering and the human carnage. God is pleading with us to go unto them.

Do justice to the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and needy. —Psalms 82:3-4 NASV

How can we proclaim the Lord, and allow our neighbor to go hungry? How can we speak words of love, and not care for those in need?

There are many who walk the streets of our cities, and are forgotten by the church. Poor people are hungry, starving, and dying. There are numerous souls without anyone

on this earth who loves them, or so much as cares about them. A great assemblage with manifold burdens that weigh them down. They cry out to us. Do we care? Where are the called of the Lord? Do you care?

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. —Matthew 6:19-21 KJV

Do you spend your time in carnal pleasures and idle pursuits while the world around you perishes? Do you spend your money on that which is needless, feeding your fleshly desires? Do you withhold your alms from the one you call your Lord? Will you let go of your life for the sake of Christ?

Repent of your idolatrous apathy, and your worldly lifestyle.

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

—Matthew 6:24 KJV

When we give our heart to Jesus, and surrender ourselves to His Lordship of our life, we give up our right to all we have. To inherit eternal life is to give up our life here on earth. To be Christ's disciple is to give Him all you possess. Our life, our time, our plans, our money, and all that we own. Everything!

So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple. —Luke 14:33 KJV

Remember the words to the old song? "All to Jesus I surrender. All to Him I freely Give."

Sell that which is useless, which weighs you down, that you may be free from your idols and your fleshly bonds. Invest not in the insecurity of riches, but believe in God's promise to provide for you, and trust in Him. Give to the poor, and lend yourself freely to the needs of others.

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. —Psalm 41:1 KJV

Open your heart to the helpless and give to the poor. Invest in the kingdom of God, and apply your efforts to the benefit of others. Give, and it shall be given to you. Luke 6:38. Give to the poor and follow Jesus, and you shall have treasure in heaven. Matthew 19:21.

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. —Psalm 34:18 KJV

God looks to the humble and the lowly, those broken and poor in spirit. No one comes to know the Lord in pride. He has favor upon the poor and troubled. He cares for those who hunger and are in need. For it is when one is broken and in need that they turn to the Lord for help.

Christ is reaching out to the sinner, and the needy. He hears the crying of the broken hearted, and those in despair. Should we not have the same heart and mind as our Lord? Shall we not do the same things? Will we say that we love the Lord, and not love our neighbor? How can we glorify Him if we do not do His will? Can we dwell in God and not have His love in our hearts?

I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

—John 5:42 KJV

You who speak of life but deceive yourselves, sowing seeds unto death. Do you not know that you will reap what you sow? You who do not care about others, and ignore those in need, even those of the household of the faith. Do you not fear God? You who turn from the poor, and those lost in darkness, hardening your heart to their cry. Do you hold in contempt the commandments of the Lord?

You may believe you are right, but you know you are wrong.

Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, cause thy face to shine;
and we shall be saved. —Psalm 80:19 KJV

Fall down before the Lord God, and tremble. Fear the Lord, and repent of your ways, for the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord will soon be upon you.

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in
the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

—I John 4:17 KJV

Brothers and sisters, do not only think on what you can gain from the Lord, but what you can give as well. It is not wrong to seek His blessings. On the contrary, He wants to bless you abundantly. It is His joy to bless you when you seek Him with a pure heart. So seek the Lord because of your love for Him, and not just for your needs. Give without thought to receive.

The Lord wants you to give Him your heart, and your life. Live in holiness and righteousness. Be as He is. Live the life of Jesus Christ. Become a servant of God.

It's like two sides of the same coin. On one side is a likeness of the one it honors, on the other, an image that represents Him. On the one hand we are to be Christ like, and on the other, we are to represent Him on earth. They go together, and cannot be separated. To honor the Lord is to serve Him. One cannot be like Christ, and not serve the Father.

Those who are the chosen of the Lord, are His Church, and Christ's representatives here on earth.

Follow Me. —John 21:19 KJV

I Pray the love and compassion of God will fill your heart to overflowing, that you step out and find the riches of joy and happiness in service to the Lord. For therein, the words of your lips shall be established by your good works, and you will be a witness to the love of God.

You shall be more blessed when you give, than the one who receives that which you have given.

If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

—John 13:17 NASV

Let us do the things of God, and hold to the narrow way. May we as Christ's body have the clarity of purpose that Christ also has, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into all righteousness. Jesus gave us the ensample that we, as Christians and as His Church, are to emulate. His desire for us as a body of believers is to do as He did. He wants us to have compassion for all, and illuminate the path to God. Love those that are without, and draw all peoples of the world to Him.

