

# How To Overcome The Basic Fears Of Man



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the Basic Fears  
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*by B. R. Hicks*



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Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:5-8).

# Preface

This is the second book in a series of lessons that show us how to be successful in various aspects of our relationship with the LORD Jesus Christ as we endeavour and “to be” more like Him and “to do” His Will as He so faithfully did the Will of His Father.

The study in this book deals with the subject of “How to Overcome Fear.” However, before we can concentrate on this particular subject, we must understand “how” to be successful in our learning. This is the only way in which we can achieve our goal of “being” and “doing.”

For this reason, an introductory booklet, “The Three Requisites for Learning *How* to Be Successful,” was written prior to this book and should be read first, before the reader begins the “How to” series of books.

In the booklet which explains the three great requisites for success (either in the natural or in the spiritual realm), we covered the steps in the first requisite for success, which is *learning how*. There are seven steps in the *learning how* process.

1. Learning in *what manner*, which is learning the most effective method, mode, or way of performing or doing something.

2. Learning by *what means*, which is discovering the medium or means or the resources and substances we must use in order to be successful in accomplishing our goal.

3. Learning to *what degree or extent*, which is learning the correct step or the proper degree that comes next as we progress in our learning so that no steps will be left out or by-passed, which would hinder the successful completion of our goal.

4. Learning in *what proportion or quantity*, which is the step that determines the usefulness or the worthlessness of the outcome of what we are trying to achieve.

5. Learning in *what state or condition*, which is learning to look beyond the limits of our finite, weak conditions and to look, instead, to the moral condition or the creative strength of the LORD Jesus Christ and the Will of the Heavenly Father.

6. Learning by *what Name or Title*, which is to understand that God works only for His Holy Name’s sake and for *no* other reason. Our needs and desires do not move God to work in our behalf. He blesses us *only* for His Name’s sake.

7. Learning at *what dear price*, which is seeing, as we strive toward our goal, the smallness of our sacrifice and suffering when we compare them to the sacrifice and suffering that Christ endured so that we might accomplish our goal of “being” and “doing” what pleases our Heavenly Father.

Next, we learn from our booklet that the second requisite for success is in *choosing* to allow Christ to implement, in our heart and life, the “how’s” we have learned. If we do not like what we learn about the LORD, and if we do not find satisfaction in what we learn, we will not use, in our daily life, the knowledge we have gained. If we elect to have Christ implement the knowledge we have gained of Him, He will fulfill the deeds of righteousness of the Law in our life, which is to love the LORD God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbour as ourself.

By following the steps of *learning* and *choosing*, we are brought to the third requisite for success — *to wait on the LORD Jesus Christ to put His passive and active Righteous Obedience within our will*. The *passive Obedience* of Christ brings His *active Righteous Obedience* to birth in our will, which works through our hands and feet, causing us to do good deeds as an expression of our moral obedience to the LORD.

From this condensed explanation of the three requisites for learning *how* to be successful in what we want “to be” and “to do,” I am sure you, as a student of God’s Word, will want to get this introductory booklet which explains

these Principles in greater detail and gives examples which will help in studying the series of “How To” books.

The first book in this series of studies taught us “How to Walk in the Way of the Cross.” This book will show, from God’s Word, “How to Overcome Fear.”

In the three short verses of Philippians 2:5-8, God unfolded the sevenfold picture of the Humility of Christ. Seven is the number of completion. Thus, God gave us a complete picture of the Stairway of Humility that our Saviour, Jesus Christ, descended in order to redeem fallen man and deliver him from his tortuous, terrifying fears.

God has given all believers a command to follow in the Footsteps of Christ. “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that *ye should follow his steps:*” (I Peter 2:21). God has called us to suffer in order to follow in Christ’s Footsteps. Jesus Christ suffered *for us*, voluntarily, as He walked down the Stairway of Humility; therefore, we should willingly, joyfully, and gratefully walk that Stairway in order to understand, in some measure, what He did for us. The Humiliations and Sufferings that Christ endured for us on the Stairway of Humility should cool and comfort our soul in the midst of malicious and cruel sufferings that we encounter while fellowshiping a small portion of His Sufferings.

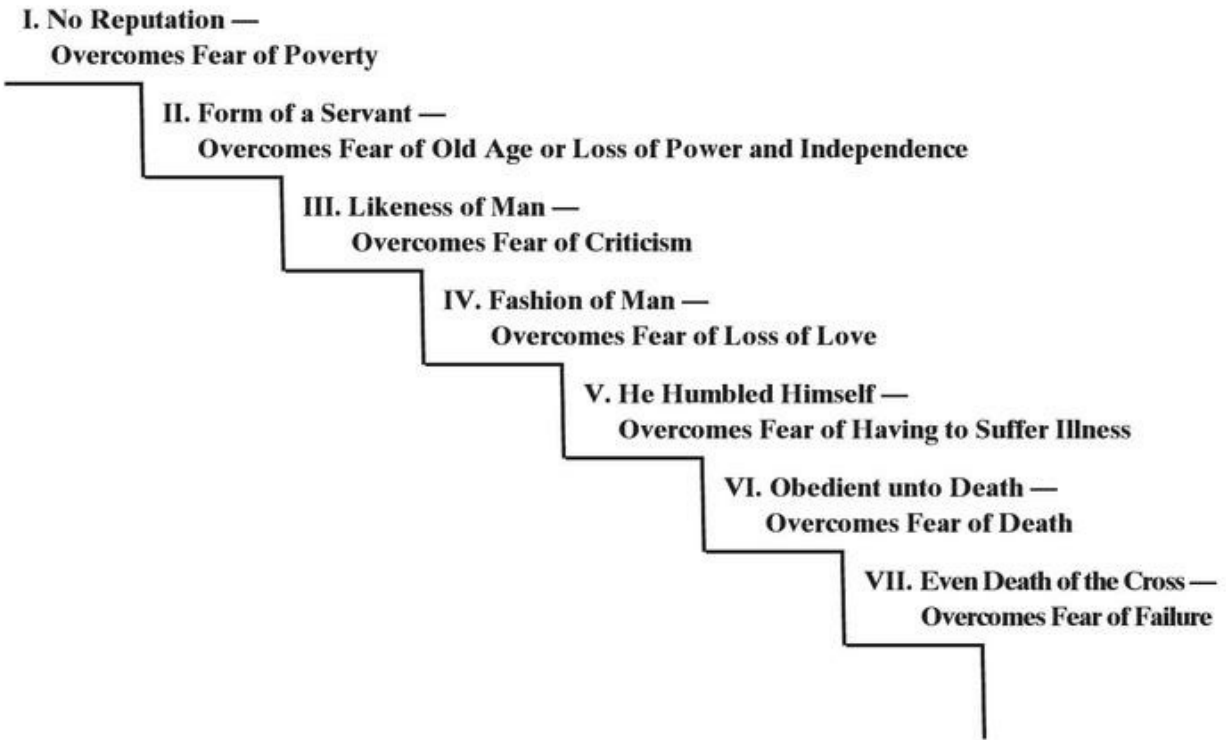
What a privilege God has given us as believers and as followers of Christ, to walk down Christ’s Stairway of Humility and discover His secret Power of Humility that overcomes our vicious fears, leaving us with His perfect Peace, His perfect Love, and His Holy Reverence for the Heavenly Father and His Holy Word. What precious permission we have to lay hold of the priceless, Spiritual Treasures of the Gold of His Wisdom, the silver of His Understanding, and the Precious Stones of His Knowledge which He has hidden in His low, Humble Stairway for His faithful followers.

Many believers, because of the vicious fear and contemptible pride in their hearts, refuse to surrender completely to God, so they do not allow the blessed Holy Ghost to lead them down this glorious Stairway. Consequently, they are the eternal losers. By refusing to surrender to Christ and His Spirit, they fail to possess His precious hidden Treasures of Humility which would free them from their seven basic fears and liberate them into the perfect Peace, perfect Love, and Holy Fear or Reverence of the LORD. All of man’s fears have their origin in pride.

As Jesus Christ descended the Seven Steps of Humility, He conquered the seven basic fears that rule in the proud human heart, which are as follows:

- Fear of poverty
- Fear of old age or the loss of power and independence
- Fear of criticism
- Fear of the loss of love
- Fear of having to suffer illness
- Fear of death
- Fear of failure in the eyes of the world.

We overcome these fears as we walk with Christ down His Stairway of Humility.



Jesus Christ walked the Way of the Cross before us, leaving victory in each Footstep. As we follow His Steps down the Stairway of Humility Surrender to the Father's Will, we will learn "How to Overcome Fear"!

# Introduction

There are two classes of fear: Holy Fear and unholy fear. Faith in God's Holy, True Word produces Virtuous Fear while doubt and distrust of God's Holy, True Word produces vicious fear.

God's Holy Word of Faith produces Virtuous Fear that has enough courage, hope, and trust not to *lose hold* of God in the midst of sufferings, testings, and trials.

Holy Virtuous Fear exercises caution and care when evil and danger are approaching. Our enemy, fallen Lucifer, greatly tempts us by trying to coerce us into abandoning our confidence in God as he (the enemy) beats us round about with solicitous anxiety.

The enemy attacks us with despondent, vicious fear for the purpose of filling our mind and heart with feeble fancies of weakness and helplessness so that he can force us to lose our confidence in the Strength and Power of God. The LORD Jesus Christ came to free mankind from the Devil's slavish, vicious fear.

The Devil fills the heart and mind with dread, horror, and painful apprehension of danger or of some suggested impending evil that may happen. The Devil fills the heart and mind with great abhorrence and dejection of spirit at the thought that we are going to be humbled by the presence of some person, place, or thing. But, when a man walks with God, as Noah did, the LORD promises to put the fear and dread of man on all other animals. "*And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered*" (Genesis 9:2).

God implants the Holy Fear of His Word in us in order to preserve us from Lucifer's sinful, evil fear. The first level of Godly Fear guides us into the right duty because of our apprehension over the promised punishment if we are disobedient. Holy Fear is God's heavenly "bell" which rings in the conscience of the soul and brings the mind into quick awareness and avoidance of the danger of sin and its punishment. The Holy Fear of God is able to deliver us from the fear of the flesh and the Devil.

The flesh and the Devil implant unholy fear in the mind and the heart in order to tyrannize us by raising up phantoms of horror in our imagination that produce superfluous sufferings.

When Adam-male and female sinned, they lost the mastery over the animal world. They lost the peace, unity, and harmony that existed between man and all the other creation. Man was filled, then, with a crippling, paralyzing fear. But, God, through His merciful Word, delivered man by placing a dread and fear of man upon the animals. Animals timidly keep away from man, and, out of fear, they hide rather than attack man.

God's Living Word, the LORD Jesus Christ, will remove all vicious fear out of His Kingdom when He comes again. The leopard and the kid will lie down together, and the child will play in the hole of the asp, and in the den of the cockatrice (Isaiah 11:6-9).

The vicious fear that comes from Lucifer causes the heart to dread God as though He were a horrible Avenger. But, the Holy Virtuous Fear and Perfect Love of Christ cast out all of Lucifer's vicious fear. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (I John 4:18).

Those who believe God's Word, Counsel, and Covenant are established in the Truth of God's merciful Name and loving Nature, which cast out all tortuous and tormenting thoughts and feelings of distrust of God.

The Holy Virtuous Fear or Reverence for God and His Word leads us to avoid everything which offends Him and causes us to endeavour to fulfill His Will in all things.

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:** a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever (Psalm 111:10).

The *feeling* of Holy Virtuous Fear (awe, reverence) is the starting point of true Wisdom. True Wisdom is the reverential recognition of the LORD God as our true Owner and Master.