How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the Lord. How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart. They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways.

—Psalms 119:1-3 NASV

To hold to the way of Christ is not only a matter of what we do, but what we do not do. The mark of Christ's ministry was in what He did, and how He did it; as well as what He did not do, and why.

Awaken to what was committed to His way, and what was omitted.

Jesus devoted Himself to the work of God, and the building of His Church. He walked along the straight and narrow way. He worked at accomplishing God's will.

Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

—Matthew 7:14 KJV

As Christians, and as the Church of Christ, we must with all clarity be a true reflection of the way of Jesus. We can not cast a shadow over the Gospel. We must not obscure the light of Christ. The world should behold the Church, and the Christian, as if they were looking at Jesus Christ Himself.

The focus of the world has to be on Jesus Christ the Messiah, and His Gospel!

To use the Church as an organism or an organization for a political or social cause is not only a corruption of the Church's purpose, but also diverts the assembly from God's will, and the world from seeing the way of Christ.

It is crucial for the Church to understand these things. We as His body are called to commit ourselves to His way, and omit from our teaching and works that which is not of God, that which is not compatible with the purpose to which we are called. It is essential we know these things so that we can be conformed to His will for us.

We are called to a singular purpose, that is, the work and ministry of Christ! Called to be imitators of Jesus and do the work of our Lord. We must not compromise our calling!

Each and every one of us must seek God and search our the scriptures for what they say, and what they do not say as well, without prejudice of mind or corrupted hearts. We need to do so without an eagerness to portray or view what is written in order to support an agenda, or to justify a cause.

We must, as Christians and as a Church as a whole, carefully and prayerfully perceive the truth of what Jesus did, and what He refrained from doing.

We are bound to do those things He Himself did, and keep ourselves from that which He abstained from.

We as Christians are to be followers of Christ, to do as He did!

Our duty is to clearly comprehend what Jesus did, and what He did not do, and why—to go so far and no further. Hold to the work and the ministry of Christ, for anything beyond that shall not further our Lord's will or His Kingdom.

We as Christians and as His Church need to have the clarity of purpose and purity of desire that our Lord also has, and follow His ensample that He gave to us while on earth.

You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.

—Matthew 4:10 NASV

We are to worship and praise our Lord, and God, and Him alone! We are to reserve our reverence for God, and devote ourselves to His purposes. To live according to His will, and do that which He is calling us to.

Many have forgotten the worship of the Lord, and to lift up His name in praise. Many have lost the fear of the Lord.

Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

—II Corinthians 6:17 KJV

While there is some disagreement about what this scripture means, we can reasonably assume some basic truth.

We as the Church and as Christians are not to be joined together with those who are not believers, or those of the world; and we are to abstain from all forms of idolatry.

Now idolatry is the adoration, reverence, and devotion to anyone but God, or anything not of God. We are to exalt our Lord alone, and devote ourselves solely to Him, His purpose for us, and those things that are of God.

How long will you judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? —Psalm 82:2 KJV

How dire the consequences when we join with those of the world, and be conformed to their ways for the sake of a cause. For what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness. What communion has light with darkness? II Corinthians 6:14. What cause is there that sets us free to disobey the Lord? What shall our witness as the Church be if we are seen to be the same as the world? Has not the light of Christ been clouded? Has the Christ in us become overshadowed by the darkness that now enfolds the world?

This is abhorrent to God. We as the Church are to be set apart by ourselves alone. We as Christians are not to join with any one that is not of Christ for any cause! We as Christ's Church are not to join together with any other entity, or be conformed to their ways for any reason. It goes against all that the Lord has called His Church to. Jesus did not teach us political or social theory, or entreat us to become active in such causes, but rather to be about the work of God.

Let us not muddy the waters, or hinder our message. May we no longer look with the

eyes of the dead. Let us as the Bride of Christ be set apart that all may see the Lord in us, and in our ways. May we give no one cause to reproach us for our worldly ways, but lay open to all the opportunity to come to the Lord.

May we as the Church be seen as an image of Christ. The image of love!

Do not love the world, nor the things in the world.

—1 John 2:15 NASV

There is only one institute that is of the Lord, His Church! There is only one Church, one Body, and family of God—The Bride of Christ! There is only one hope, one calling, and one way.

As Christ's Church, we are not called to change the world, but to lead the lost out of it, to Christ. We are to be a lighthouse unto the world, so they which are in it may find the way to Christ.

Although we must for a time reside in this world, we are not to take part in its ways, or be conformed to it. We cannot join together with those of the world and accomplish the things to which we are called by God to do.