When God calls His children to serve and follow Him, Lucifer stirs up the timidity, fearfulness, and cowardice of the flesh in order to prevent God's children from obeying the LORD.

When the LORD introduces us to the "Way of the Cross," the Footsteps of His Son, Jesus Christ, Lucifer tries desperately to frighten us and drive us away from Jesus by terrifying and afflicting us with all kinds of dreadful and

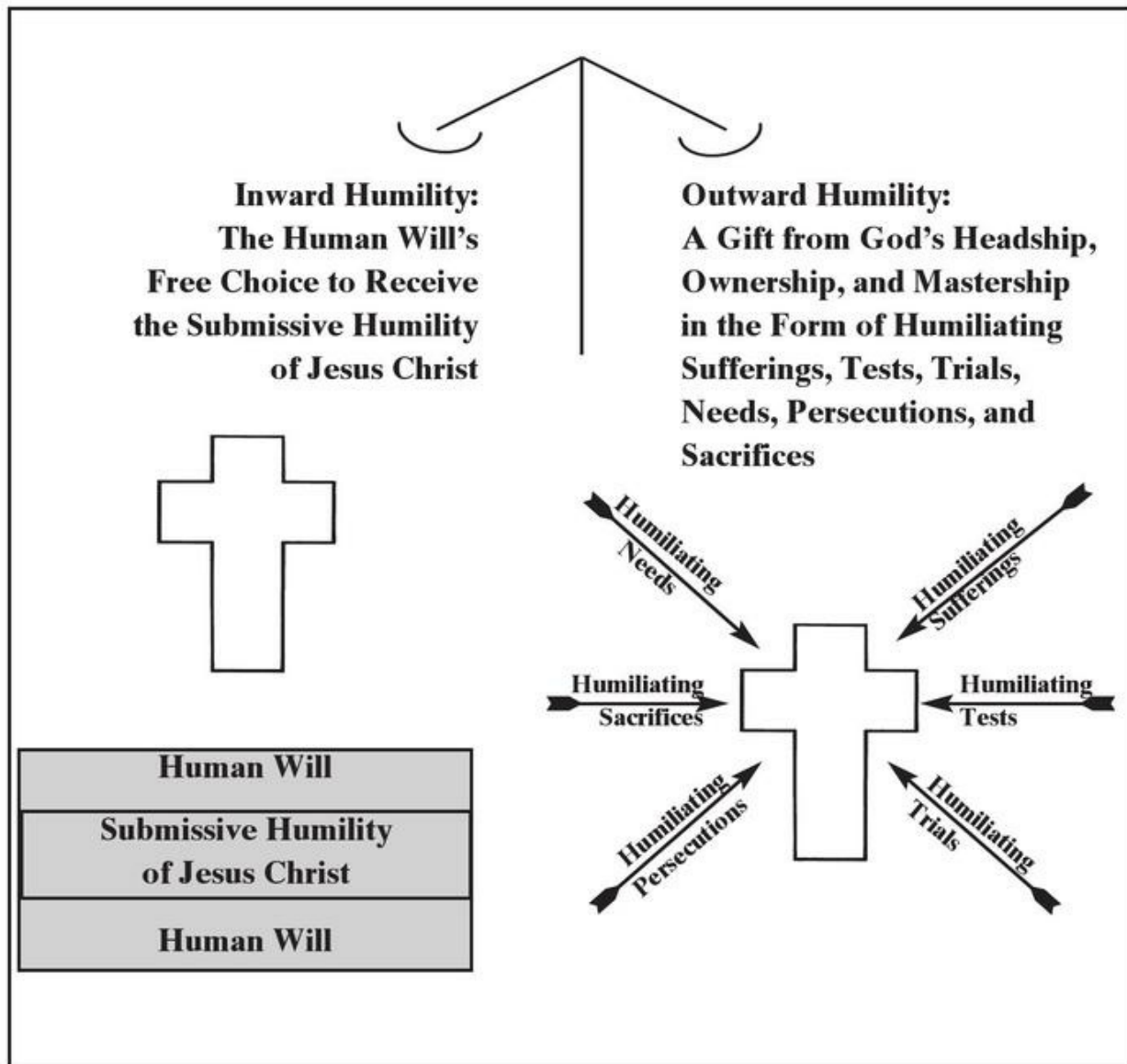
alarming thoughts about what God might either ask us to do or what He might ask us to sacrifice for Him.

This book is a study of the seven vicious fears which plague man: (1) the fear of poverty, (2) the fear of old age, (3) the fear of criticism, (4) the fear of the loss of love, (5) the fear of illness, (6) the fear of death, and (7) the fear of failure. The seven basic fears in man's heart are the reasons for man's despair, dread, and despondency.

The LORD Jesus Christ came in a Body of mortal Flesh and walked down His "Seven Steps of Humility" in order to reveal how we can be liberated from our seven vicious fears and how we can be filled with the Virtuous Fear and Holy Love of the LORD.

There are two kinds of humility — outward humility and inward humility. Outward humility is a Gift from God that comes through humble circumstances, humble situations, and humble experience. Inward humility is the receiving of the Humility of Jesus Christ into the human will, which produces, in the will, the same sweet submissiveness to the Father's Will that Jesus had in His Will.

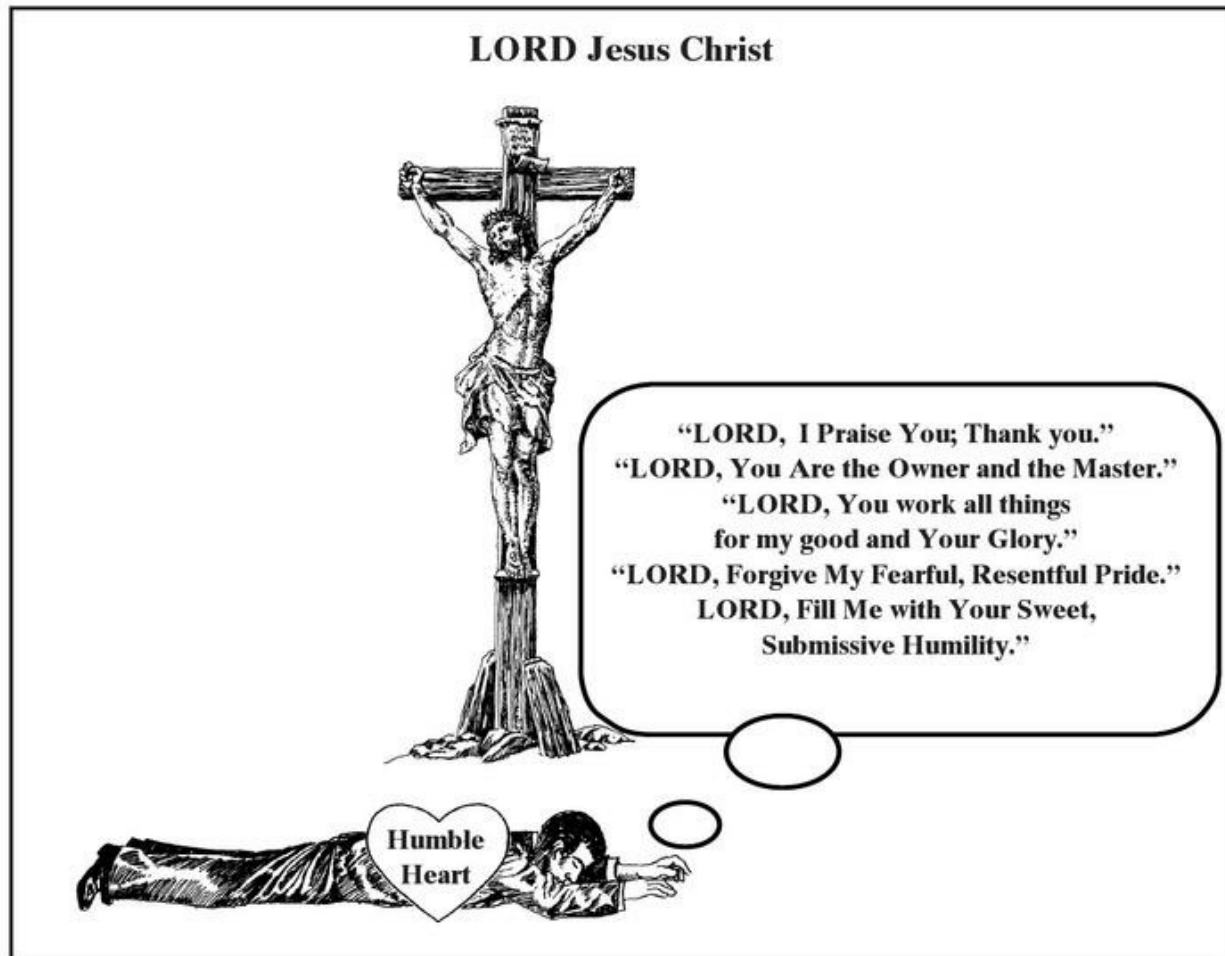
God sends humiliating outward circumstances, situations, and experiences as a Gift to us for the purpose of either revealing the inward submissive Humility of Jesus that already has been wrought within our will or for the purpose of revealing the inward rebellious pride of our own will that has not yet been mortified or crucified.



In some humiliating sufferings, tests, trials, persecutions, sacrifices, and needs, we are able to thank and praise God, maintaining a sweet submissive surrender, proving that we have a portion of Christ's Humility on the inside of

our will. However, there are other times when God's Headship, His Ownership and His Mastership, send us humiliating sufferings, tests, trials, persecutions, sacrifices, and needs, and we discover rebellion in our heart against God's outward Gifts of Humility. Therefore, we murmur and complain, which proves the existence of uncrucified and unmortified fearful pride in our human will.

We humble ourself (1) by bowing ourself low in faith at the Feet of Jesus Christ, (2) by acknowledging that He is the Owner and Master and that He makes all things work together for our good and His Glory, (3) by confessing our resentful, rebellious fear, and (4) by asking Him to fill our heart and will with the sweet submissive Humility of His Passive Obedience.



These steps outline the general Principle of *how* we are to humble ourself on each of the seven steps of the Humility of Christ as we descend with Him on His Humble Stairway.

May the LORD Jesus Christ cleanse and heal the eyes of our understanding so that we can see more and more clearly *how* to humble ourself at His precious Feet.

Jesus Christ is the perfect Example for us to follow in learning *how* to overcome the seven vicious fears that we have inherited from fallen Lucifer through the First Adam. All human beings have inherited these fears which make them afraid to face the Truth about themselves and to face the true God. When Adam-male and female sinned, they began to experience these vicious enslaving fears in their hearts. "And he [Adam] said, I heard thy voice in the garden, *and I was afraid*, because I was naked; and I hid myself" (Genesis 3:10).

Jesus Christ overpowered, vanquished, and conquered these seven vicious fears for us by resisting the Devil, even unto the Death of the Cross.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; **that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death**, that is, the devil; (Hebrews 2:14).

Christ came down and was incarnated in human Flesh so that He could deliver man from the slavish, vicious fear of Death. Because Christ has suffered in the flesh, He is a tender, merciful, and sympathizing Physician Who skillfully can take dominion over our slavish, binding, unholy fear *within*, and He can conquer all of Lucifer's vicious attacks of fear from *without*.

On one side of the Scales, each person is uniquely different; on the other side of the Scales, all persons are commonly alike. In spite of each person's individuality, he commonly shares certain fears with every human being who ever has been born. Fear is man's constant companion, both consciously and unconsciously, from the cradle to the grave, unless one has experienced Jesus Christ's Redemptive Work in his heart.

Hospitals, nursing homes, and mental institutions are crowded with people, many of whom have physical or mental problems that are rooted in *fear*. A measure of temporary relief can be gained by treating the obvious physical or mental disturbance; however, until the *fears* in the patient's heart are dealt with, there can be no long-term healing.

Fears are the lot and fate that unregenerated man has inherited from Lucifer through Adam the First. However, because of our new inheritance, as believers in Jesus Christ, we do not have to allow our vicious and slavish fears to rule and reign over us all the days of our short, earthly existence, chaining us in dreadful bondage and despair. Through the Humility of Jesus Christ, we can gain the victory over these tortuous, tormenting fears. When one reads *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, it is easy to see that the early martyrs had liberating, overcoming power. Our blessed hope of gaining victory over all these seven vicious fears is found in Jesus Christ who already has conquered all of man's fears at Calvary's Cross.

Many believers know that Jesus Christ suffered, bled, and died on Calvary's Cross and, then, descended into Death, Hell, and the grave in order to pay the price for their Salvation and Redemption. Few believers, however, realize that He also experienced every fear known to man.

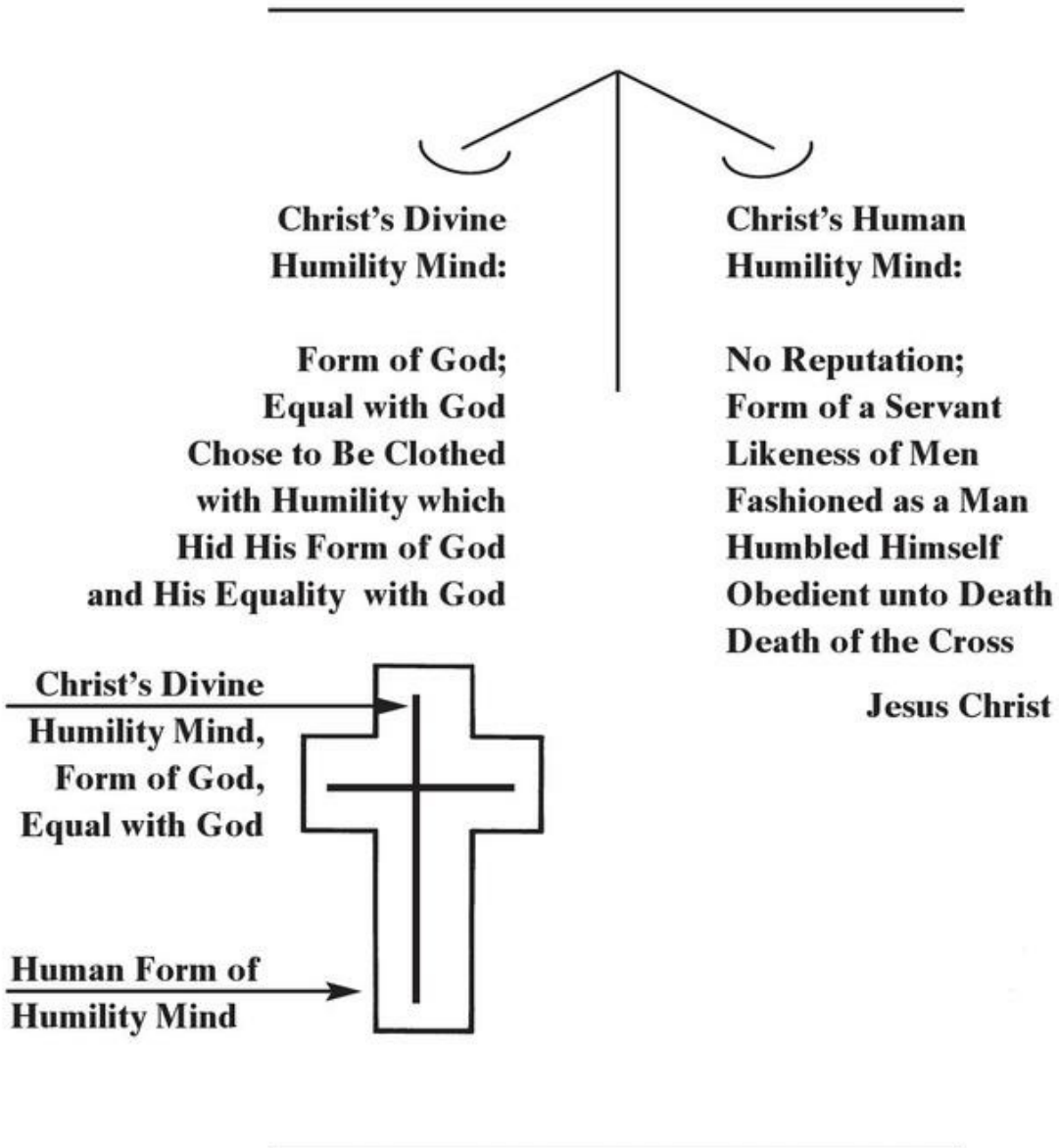
Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. **For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are**, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Jesus Christ executed one part of His Ministry on Earth by giving His Life for us on the Cross. He is executing the other part of His Ministry in Heaven by pleading our cause before the Father. He helps us to overcome because He was touched with *all* our infirmities, including fear; yet He was without sin. Christ was tried with all the tortuous, tormenting fears that are indigenous to our fallen nature, and He overcame them by overpowering the Devil. He is able to minister overcoming Power to all who hold fast to their profession of faith in Him and come boldly to the Throne of Grace to obtain Mercy and Grace that will meet their needs. Jesus Christ walked a Stairway of Humility that led Him ultimately to Death, even the Death of the Cross.

Christ suffered seven degrees of humiliation when He humbled Himself to do His Father's Will on this Earth. Through His Humility, Jesus Christ overcame the seven basic fears which are found in the proud human heart. Thus, He has proven the impotency of fleshly fears and Satanic fears. The steps Christ took as He descended the Stairway of Humility are described in the Book of Philippians.

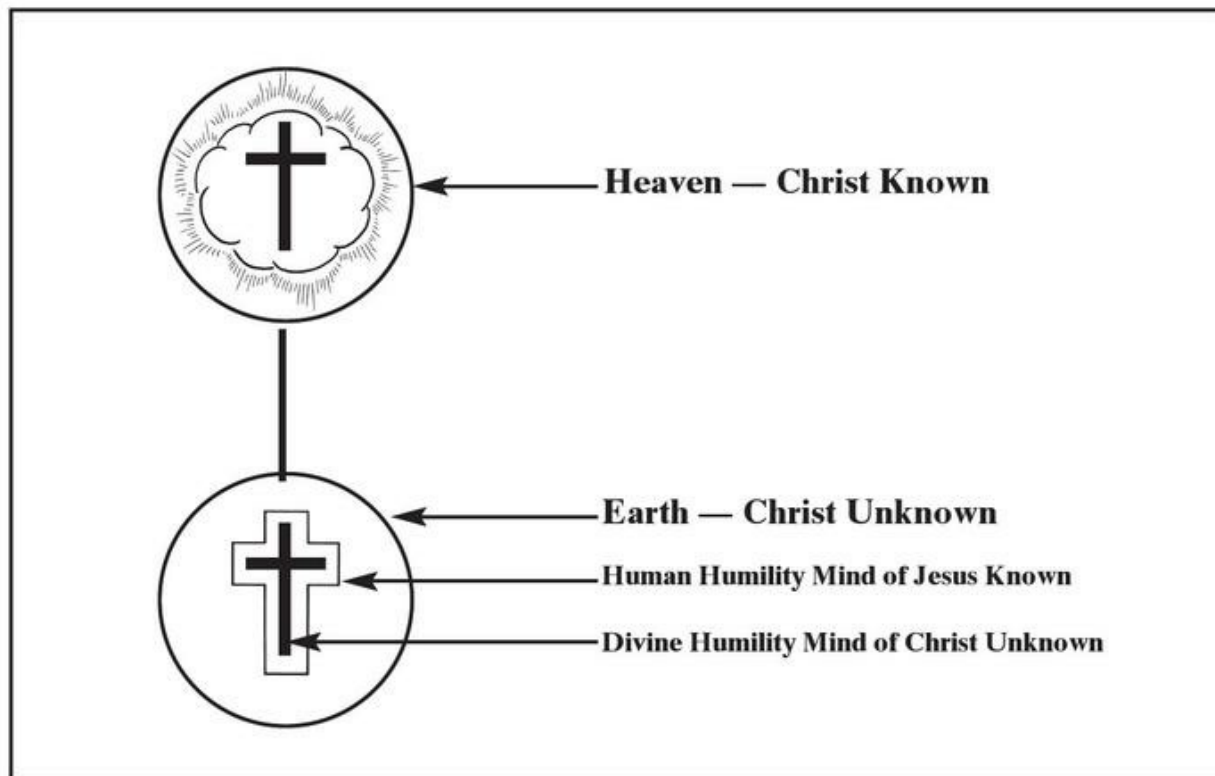
Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:5-8).

Christ had two sides to His Humility Mind: His Divine Humility Mind and His Human Humility Mind.



The Divine Humility Mind of Christ was willing to take on a Humility Human Mind and Form. He was willing to be hidden from His creation who would not recognize Him as Owner and Master because of His Humility Human Mind and Form. Christ, the Divine Humility Mind, the Divine Intelligent Power, by which He conceived new Divine Thoughts, judged, reasoned, willed, imagined, remembered, and performed His intellectual operation, was willing to be “fenced in” by a Humility Human Mind. The Divine Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, and Intellect of Christ’s Soul was willing to be veiled off from human view, to be shut in from human vision, to be *unknown* so that He could make His Father’s Word and Will *known*. The thoughts, disposition, and feelings of the Humility Mind of Christ were willing to be shut out of sight so that the Father could make His Word and Will *known* through the Human Humility Mind of Jesus.

God the Father made His Word and His Will known in Heaven through the Humility Mind of Christ. Then, God the Father asked the Humility Mind of Christ to be *unknown* while He made His Word and His Will *known* on Earth, through the Humility Human Mind of Jesus.



Christ Jesus' Humility Mind was paradoxical. He was humbly willing either to be *known* or to be *unknown*, according to the Will of the Father.

How diametrically different is our prideful carnal mind. If it is God's Will for us to be *unknown* and take on the Divine Humility Disposition of Christ that is passively willing and obedient to the Will of the Father, we rebel because we are frightened that we will spend the rest of our life in the *unknown* state. If it is God's Will for us to be *known* and take on the Human Humility Mind of Christ Jesus, His Humility Will, His Humility Desire, His Humility Intention, and His Humility Suffering, we rebel because we are frightened that we will lose our reputation before corrupt mortal creatures.

Christ's Humility in both the *known* and *unknown* was lowly, meek, and submissive to the Father's Will, both in Heaven and Earth. Christ's Divine Humility Mind was the *only* Creative Mind in Heaven through which God worked, and Christ Jesus' Human Humility Mind was the Redemptive Mind through which God chose to work on Earth. The Divine Humility Mind of Christ did not hold such a high opinion of Himself and His own Powers that He thought His Father was constrained to work the same way on Earth as He did in Heaven.

Christ's Humility Mind humbled itself and brought itself down from the lofty place in Heaven, as the Creator of all things, to the lowly place on Earth in the Virgin Mary's womb in order to put on the Humility Garment of His Human Body, with its accompanying Human Humility Mind. Christ, when He was in the form of God and equal with God, humbled Himself by condescending to take upon Himself the form of man, the Human Humility Mind, so that God's new Word and Will could be made known. God's new Word and Will could be made known only by the Humility Mind of Christ Jesus as He descended the Seven Steps of Humility: (1) no reputation, (2) the form of a servant, (3) the likeness of men, (4) the fashion as a man, (5) humbled Himself, (6) obedient to Death, and (7) even the death of the Cross.