All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.

—1 Corinthians 10:23-24 NASV

To the pure of heart, all things are pure. Titus 1:15. Each of us are to be led by God, and walk according to our own conviction.

However, let us first consider the benefit of others. May we be continually in prayer for God's wisdom to show us her way when we deal with those outside the fellowship of Christ and His Church.

May we, each and every one of us, be fully persuaded that what we do is within the will of our Lord. Let us as individual Christians, and as congregations, hold ourselves accountable to the word of God, and conduct ourselves in the wisdom of the Spirit. Be free to do whatever you believe is within the will of the Lord, according to your own conviction and the word of God. For we do have great freedom in the Lord. However, I entreat you, prayerfully enter into all things and walk in the leading of the Holy Spirit of God, and the fear of the Lord.

God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

—Luke 16:15 KJV

What hypocrisy and deception to promote morality to those who are not redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God, or to preach righteousness and religion to those who are not born of God. This is not of God! No one shall be saved by their works. Christ removed the burden of religion and works from us. Shall we lay this burden upon others? It is through Him alone we have been justified. Shall we be as the hypocrites who justify themselves with their religion? Righteousness, holiness, and godliness are

found in Christ, and endowed upon man by His Holy Spirit. Shall we put a desire for a moral world over the desires of the Lord, and the souls of man?

Let us deal wisely with those of the world, and not lay burdens upon them that we ourselves can not bear. Let us love our fellow man, and not thwart them. For the Lord does not wish that any should perish, but that all would come to repentance. II Peter 3:9. And we are to have this attitude in us as well. We are to reach out to the sinner in love, not condemn them for their sins. We are to lead them to repentance in Christ, that they may be renewed by the work of the Holy Spirit, which shall bring about righteousness, holiness, and Godliness.

We are not to strive to change them by a doctrine of morality, religious dogma, and the commandments of man. We are not to try to reform them, but allow them to be transformed by our Lord. For through the flesh is no one justified. Galatians 2:16.

If we fight our battles on the basis of the morality of man the only thing we will accomplish is to arouse a leviathan opposition to our precepts. On the other hand, we through the Spirit of God, shall bring forth fruit unto the Kingdom of the Lord Most High.

This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. But in vain do they worship me. Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men. —Matthew 15:8-9 NASV

Narrow is the road to heaven, and few see the way. Let us not cloud the truth, or turn aside from that to which we are called to do, so as to be a hindrance, a stumbling block, and an offense to the world. Rather, may we be an open door to the truth and the knowledge of God. May we purpose to shine forth the clarity of Christ's Gospel message, and allow the love and the Spirit of God to draw people of the world to Himself.

All righteousness, Godliness and holiness is a witness, praise, and glory to God. Morality is the glorification of man and the works of man.

Man's heart must change before the world will change. The Lord looks to one's heart. He wants a person's heart to be His so the Holy Spirit will be free to work to change that one. We who are one in Christ, the children of the Lord, are to follow the way of our Lord Jesus and work to turn the heart of man towards God.

The Lord looks to the individual, to his heart, and to his needs. He wishes to minister to him according to what is essential to God's purposes, and his requisite longings.

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps. —I Peter 2:21 NASV

Let us not further any cause but Christ, His kingdom, and His Gospel. Let us testify of His life by being followers of Him, and lead the sinner by the hand into the knowledge of the truth, and in the love of God. May we be as Jesus, conformed to His purpose according to the will of God. Do not compromise our witness by being embroiled in the affairs of this world.

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. —II Timothy 2:4 KJV

Often we find ourselves absorbed into popular causes to the detriment of our purpose as the Church. So easily have we been misdirected by this wind or that one. So many times we fail to see the Lord's way, having been seduced into other things. How commonly do we neglect the eternal for the temporal!

Let us no longer be blind to the truth, or thwarted from our Lord's purpose for us. For our cause is not moral, or political. Our cause is Christ! We are not sent to make the world over, but to make disciples of all the nations. Matthew 28:19. Our commission is not to preach morality and the religion of works, but the Gospel of Christ, which leads to freedom from the bonds of such things. Whereby, the holiness, godliness, and righteousness of God will be made real in the lives of all those who have given their heart to Jesus.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. —Hebrews 12:14 KJV

We are to be at peace with the world, as much as it depends on us. Though for us to follow peace with all, we can not, we must not take sides. For us to be approachable ourselves, we must approach those of the world with love, acceptance, forbearance, and humility.

Behave in a godly manner, and do not be at odds with them over the affairs of the world, or judge and condemn them for their sins. We are to try to befriend them, not estrange them.