Jesus taught us to pray that God's Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. God lifts us up into the Heavens in Christ to teach us the Divine Humility Mind of Christ, which has one desire and purpose, and that is to be One with the Father. Then, God lowers us back down to Earth, with its carnal situations, so that we, too, might clothe the Divine Humility Mind of Christ with the Humility Human Mind of Christ Jesus that is willing to suffer, humble itself, and give its life for the Word of God and the Will of God.

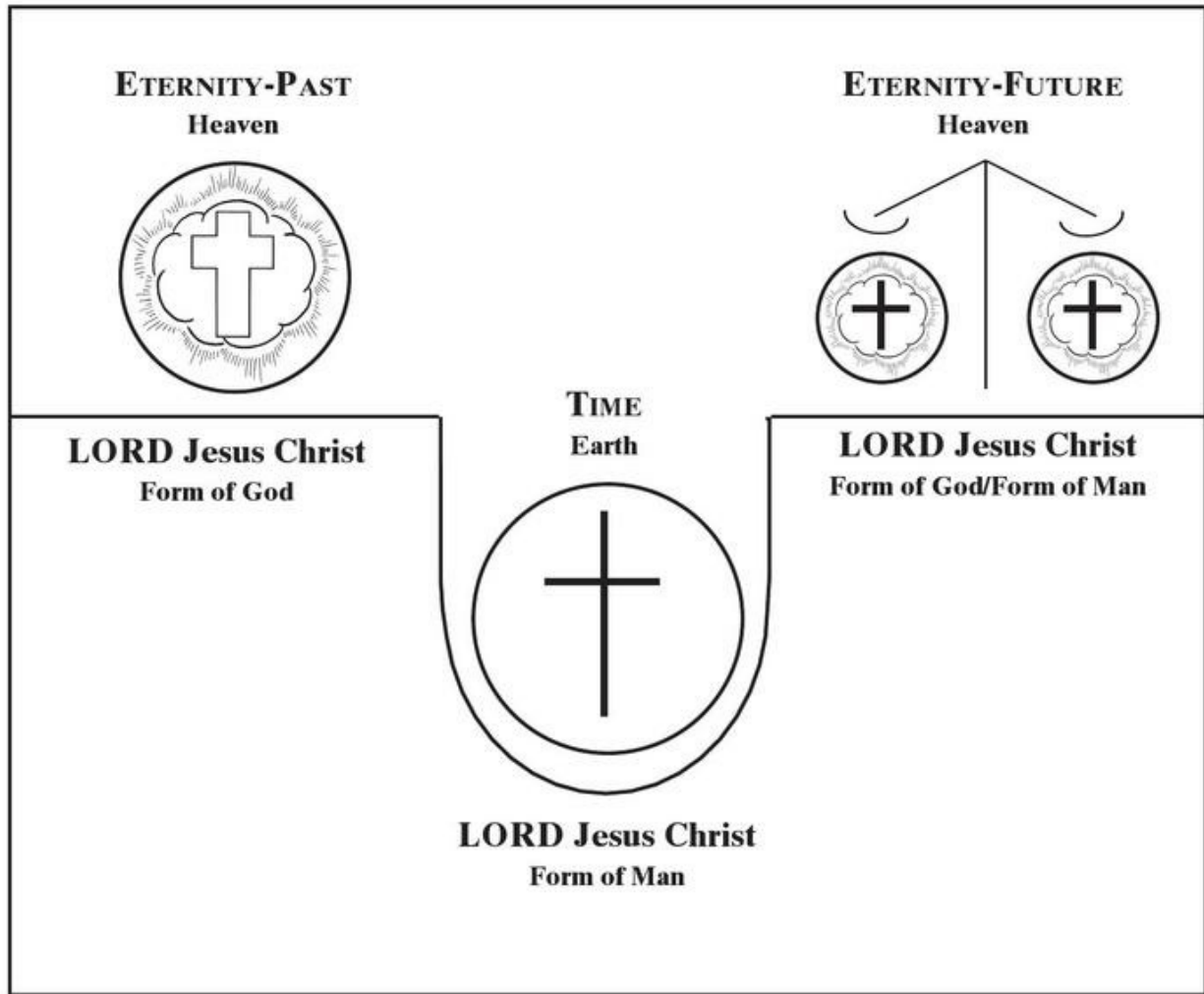
Jesus lifted Peter, James, and John up, as it were, to the Mount of Transfiguration and wrought with them until they saw no creature (man), not even glorified Moses and Elijah, but only the Divine Humility Mind of Christ. Then,

He lowered them down, as it were, to Earth's valley of suffering and shame to walk with Him to the Cross, thus giving them the opportunity to clothe the Divine Humility Mind of Christ that was in them with the Humility Human Mind of Christ Jesus. However, at that point in their spiritual journey, they denied Him, forsook Him, and fled from Him because they did not desire to humble themselves and suffer with Him.

In due season, however, they humbled themselves; thus, the Divine Humility Mind of the Christ, within them, was clothed with Jesus, the Human Humility Mind of Christ, and they became obedient unto death, dying as martyrs for Christ's Sake.

This is why the Spirit of God, through Paul, exhorts us to let *this* Mind (the Divine/Human Mind) be in us, which was also in Christ Jesus.

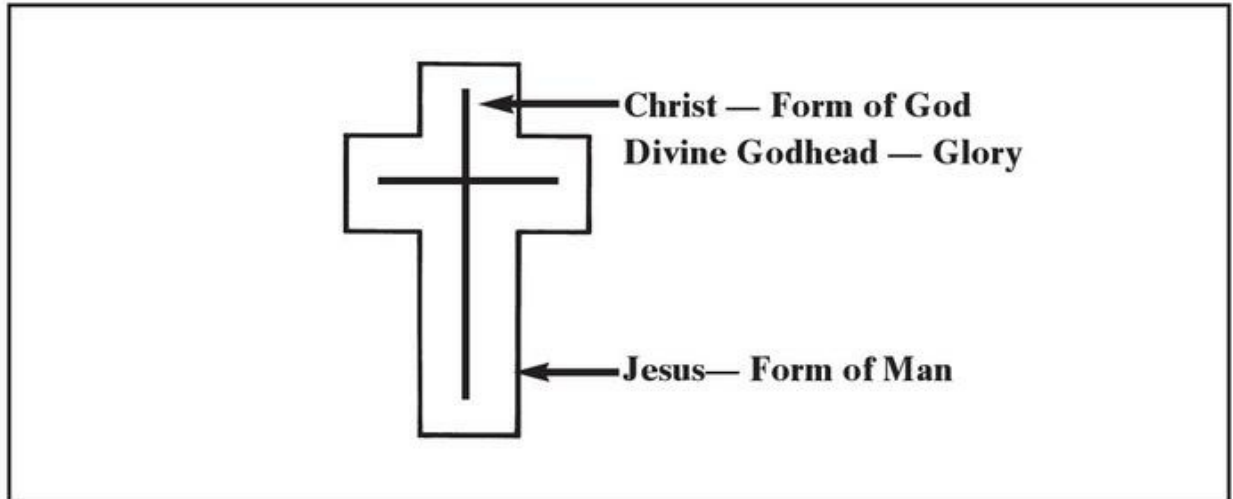
Through His magnanimous Mercy and chivalrous Condescension, the LORD Jesus Christ took notice of sinful man's misery and partook of it by taking on Flesh and Blood and going to the Cross for sinful man. Jesus Christ was in the glorious "Form of God," yet He came down and took upon Himself the inglorious "form of man."



Before Christ came to Earth, He was in the form of God, possessing Majesty, Royalty, Power, and Glory. Christ enjoyed all the Glory, Power, Honour, and Dignity that was due His High and Holy Name in Heaven.

Christ humbled Himself to walk in complete humiliation in order to gain All Power in Heaven and Earth and to walk eternally in complete exaltation.

Christ took on the veil of Flesh which obscured His Divine Godhead within.



Christ emptied Himself of Divine Glory, not by ceasing to be Who He was, but by clothing His Divine Glory with the humble form of a man. Christ assumed something that He previously was not, and this Human form lessened His dignity, outwardly.

In Heaven, Christ thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but on Earth, corrupt human beings thought He was a thief and robber because He said that He was the Son of God. On Earth, Christ made Himself *less* than God by assuming a Human form, and He made Himself even *less* than the good Angels (Hebrews 2:7).

Christ, in His Humanity, was humbled and depressed beyond the ordinary conditions of mortal man. As a baby, He was born of a poor virgin, and He had only a manger for His cradle. As an adult, He had no place to lay His Head; He lived in poverty. This was a voluntary condescension, both on the part of the Father and the Son.

By His condescension, His "no reputation," and His patient suffering which He underwent for God's sake (1 Peter 2:21; Hebrews 12:2), Christ teaches us *how* to humble ourselves and be patient when we have to undergo sufferings and indignities for Christ's Sake. We never can lose as much for Christ's Sake as He did for our sake. We never can suffer self-denial as much for Christ's Sake as He did for our sake. We never can suffer the contempt of the world as much for Christ's Sake as He did for our sake. The Truth of Christ's Sufferings is a great defensive and offensive armour against discouragement during the times we are inclined to believe, in our diseased perception of reality, that our sufferings are unfair, unjust, and altogether too much.

Remember, we are inferior to Jesus Christ. We never can lose as much reputation for Him as He lost for us. He left His Eternal, Holy, and Magnanimous Reputation in Heaven for our sake. The most we can suffer is to lose a little earthly, corrupt reputation for a season, in order to gain an Eternal reputation of being a faithful servant for Christ's Sake.

# Chapter One

## Christ's First Step of Humility: "No Reputation"

### Overcomes the Fear of Poverty

The first step Jesus Christ took on His Humility Stairway was that He surrendered to have "no reputation," which becomes the cure for man's first basic fear, the fear of poverty.

Christ, the Holy Son of God, gave up His Glory, Renown, and Reputation in Heaven, where He was known, worshipped, and adored, in order to come down to Earth, where He was unknown, abhorred, and detested as a vile and unprofitable thing.

Christ's Holy Reputation was assailed and attacked by defamatory and malicious words and malignant indictments and prosecutions. Jesus Christ assumed the place of "no reputation" in the world and was looked upon as a poor, beggarly, abject person. Even His Disciples did not have sufficient esteem and a true enough evaluation of Him to remain loyal to Him at the Cross. They all forsook Him and fled.

What poor mortal creatures want to *believe* us to be decides our *reputation*. What God and His Holy Angels *know* us to be decides our *character*. Jesus was esteemed lowly by ignorant, wicked men, but He enjoyed the highest esteem of His Heavenly Father and His Holy Angels.

Jesus Christ voluntarily made Himself of *no reputation*; that is, He made Himself empty, vain, void, and of none effect. He became *poor* so that we might have power to overcome the fear of poverty and, thus, be made rich in love, faith, joy, and peace in Him. Jesus came into the world and lived as an indigent person, in scarcity of means and substance, in poor and needy circumstances and position. He lived in the lowest poverty but served His Father in the highest deeds of obedience, surrender, and trust.

Outwardly, Jesus appeared deficient in all the qualities or properties which make a person desirable or excellent. Jesus possessed little of this world's treasures. He was destitute of riches. He did not possess sufficient wealth to provide a comfortable place on which to lay His head. "And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head" (Matthew 8:20). God has made provision for the lowest of His creatures; the sly, harmful foxes have dens, and the birds have nests; but the Creator, Owner, and Master had no where to lay His precious Head while on Earth.

Compared to others, Jesus appeared worthless and contemptible. Jesus, the lowly, meek Nazarene, did not fear poverty in the economic, social, nor the religious realm of His day. Therefore, He can give us power to overcome our vicious, enslaving fears in these realms.

When we follow in His Footsteps and grow in our union with His Spiritual Stature, we become joined to His Humility that frees us from our fleshly and devilish fears.

The Jasper Stream of Christ Jesus' Humility washes our eyesight and gives us the insight of clear crystal perception so that we can see through all the outward, false, temporal forms of earthly reputation to the inward Eternal Forms of Truth and Life. Christ's Jasper Stream of Humility opens our eyes to the Eternal Riches of Truth and Life in Him. Then, we gather our precious Treasures and guard them, at any cost, from the rogues known as "earthly reputations," which would rob us of our Eternal Reward. Christ Jesus' Jasper Stream of Humility empowers our eyes with insight to see true Power, true Beauty, and true Value. Therefore, when Lucifer attacks us with his vicious fears, we are not surprised, overwhelmed, or overcome.

Jesus Christ's Jasper Stream of Humility washes the "inner eyes" of the heart, feeding the heart with Truth and Life. Then, the mouth speaks the Truth and Life that the heart has seen and eaten. Thus, Sovereign Order is established in the soul. To achieve order in our soul and life, we must achieve order in the *thoughts* of our heart. When we set our house in order, in the scheme of God's Plan for us, which is to walk in Christ's Footsteps, we begin to experience the cleansing Stream of Christ's Jasper Humility that frees us from fears of our outward

circumstances and frees us from our inward blindness that prevents us from seeing things as they really are in relation to Eternity.

When fear abides in the subconscious realm of our heart, painful circumstances of life force it up to the conscious realm, and, then, fear takes control. But, when we humble ourself and join Jesus on His Stairway of Humility, His Stream of Jasper Humility cleanses and heals us so that we can see the inside nature of vain reputations in the economic, social, and religious realms of this world. This washed-inward-humility eyesight permits us to look forward to the *end*; and we see the unmitigated misery awaiting those who have striven for the vain reputations of this world. On the other hand, we look to the *end* and see the unbounded bliss that awaits those who have striven for all Truth and Life in the Bride of Christ in the New City.

However, the blind, proud human heart fears poverty in the economic realm, the social realm, and the religious realm, so it considers its vain reputation. Greedy human ignorance in the heart reaches out to possess more and more of all the riches of the vain reputations of this world. *Fear of poverty* creates fertile soil in which the carnal mind will plant a whole orchard of evil trees known as fleshly hatred, wrath, strife, envy, and murder.

Man's fear of poverty in the economic realm usually precedes his fear of poverty in the social and religious realm.

## I. Fear of Poverty in the Economic Realm

Our proud fear of poverty in the economic realm often manifests itself in the most subtle ways; nevertheless, it is a faithful, merciless taskmaster. Our pride of reputation and the fear of being classed at a poverty level drives us into tearful oceans of unhappiness or unwise financial decisions as we engage in a fleshly struggle to redeem ourself from a low, humble place. For example, women say, "I don't have a thing to wear," when they really mean they cannot bear to be seen in the same old dress again. Then, they buy clothes on a charge account that neither they nor their husbands can afford. Husbands become angry when they find the bills, and a bitter marital fight ensues because their wives are blind to *inward* Truth and Life. How much better to be dressed in a "new dress" of the Humility of Christ Jesus, on the inside, and dressed in yesteryear's dress, on the outside, and maintain Christ's Joy and Harmony in the home.

Wealthy people also buy houses and land and entertain lavishly for the same reason — to support their vain reputations. Although the wealthy can compete with one another on a more grandiose scale than the poor, they still are driven by the fear of poverty.

Fear of financial poverty also is the reason some people hoard large sums of money while they live miserably in the most destitute and abject circumstances.

True happiness is not dependent upon how many dresses, cars, or houses one owns. Yet, when man is blind, his mind goes through the torments of the damned if he thinks poverty is going to overtake him.

In order to prove that man has nothing to fear from poverty, *Jesus Christ made Himself of no reputation* — financially, socially, and in the religious world. Through His Humility, He has given us power to overcome the fear of poverty. No man ever will be asked to take as great a step down into humility for Christ as He took down into humility for mankind. We never can experience any poverty for Christ that compares to the poverty He experienced for us.

Jesus Christ stepped down from His Throne in Heaven, leaving His Riches, Honour, Glory, and Reputation, and embraced the poverty, dishonour, infamy, and no reputation of a manger in a stable.

And **she** brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7).

If pride had chosen the birthplace of the Son of God, He would have been born in a royal, splendrous palace. Pride would have designed garments of fine linen, silks, and satins in which to wrap the Son of God. Pride would have laid Him in a bed of ivory where royal servants would have ministered to His every need.

However, God's Master Plan for His Son called for the profound Humility of Christ to be unveiled in order to free man from his fears. Mary wrapped the King of Humility in swaddling clothes, which were suitable attire for Him, and laid Him in a suitable bed in the manger. The only Begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ, left all the Honour, Glory, and Reputation, which He enjoyed in Heaven, as the Creator, Owner, and Master of His creation, in order to become a tiny Babe in Mary's arms. He became dependent upon His creation for the care and nourishment of His new "House" of flesh.

It is *normal* for God to expect creation to humble itself and depend upon the Creator, Jesus Christ, for the care

and nourishment of its life. But, it is unmatched and unequalled Humility for the Creator to do what is *not normal* by becoming dependent upon His creation for the care and nourishment of His Life.

Thus, the first step of Christ's Humility took Him far beyond the normal, natural, humility poverty of His swaddling clothes and manger to the unequalled state of being the Creator Who had to experience Humility Dependence upon His created beings for the life of His new "House," His Body of Flesh. The swaddling clothes of His natural creative substance, formed and ministered by the creation, wrapped and covered only the physical Body of Jesus. The Humility Body of Jesus formed the Eternal "Swaddling Clothes" for Christ, the Eternal Word. Although Jesus' Body was Holy, it was a human Body, capable of dying for mankind. Therefore, before His Death, Burial, and Resurrection, Jesus' human Body had not been joined to the Infinity of God with His capability of being Omnipresent. The human Body of Jesus, before its death, did not possess the unlimited, Resurrected, Omnipresent Resources of Infinity. Only Christ, the Living Word of God, knew the humility poverty of the swaddling bands of His human Body. Christ, Who had known Divine, Infinite Omnipresence over all His creation, accepted the limitations of a human Body, a Body so small that He was forced to depend completely upon His creation to clothe Him, feed Him, and to carry Him about from place to place.

Christ knew natural poverty in the economic realm in order to prove the groundlessness of our vicious fears. God the Father protected, kept, and blessed Christ, in both exaltation and humility, teaching us that we really have nothing to fear when we put all our trust in Him.

Christ, the Omnipresent Word, accepted the greatest humiliation and poverty when He became swaddled with a human Body and was confined to being in one place at a time as a human Being. He did this for us so that we, too, could accept the confining swaddling bands of poverty, unafraid, regardless of how confining and humiliating they might be.

It is a grand and glorious day when our inward vision is cleared and healed, and we discover that happiness does not consist of the abundance of "things" that we possess on the outside. True joy and delight consist of the abundant Truth and Life that we possess on the inside.

## II. Fear of Poverty in the Social Realm

The vicious fear of poverty also works in our social life.

Every person, whether he admits it or not, has a deep-seated fear of being poor and rejected in the social realm. Unless we have Christ and His Humility in our heart, fear of social poverty repeatedly directs our choice of friends, the location of our home, and the kind of the car we drive.

Society, in general, looks down on those who possess little in the way of worldly goods. The vicious fear of social poverty works to smother many acts of Christian love, causing us (apart from the Humility of Christ) to draw back in shame from fellowshipping certain individuals or ethnic groups because we consider them to be beneath us socially. The vicious fear of social poverty creates, within a person, a merciless, hard, and cruel attitude toward others of lesser social rank.

Jesus Christ experienced social poverty; He was rejected by the merciless, hard, cruel socialites of his day. But, He willingly humbled Himself, accepting poverty and rejection in order to fulfill Scripture and to conquer vicious fear in the human heart.

**And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth:** that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, **He shall be called a Nazarene** (Matthew 2:23).

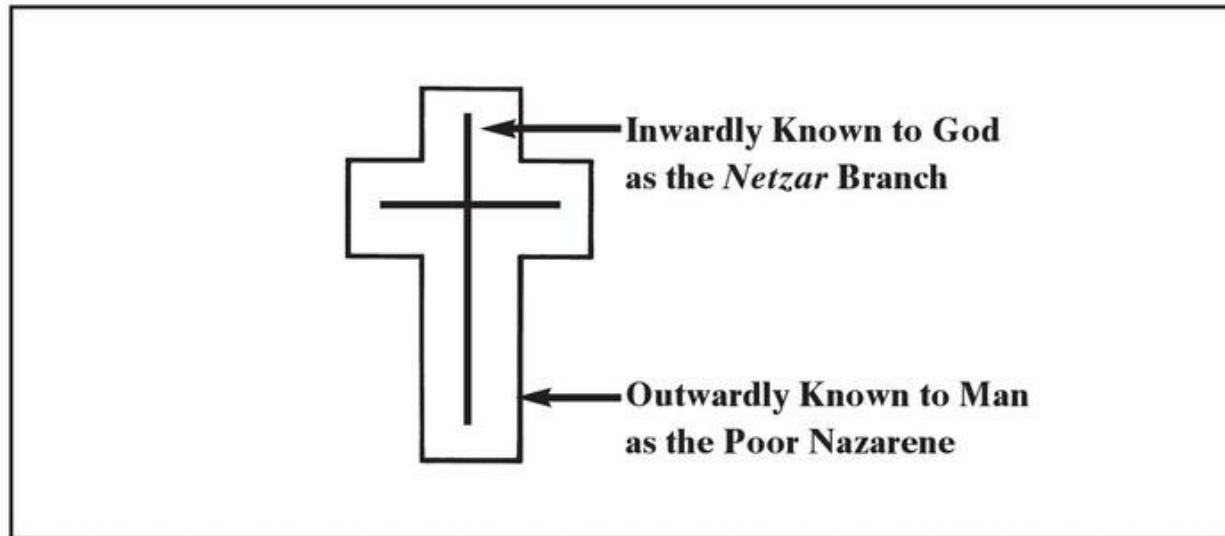
The Reputation and Honour of God's Will and God's Glory never depend upon the high places of this world. On the contrary, "...that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God" (Luke 16:15). When God brought His Son into the world, He by-passed the palace of the prideful King in favour of a lowly manger in Bethlehem. When choosing a proper place in which Christ, the Messiah, could live and grow up, God selected the humble place of Nazareth. He did not select pretentious Jerusalem, the city of King David's exaltation, but in accordance with His Divine Master Plan, He selected the unpretentious, small, despised place called Nazareth.

Nothing was impressive or desirable about Nazareth; it was in a low place, naturally and socially. Situated in a basin on the most southern of the ranges of lower Galilee, Nazareth was comprised of a lowly mixture of Jews and Gentiles. Thus, Jesus Christ became poor, socially speaking, because of His environment.

Christ grew up *unknown* to the world, in a village of ill report. When Nathanael heard where the Messiah had come from, he scoffed, saying, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46). What glorious Love

Jesus Christ had for fallen man. While living in Nazareth, He not only fulfilled Prophecy, but He also ruled over the fear of social poverty. Neither economic nor social poverty kept Jesus Christ from fulfilling God's Will for His Life.