Remember the story of the adulteress woman. Jesus replied to the Pharisees

He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. —John 8:7 KJV

Christ did not condemn her, nor could anyone else.

Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. —Luke 7:47 KJV

Those who have come to Christ from the world understand the world. They can empathize with those in it, and look beyond their failings. They love more, and tend to condemn less, for they have committed the same acts. Perhaps they can more fully comprehend the forgiveness of Christ, which brings about a greater love for God. When one is so lowly, the cleansing and renewing work of the Holy Spirit in one's heart and soul is much more evident to one's eyes. Whereby we know that it is through the righteousness, godliness, and holiness of the Lord that any good thing may be found within us. This is true of any of us. For all are unworthy. Any righteousness or good thing that is within you as a Christian is from God. Religion and the morality of man is nothing more than dead works.

Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

—Matthew 10:16 KJV

In some things, to be righteous is a matter of the way we do them. In other things, there is no way to be righteous. For there are some things we are called to, and some things we are not to do. Especially as Christ's Church!

However, it is the will of heaven that we behave as Christ in all we do. We are to walk in holiness according to God's Holy word, and live in the Spirit, so as to be conformed to our Lord by His Spirit. For us to accomplish His purpose, we must be led by God's Spirit, and allow Him to work in us, and through us. For therein is God glorified, and His will fulfilled.

Therefore, be led by God through His Spirit in all that you do. Live in accordance to all that is in God's word. Prayerfully talk and act in love, as Christ also did. Wait on the Lord and pray. Allow the Lord to fulfill His will in the nations and the Church, and raise up who He wishes. All things are in His hands. Trust in God. Proclaim the Gospel of Christ, and rely on the Holy Spirit to change the hearts of man. For in doing our things in God's way we shall be in God's will.

Let each man remain in that condition in which he was called. Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to be free, rather do that. Brethren, let each man remain with God in that condition in which he was called. —I Corinthians 7:20-21,24 NASV

What an empty lie the cry of "freedom to the people." What the people need is the freedom that is to be found in Christ. The truth of the word, and the Gospel of Christ is what sets men free. For Christ is the living Word, and freedom to all those who believe.

Let us not become entangled in political movements to uplift ourselves or anyone else. This is not of God! For our Lord did not seek to exalt or uplift Himself. Just the opposite. He humbled Himself as a servant, and was exalted by His Father. Jesus did not join with the Zealots to bring freedom to His people. So let us put on the humility of Christ, and lead others to do the same. Let us not seek to uplift ourselves in pride, or counsel others to do so, but walk in fellowship with the sufferings of Christ.

When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. —Proverbs 16:7 NASV

Although we are not called to become immersed in the eternal sea, or the movements of man; we should stand up for the truth, speak out for what is right, and for the things of God. However, let us humbly proclaim the oracles of the Lord in love, being led by His Spirit in all things, and at all times. And let us do so with the gentleness of Jesus. For what shall it profit the Lord, or man, if our ways are outside the will of God?

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world.

—John 18:36 KJV

How fruitless the labors of those who seek to establish the kingdom of the Lord in

this world. Their work will come to nothing. God will not be glorified.

All those who are in Christ, are in His kingdom. Even now we are citizens of heaven. We are no longer of this world. So let us labor for God's eternal kingdom. For Christ did not come to establish His kingdom here on earth, and we are not called to do so either! May we as His Church be a true reflection of His purpose and work while on earth. Let us not stray from the knowledge of the truth, and the way of Christ, but be a light unto His gospel.

Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. —Romans 12:2 KJV

Our healing, our transformation, our renewal, is in Christ through His Spirit, and the word of God. We who are in Christ are being made over into His image. God works in us to conform us to Himself for His purpose. It is His work, rest in Him. He is the Great Physician, trust in Him. He is our counselor, listen to Him. Learn God's word, hold to the truth, and trust in His promises for you. Pray, and allow the Holy Spirit to minister to you. Surrender to his work in you. Seek the Lord for all your needs, and He will bless you with all that is necessary for you to have a joyous, abundant, and victorious life in Him.

Now, this is not to say we are not free to seek medical help, good teaching, or the wise counsel of the brethren. God has given knowledge to man, and we can benefit from it. He works through them to accomplish His work in us. However, we are to seek the Lord first, and must continually listen to Him, so we are not deceived. We must believe and have faith in our Lord. It is essential that each and every one of us know what the Scriptures say, and listen to the Spirit, so we will know the truth and see the way of Jesus. Our Lord wants us to cultivate our relationship with Him directly through prayer, and meditation on His word. We are to rely on Him, for He has begun a good work in us, and is faithful to complete it.

Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

—Romans 16:17 NASV

There is a point, when someone departs from sound doctrine, that we are to no longer have anything to do with them. We are to separate ourselves from those who no longer abide in the truth. Those who openly proclaim that which is contrary to God's word. We are not to tolerate them, or fellowship with them. We are to leave them to their own devices, for they are those who are of their father the Devil.

When He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him: for they know His voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know

not the voice of strangers. —John 10:4-5 KJV

To be bound together with the cults, or to enjoin others to do so is an abomination to the Lord. I speak of those who claim to be of Christ but deny His deity, or do not hold to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Spirit of Truth. Turn from your errant ways, you who are entwined with such as these, and repent from your dealings with them.

Separate yourselves from these apostates!

Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind...

—Matthew 15:14 KJV

We who are the chosen of God, the children of light, the Bride of Christ, we see the apostasy and heresy within the so called Christian community. Do not join together with such as these. They are deceived, and know not the truth. They are not of God. Be forewarned, let all of our dealings with them be led by the Holy Spirit, and with all wisdom and spiritual discernment.

May each Christian, and each congregation, assembly, or organization who is of the Lord, have fellowship with those of the Lord.

They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the world are out of course.

—Psalm 82:5 KJV

While we all have slightly different beliefs, and or various opinions on Scripture, there are some things that are not to be tolerated within the Church. Such things as approving sex outside of a marriage between a man and a woman, worldly ideas not conforming to sound doctrine, humanism, mysticism and or new age philosophy and practices. Those things are from the spirit of the Antichrist, and of darkness. We are to have no association with such things, or those who approve of such things.

Be aware you do not incorporate worldly ideas and concepts into your beliefs, or tolerate them within your congregation. Be wary of philosophy and mysticism, especially you who are young in the Lord, or you who are not yet well grounded in the word of truth and the knowledge of God. For many have been deceived by these things. Do not accept the humanistic ideas of the world, or be persuaded to follow their ways. For many are lead astray from the way, and into following the ways of man. Do not listen to those whose words excite the flesh, evoke your passion, and flatter your pride. Do not follow in their ways!

The enemy loves to destroy the witness and work of the Church through his lies, and the fleshly desires of its people. Satan lives to deceive whosoever he can, through whatever he can use, whenever he can. His is a subtle craft. He attempts to seduce the believer using seemingly righteous, and or the most harmless of things. And he is very good at what he does.

...Shepherd My sheep —John 21:16 NASV

It is essential that the shepherds and elders within the Church know these things and watch for any thing not in keeping with God's Holy word, and the truth of the Spirit of the Lord. Watch over the Children of the Lord, and care for their needs. Lead them into the truth and the love of God.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore,
and repent. —Revelation 3:19 KJV

Turn therefore from those things that are not of God. Take care to avoid that which is not in accord with sound doctrine, and separate yourselves from those who profess it. Turn to the word, and learn from the Holy Spirit, so that you will not be lead astray from the truth. Pray for the wisdom, knowledge, and discernment of God that is revealed to you by His Spirit, and let all you do or believe be fully supported by Scripture.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty
through God for the pulling down of strongholds; Casting
down imaginations, and everything that exalteth itself
against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity
every thought to the obedience of Christ.

—II Corinthians 10:3-5 KJV

Always remember that our battle is against spiritual strongholds of darkness. Our fight is with the Devil. We are called to come out of the world, not go to war with those in it. Rather, we are called to love them. Satan is our enemy, not man. Let us war with the weapons of God for His Kingdom, and not in the flesh for any worldly purpose. Let us be ready to pray, for all of our work is first spiritual. Let us come against the enemy, and bind him, so that our work will be effective.

It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer.

—Matthew 21:13 NASV

May the Church be a house of worship, praise, and prayer, so all of our works will be built upon the power of God. And let us walk in the Spirit of God, being conformed to Christ, so we will be able to accomplish the will of our Lord.

...Peace be with you. —John 20:19 ,26 NASV

Prepare yourselves, Bride of Christ, and keep yourselves pure. Arise and shine the radiance of Christ. Rejoice in praise, and be at peace children. Worship the Lord with all your heart and trust in God, for now is the season of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lay hold of the moment, for the day is nigh.

...Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The
grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

—Revelation 22:20-21 KJV

May we hear the clarion call and look to Christ, to the eternal, and to the will of our Lord.

May we serve our Lord with joy and gladness all the length of our days.

May we all be an image of Christ. The image of love.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

—Numbers 6:24-26 KJV