Outwardly, Christ was known as the poor, despicable Nazarene; but inwardly, He was known as God's *Netzar* Branch. "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a *Branch* shall grow out of his roots:" (Isaiah 11:1).



Outwardly, Jesus was poor in reputation. Before man, He was known socially as the despicable and dishonourable Nazarene, Who deserved no respect or honour.

Jesus did not mind bearing the social reproach for us in order to free us from our vicious fear. Surely, in gratitude, we can bear a little social reproach for Him Who has suffered such a deep degree of humiliation and social reproach for us. He has given us His Life, His Power, and His Truth. All we have to give Him is our gratitude, which we can show Him by being willing to suffer reproach for Him.

Although Jesus was esteemed lightly on the *outside*, by the world, He was esteemed highly on the *inside*, by His Father and the Holy Angels. The Hebrew Word *Nazareth* is from the same Hebrew word *Netzar*, meaning a shining branch, a green shoot. *Netzar* comes from a Hebrew root word meaning to guard, protect, and maintain. In the eyes of some, Jesus, as a Nazarene, appeared as a lifeless, ugly thing. But, to His Father, He was a bright, shining Branch, a green, living Shoot of Redemption, a *Netzar* for mankind. Jesus was guarding, protecting, and maintaining His Humility — that precious Jasper River that cleanses and frees man from his vicious fears.

We, too, can choose to look poor in our outward social life before man, which will last only a season, in order to be highly esteemed by God, inwardly, both now and forever more.

The most foolish decision a person can make in his life is to choose to be more concerned about how he appears outwardly, to the creature, than how he appears inwardly, to the Eternal Creator.

### III. Fear of Religious Poverty.

The vicious fear of being destitute in the spiritual realm is another manifestation of our fear of poverty. Human pride fertilizes the poverty-fearing ground of the heart, causing evil thoughts to shoot up and say, "I'm not going to make a poor religious fool of myself by taking a stand for the Truth. I really don't have to do that to be a Christian."

Ananias and Sapphira were examples of those who refused to walk down Christ's Humility Stairway. The early Christians, under the leadership of God's Spirit and the guidance of the Apostle Peter, sold all their possessions and had all things in common, both naturally and spiritually, as they walked in the humble Footsteps of Christ.

Driven by their vicious fear that they might appear spiritually poor in their humility surrender, Ananias and Sapphira took on an outer form and embodiment of total humility surrender to Christ by selling all their possessions. But, inwardly, their proud spirit of false devotion constrained them to lie to the Holy Ghost, saying that they were giving all their possessions to be used in common with the possessions of other Christians, when in reality they were secretly keeping back a large portion for themselves. Ananias and Sapphira were planning to enjoy *all* the complete

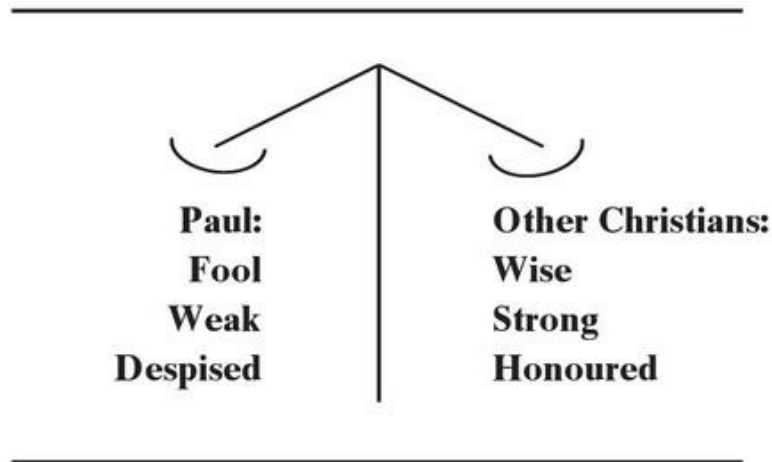
surrenders of others, plus most of their own possessions. Their vicious fear of appearing poor spiritually before the other Christians constrained them to put on a form of spiritual surrender and humility that brought on their death and destruction. What a prophetic warning Ananias and Sapphira should be to us!

If we truly desire to enter into God's rich Treasure House where He keeps His Spiritual Treasures of the Gold of His Wisdom, the Silver of His Understanding, and the Precious Stones of His Knowledge, then we must be willing, inwardly and outwardly, to stand on Christ's first Step of Humility, which is the poverty of "no reputation."

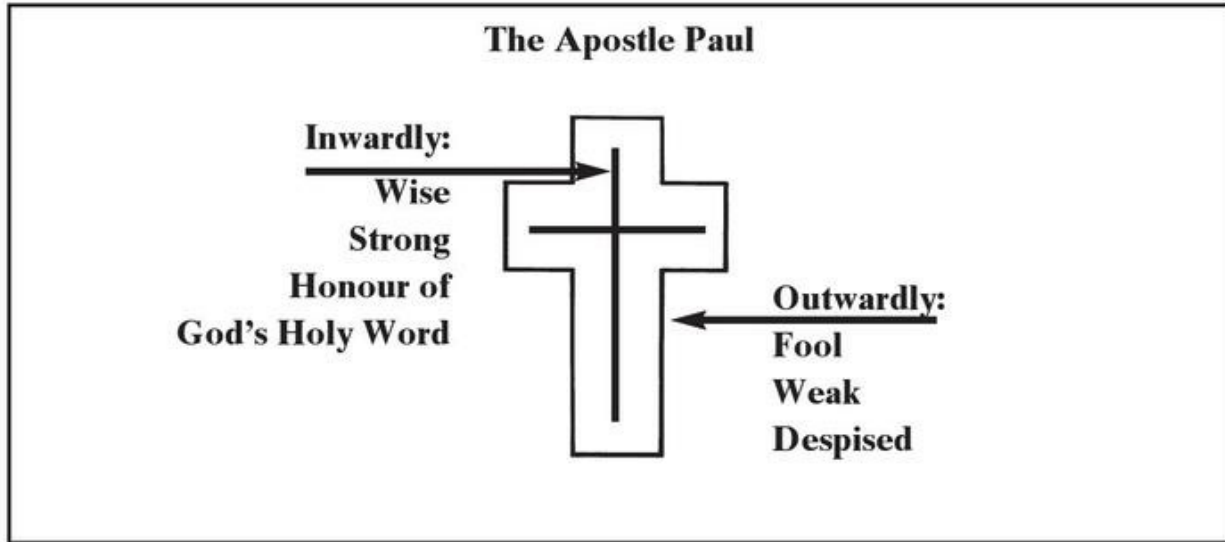
I have seen God bring people to the first Step of Christ's Poverty of No Reputation; and, then, I have watched them as they have drawn back from following Christ, even on this first step, rejecting even the thought of going into deeper levels of His Humility because their reputation was at stake, either economically, socially, or spiritually. I have seen the LORD fill people from the Evangelical side of Christianity with the precious Holy Ghost. Later, when their reputations began to suffer socially and religiously, with their fellow brethren, I have heard them say that they wished they never had heard of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. How different was the attitude of the early Disciples. They rejoiced and praised God that they were counted worthy to suffer for His great Name's Sake, being beaten with stripes and imprisoned and their feet put in stocks.

The Apostle Paul testified about walking on this Step of Humiliation with Jesus Christ and being spiritually poor before the world. "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body" (II Corinthians 4:10).

The Apostle Paul compared his outwardly poor circumstances — of appearing as a fool, weak, and despised — to the inwardly rich circumstances of Wisdom, Strength, and Honourableness of some other Christians.

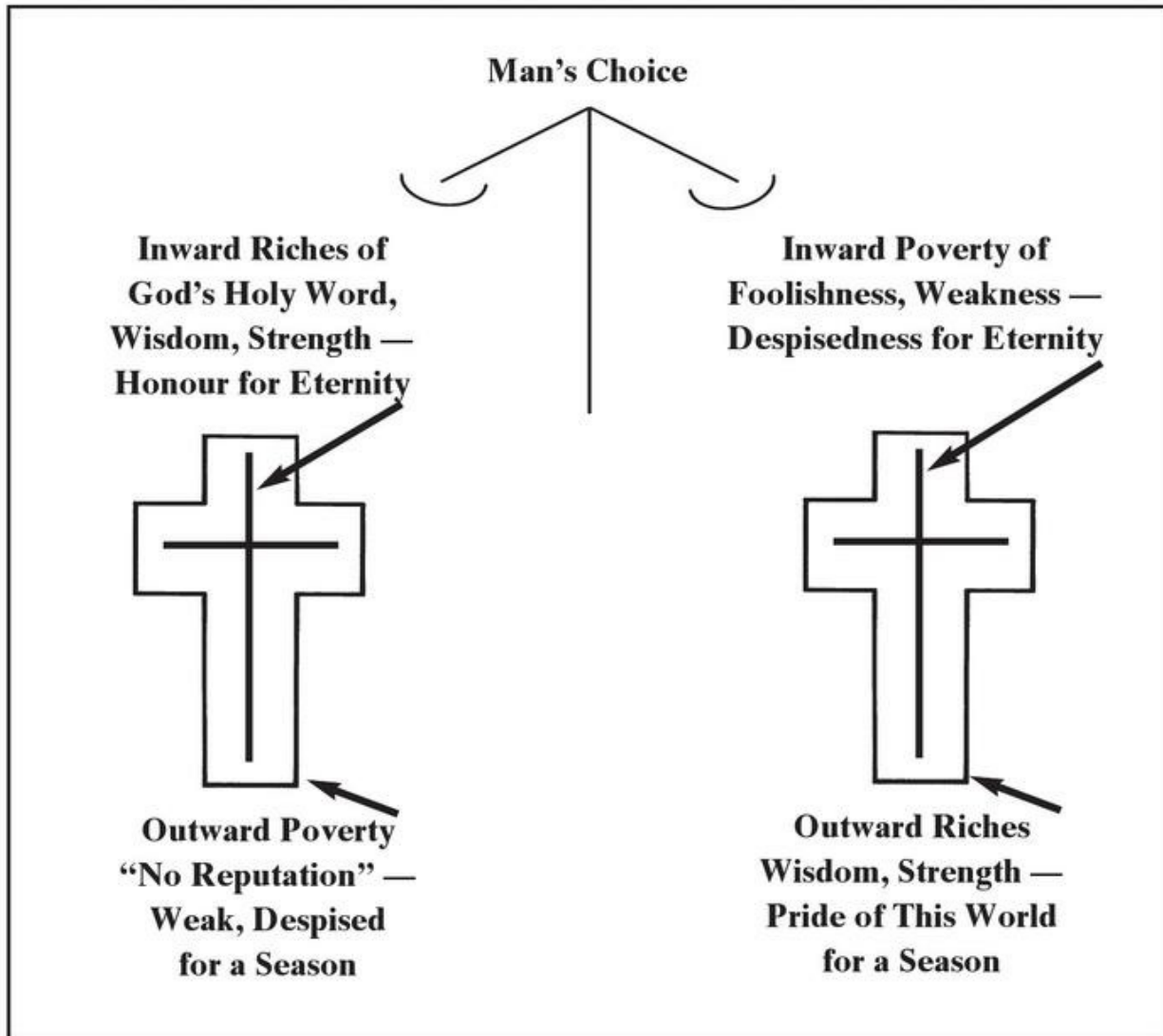


Paul surrendered to such depths of both passive and active humility obedience to Jesus Christ that he appeared to be deficient in reasoning power and wanting in intellect; and he seemed to behave stupidly, irrationally, and absurdly. Paul appeared to be misusing and abusing his great education by spending his life serving small groups of Christians. He appeared to be physically weak, outwardly, and inferior mentally. Paul was despised, looked down upon, and made to feel contempt, scorn, and disdain from the generation in which he lived. But, Paul was filled, inwardly, with more of the Wisdom, Strength, and Honour of the Holy Word of God than anyone else in His day.



God sends us into the world clothed in the *foolishness* of “no reputation” in order *to confute* the *wisdom* of this world and to prove that His precious Holy Word has Power to draw souls to Him. He sends us clothed in the *weakness* of “no reputation” in order *to confute* the *strength* of this world and to prove that His gracious Holy Word has Strength to pull and attract souls to Him, even through we wear a camouflaged cloak of “no reputation.” God sends us *clothed in the despicable garments* of “no reputation” in order *to confute* the *pride* of this world and to prove that His glorious Humility Word can vanquish pride and conquer vicious fears, even as we wear a camouflaged cloak of “no reputation.” How poor Paul was outwardly! But how rich and powerful he was inwardly!

Many Christians would rather cling to the outward, earthly wisdom, strength, and pride of this world for a temporal season than to endure spiritual poverty for a temporal season, in order to be rich, inwardly, with the Word of God, both now and eternally.



When God has blessed us with the Wisdom, Strength, and Honour of His precious Eternal Word on the "inside," it is a great privilege to fellowship His Suffering of "no reputation," outwardly, for a temporal season.

However, true revelation of God's Word is not always precious to everyone who hears it. After Jesus had given His Disciples His new Revelation that they would have to eat His Flesh and that they would have to drink His Blood in order to have His Eternal Life and His Resurrection Life in them, many of them turned away from following Him. They rejected the Truth that was clothed in "no reputation" in favour of the doctrines that were clothed in "acceptable reputations."

The vicious fear that spiritual poverty will be our lot because our friends and families may reject us still provokes the same reaction in many people, today. Men let the vicious fear of the loss of their reputation and position in the church world prevent them from following the lowly Nazarene down the Stairway of Humility. Proud carnal flesh always has rebelled against the doctrines of the Cross. Proud carnal flesh excuses itself by quickly renouncing the "Crucified Way" and saying, "Jesus wants us to have life and have it more abundantly." Such people are humanly ignorant and spiritually blind to the Truth that the Way of more abundant Life is in the "Crucified Way."

God allows those of us who walk the "Crucified Way" to experience spiritual poverty for a season in order to bring us down into Christ's Humility Death, which will crucify our arrogant pride and mortify our vicious fears; then, He can bring us up in new Resurrection Life and Power in Christ Jesus.

The Way of the Cross is a paradoxical Way of Death and Life. Words sometimes fail us (we become spiritually poor) when we try to explain the glorious, abundant Life of Jesus Christ that we find while walking in the Way of

His Crucifixion.

The LORD is so faithful to reveal new realms of our carnal flesh that need mortifying, while we are walking with Him in the “Crucified Way.” For example, our flesh suffers greatly when people, who once loved us and respected us when we possessed only a low degree of spirituality, treat us as through we were poor, ignorant outcasts because Jesus Christ has brought us to a higher degree of spirituality in Him. The pains of our flesh are faithful witnesses to us of our secret love to be accepted and clothed with a “reputation” of honour and respect in the eyes of our friends and family. These secret, fleshly loves must be mortified before we can have the power to rejoice and praise the LORD Jesus that we have been counted worthy to suffer with Him. Remember, if we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him.

Only the Spirit of God, through the Cross of Christ, can crucify this realm of vicious fear and fleshly pride that resents and rejects taking this first step of poverty of “no reputation” with Jesus Christ.

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, **though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor**, that ye through his poverty might be rich (II Corinthians 8:9).

The LORD Jesus Christ was equal with His Father in Glory and Power in Heaven. Yet, He became *poor* for our sake. He left Heaven, where He was the Divine Son of God, and He came to Earth to become the *poor* Son of Man. He was poor and abject in this life — in His circumstances and in His possessions. In His Life on this Earth, He had no home of his own in which to lay His Head. In His Death on this Earth, He had no grave of His own in which to lay His Head. He died in poverty for our sake so that we might be made *rich* in Him: rich in Salvation; rich in Grace; rich in Wisdom, Strength, and Honour of His Word; rich in His Spiritual Stature; rich in Eternal Life; rich in the Prize, and rich in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus suffered religious poverty in His day. He was esteemed lightly by the religious leaders of His day. They did not bother to search the Word of God so that they would be knowledgeable about His coming to Earth. Even after the leaders were informed, by the wise men, that they had seen His star in the East; and, furthermore, after they had searched the Word of God and had found that He was to be born in Bethlehem, not one leader chose to go to Bethlehem to worship his Messiah and his King.

According to these religious leaders of Christ’s day, He was so poor that they felt ashamed and embarrassed to own Him as their King. Although He was the promised Messiah for whom Israel waited, He received no respect and no honour from the leaders of Israel. Instead of worshipping Him, they called Him a blasphemer and a devil. But, Jesus did not let what the people said about Him deter Him from doing His Father’s Will. He burned with zeal to please His Heavenly Father.

When Jesus Christ fills our heart with His Stream of Jasper Humility, our heart will break and melt before Him, and our resentful pride will crumble. When we view, with cleansed vision, the great depth of Christ’s spiritual poverty, which He walked through for our sake, we will repent willingly of our reluctance to follow Him on His Stairway of Humility, and we will surrender completely to descend all the way with Him.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. **All things were made by him;** and without him was not any thing made that was made (John 1:1-3).

The Christ (Who spoke the worlds into being, Who was *all* Word, Who was Living, Omnipresent Word, and Who created all languages) was reduced to expressing Himself through the vocabulary of a Babe. The Word became speechless, as it were. He became completely dependent upon one of His own creation to interpret His cries in order to minister to His needs. Such Humility staggers the mind. What an unparalleled mystery! The Divine Word, the Creator, as a tiny Babe, cried to His own creation and waited, humbly and patiently, until they ministered to His needs. How much more should we, as the creation, wait humbly and patiently until the Word, the Creator, meets our needs?

When Jesus Christ walked the “Crucified Way” for us, He did it alone. Therefore, we have nothing to fear on this first step of poverty because Christ has walked the Way before us. He knows how to sympathize. He knows how to lead and guide. We can walk hand in hand with Jesus, in great confidence, knowing that He will not descend faster than we are able to bear nor put more humiliation on us than we can bear. Jesus Christ asks us to fellowship only a small portion of His Humiliation in economic, social, and spiritual poverty in this world, but He invites us to partake of *all* His exalted Blessings in Heavenly Places at the Right Hand of God the Father.

## Chapter Two

### Christ's Second Step of Humility: "Form of a Servant"

#### Overcomes the Fear of Old Age or the Loss of Power and Independence

The second step that Jesus Christ took on His Humility Stairway was for Him to be in the "form of a servant," which is the cure for man's second basic fear, the fear of old age.

It is a great mystery how God, the Divine Son, could humble Himself to become so small that His Divine Form could be encased in a human form which, in turn, was servant to the Divine Form.

There never was any question in Christ's Mind about Whose Servant He was or Who His Owner and Master was. "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles" (Isaiah 42:1).

Jesus Christ is God's ideal Servant. He is quiet and unobtrusive, yet His spiritual Power and Influence have spread throughout the world. God said, in so many words, "Christ is My servant; I will help Him; and Christ is My chosen, and My Soul has accepted Him."

Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened; burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, **I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart** (Psalm 40:6-8).

These verses are prophetic expressions of how the Son of God did display, best, His joyful Gratitude to His Father.

The Father had no delight in the Old Testament sacrifices because they never could take away sin; neither were they accompanied by perfect faith and obedience.

However, the Divine Son of God was deeply grateful because His Father had opened His ears to hear the declaration of God's Will that *He*, the Son, was to be the superior Sacrifice, with superior and perfect Obedience to the Written Law. The Son of God not only was ready to obey as a Servant, but He was delighted and joyfully pleased to do His Father's Will. His perfect Obedience was prompted neither by dread of punishment nor expectation of a reward, but for the Joy and Delight of doing His Father's Will.

Jesus Christ entered into His Father's Service as His Servant. He always was aware that He was employed in His Father's Business. "And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). Jesus witnessed, from the beginning, that the Father was His Owner and Master and that He, as a Servant, had to tend to His Father's Business. Christ never was confused about His Father's Position as Owner and Master nor about His Position as a loyal, faithful Servant.

Our great confusions and carnal fears spring up because we never have understood, clearly, Who the Owner and Master is and who the servant is. Fear and confusion arise because we either have failed to discover that we are *not* the Owner and Master, or we have discovered the Truth that we are not the Owner and Master and, therefore, have no control over circumstances in our life. This latter discovery is even more terrifying because we see that we cannot control anything. Then, if we are not the Owner and Master, we have to discover our rightful place as a servant. Once we surrender to take our rightful place as a servant and surrender for Christ to take His rightful place as our Owner and Master, we are filled with Christ's same joyful delight in being His Father's Servant and in doing His Father's Will.

Until we have a birth into the Master/Servant Principle, we accept painful persecutions, circumstances, and situations as our "master" and become angry with the visible hand or tool that brings us the pain. But, when we have had a birth into the Master/Servant Principle, there is no "master" in our life but the LORD Jesus Christ and His

Father. Then, we look to Him Who is the Eternal “Cause” and Reason for all things, and in everything we are able to give Him praise and thanks. “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (I Thessalonians 5:18).

The LORD is the Master over all, and He will not cease working until everything glorifies Him. Therefore, we can praise Him for *all things*.

The Greek word for *form* means the adjustment of parts; the word for *servant* means a slave. Jesus voluntarily became a Servant and subjected Himself to live in an earthly state of servitude. Jesus subordinated Himself to His Father’s Will in order to be subservient to sinful mankind. The LORD’s Holy Body became a Servant to unholy bodies of mankind, feeding them when they were hungry, healing them when they were sick, and casting devils out of them when they were possessed. Jesus humbly and faithfully served His Heavenly Father and fallen mankind while He made His pilgrimage in this Earth. Jesus served His Father in virtuous and complete trust and faith so that He could deliver us from our vicious fears of mistrust and distrust toward the Heavenly Father.

How perfectly the thought of being a servant fits with the second basic fear in the human heart — the vicious fear of old age.

We fear old age because it represents the loss of our power and independence. As long as we possess our youth and strength, we can govern our own life, more or less, or so we think. Young men, for example, may walk away from unpleasant working conditions that older men must think twice about before they can leave. As our earning power diminishes, the possibility of becoming dependent upon others increases. As the years pass, mortal frailty can so weaken a person until, finally, in the end of his life, others have complete control of his affairs. This thought is exceedingly painful to our pride and, apart from the Humility of Christ, produces a vicious fear within the heart. The Humility of Christ cleanses the heart from fear and mistrust of God’s Word which promises that Christ never will leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:15). The LORD never will desert nor abandon His children, not even in their old age.

A lifetime passes very quickly, even if we live to a ripe old age. Then, suddenly, we face old age with its vicious fear, unless we have walked with Jesus and have allowed His Humility to change our vicious fear of old age into victorious fear and trust in the LORD.

Because the world is driven by a vicious fear of old age, it spends millions of dollars, annually, on cosmetics. Women paint their eyes, their cheeks, and their lips. They colour their hair, fingernails, and toenails in a futile attempt to hold on to the seductive powers of youth, just a little longer. The same fear drives some people to buy all kinds of weight lifting equipment to retard the aging process. Some people buy wigs and toupees in a vain effort to hide the aging process. Others buy diet pills and follow all kinds of faddish diets, not because they are so interested in having good health, but because they want to look younger and more attractive. The desire to retain the ruling power of youth constrains people to strive to camouflage their age in diverse ways and by manifold means and, thus, proudly prove that they still possess a magnetic power which will make others bow in delightful carnal admiration. The vicious fear of the carnal pride of old age hates and abhors the thought of being humbled to the degree of being the servant to a younger person.

Grey hair and wrinkles are faithful witnesses to the deterioration of a corrupted mortal body. The “Plow of Time” is faithful to leave its deep furrows on the brow of mortal man. How beautiful it is for us to grow old gracefully, honourably, and humbly with Jesus and to have the opportunity to display His Virtuous Fear and Trust in the Heavenly Father that has replaced our vicious fear and distrust.

What unmitigated misery and lamentable disgrace it is for us to grow old and have nothing to show for our existence but a heart full of vicious fear and distrust and a mouth full of bitter complaining.

When our heart is cleansed from vicious fear of old age by the sweet, humble Form that Jesus took as a “Servant,” then old age is a blessed time instead of a sad, melancholy prospect of further physical decay.

It is easy to grow old gracefully and happily in Jesus Christ. The grey hair of old age is the “snow” that falls very softly and lightly, yet it lies very heavy and never melts in this temporal life. If we walk with Jesus and grow up in His Spiritual Stature while growing old naturally, we become like a snowcapped mountain. Our head becomes clothed outwardly with snow-white hair, and our mind becomes clothed with the hoary Wisdom of Christ. Therefore, our thoughts always will be in the Heavens, just as the snowcapped mountain always is in the heights.

The spirits and souls of victorious believers who have died in Christ are in Heaven praising God for the deterioration of their bodies in the grave because on, Resurrection Morning, they will receive their new, resurrected, glorified bodies. If the believers in Heaven are praising God for the complete deterioration of their mortal bodies, we need to start practicing the same Principle now. (This is not to say we should not take care of our physical body by eating properly and keeping it trim and clean; it simply means that we need to humble ourself and graciously accept

the outward manifestations of aging.) We cannot praise God as we should, however, as long as we are filled with vicious fear of old age.

We use our body as a faithful servant, having it carry us around in this world for a lifetime, allowing us to go, to do, and to enjoy the temporal things of life. Then, how barbarous and merciless we are when, one day, we look in the mirror and see that our old faithful servant has turned grey, wrinkled, and worn, and we think how repulsive it is to grow old; we feel rejection and detestation for the “old servant.” Thereupon we begin to say in our heart, to the “old servant,” “I don’t like the way you look. I hate you. I am ashamed of you.” Because there is a mind in the body, the “old servant” begins to feel the repulsion and rejection, and it grows weaker and dies faster. This happens to many old people who do not know Jesus Christ.

However, when we walk with Jesus in the Way of Humility, our heart is filled with love, gratitude, and appreciation for the “old faithful servant,” the body that has helped our soul and spirit to study, pray, and serve God by sharing Him with others. The “old servant,” the body, will feel this love, gratitude, and appreciation and will respond by feeling better and looking younger. And, we will be joyfully motivated to keep serving the LORD in the Humility of Christ Jesus in our old age.

The first two Books of the New Testament unveil the heights and depths of Christ’s Humility. Matthew portrays Jesus as the King of Humility, and Mark reveals Him as the Servant of Humility. All the Host of Heaven served Jesus Christ, the King of Kings. Yet, He left His exalted place in Heaven to take the lowly position of a Humility King and a Humility Servant on Earth, in order to conquer the vicious fear of old age and replace it with His virtuous Fear and vivacious Faith.

But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: **Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister**, and to give his life a ransom for many (Matthew 20:25-28).

A natural king never asks his servant *what* his plans are, *where* he desires to work, or *when* he desires to perform his duties. The king only delivers *his* plans, *his* desires, and *his* preferences, and the servant obeys. If obedience to a natural king is a natural servant’s duty, then how much greater is our obligation to our spiritual King, the LORD Jesus Christ? We piously sing, “King of my life, I crown thee now,” and we feel as though our heart is filled with complete passive obedience to the King. However, we sometimes feel diametrically different when Jesus assumes His rightful place as King in our life, delivering His Master Plan, His Will, and His Pleasure. We find vicious fears rising up from our will, producing terrifying thoughts in our heart about how we might have to humble ourself to be a servant in some form that would be contrary to our will.

Pride greatly fears and rebelliously resists standing on the servant’s step. The King’s command to serve usually comes when we are too busy, too tired, or it is too late. It *never* is convenient for pride and vicious fear to be a servant.

Pride and vicious fear love to rule in the high place, with great external pomp and power. Humility and the virtuous Fear of Jesus Christ love to serve in the low place, with a great internal, modest, and meek spirit. Pride says, “I’m older; therefore, let me be honoured, and let the younger ones do the work.” But, Christ, the true Servant, Who was “older” than all creation, came down with Grace and Truth and became a lowly Servant and a loving Example. Through His virtuous Fear and unswerving Faith in His Father, He walked down the Stairway of Humility, conquering all the vicious fears of mankind.

Jesus said, “For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth” (Luke 22:27). The precious Stream of Christ’s Jasper Humility will work His Surrender and His Passive Obedience and His Active Obedience in our heart. Then, we, too, can become a lowly servant and a loving example, as Christ was.

Until the Humility of Christ is worked in our heart, we serve only when the choice of whom we serve is left in our hands. The carnal flesh will serve and accept the position of a servant if it can be exalted while serving. For example, we may not complain or be resentful about serving someone we love because we are exalted in our feelings and in the eyes of the person we are serving. But, when we are asked to serve a poor person, a stranger, a fatherless person, or a widow in some hidden place where no recognition or exaltation is involved, we feel resentful, inwardly. We often feel we are unappreciated, taken advantage of, and misused and abused while others are getting all the glory.

Vicious fear fills our heart when we think others are trying to take advantage of us by making a servant out of us.

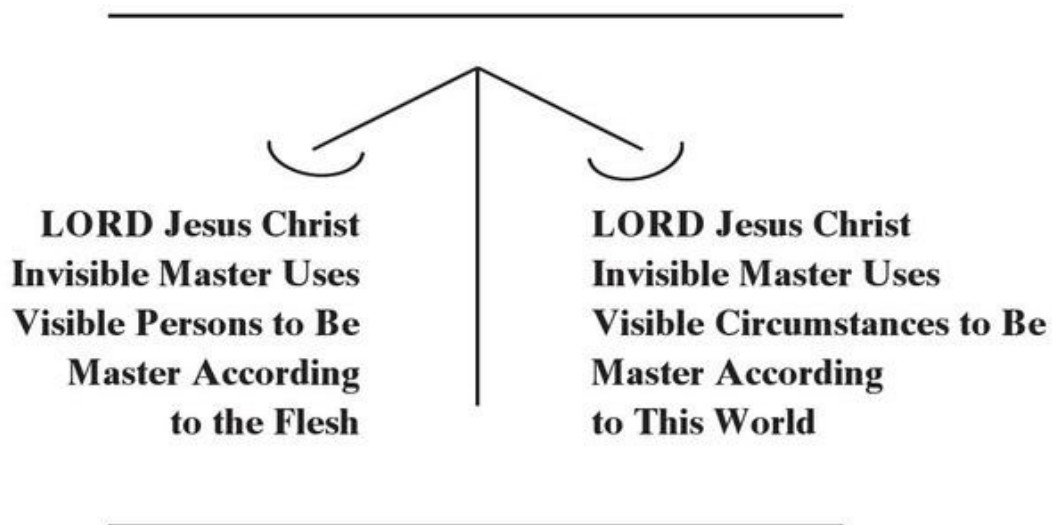
One way to humble oneself is by remembering that we were lost sinners, on our way to Death and Hell, until Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the mighty Servant of God, sought us and found us and served His great Redemption to us. Because Christ took the low and humble place as a Servant, He obtained Power to redeem us. When we follow Christ Jesus into the low and humble place, we can serve others, not because they deserve it, but for Christ's Sake.

Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; **Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord**, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free (Ephesians 6:5-8).

The LORD Jesus Christ is our Owner and Master, and we are His servants. Therefore, it is our duty to serve Him with passive obedience and with active obedience. God commands us to be obedient to our masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as unto Christ, realizing that Christ is the Head over all things to the church (Ephesians 1:22).

A master is someone or something that is placed in authority and control over some other person or thing. A master is something or someone who has the possession of control and has the power of using it at his pleasure.

Jesus Christ is our invisible Master, but He uses circumstances and people as our masters, according to the flesh, in order to give us the opportunity to fellowship Him as a Servant.



It is important to look beyond the visible masters of people and circumstances and humble oneself as servants to our true, invisible Master, Jesus Christ, Who is governing and guiding all things for our good and for His Glory. When we allow Jesus to cleanse and mortify our pride that loves to please men, we can take on the Humility of Jesus that gives us singleness of heart, faithfulness in serving Him, and pleasurable acceptableness in His sight.

When we serve all kinds of visible masters of the flesh and the world, with our eye of faith looking beyond to our true Master, our service will be done with good will, a good attitude, and good gratitude out of a sincere heart. Thus, we, too, can become a lowly servant and a loving example.

While standing on this low Step of Humility, Jesus served Judas Iscariot by washing his feet and by giving him bread, knowing that in a few moments Judas would betray Him.

***LORD, forgive us of our proud resentment against being a servant, both to the worthy and the unworthy! Thou, O LORD, Who art King of Kings and LORD of LORDS, considered it an honour to be clothed in a Humility Servant's attire, in order to minister Salvation to us who were despicable and unworthy sinners. We do not deserve even to walk in Your Footsteps as a servant. We are unworthy of the privilege of being Your servant and walking in Your lowly and meek Pathway with our proud feet. The servant's place is much too good for us. Therefore, forgive us for all the times we have thought we deserved something better than being a servant!***

How precious and glorious it is when our human soul grows in the marvelous Divine Love of Christ Jesus until

our eyes are enlightened to see that we do not even deserve being one of Christ's servants, and much less do we deserve a more exalted place.

The Stream of Christ Jesus' Jasper Humility constrains us to take the low place with Jesus as His servant, willingly and joyfully — not grudgingly. A natural man sadly struggles to avoid taking the servant's place in his old age. But, with joy, the spiritually mature man in Christ Jesus welcomes the privilege of entering into the low place of being a humble servant with Christ.

The LORD Jesus Christ is the greatest Servant in Time and Eternity, and the Bride of Jesus Christ also will be a great servant in Time and Eternity. "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:" (Revelation 22:3). Because the Bride has been faithful to serve Him in the low place of humility on Earth, she will be exalted to serve Him with supreme joy and happiness, undisturbed in the New City. Lucifer will not have entrance into this Eternal Paradise to try to disturb the Bride and lure her from serving her LORD, as he did Adam-male and female in the Garden. The Bride will serve the LORD forever, by ruling and reigning with Him in all Power, Dominion, and Glory.

However, we never will have the privilege to serve Him as His exalted "Servant/Bride" in the New City unless we are willing to allow Him to deliver us from the vicious fear of being a lowly "Servant/Bride" now, on this Earth. The vicious fear of losing our independence prevents us from serving with Christ Jesus in the low place, unless we allow Him to deliver us and substitute His virtuous Fear and Holy Faith in place of our vicious fear.

Jesus Christ descended and stood on the second Step of Humility in order to become a lowly Servant, ruling over the vicious fear of old age, which exists in the human heart until it is taken away by Christ. If we want to be an exalted Servant/Bride, ruling and reigning with Jesus Christ throughout Eternity, in the New City, then we must become His lowly Servant/Bride now and rule and reign with Him over prideful fear in our life.

## Chapter Three

### Christ's Third Step of Humility: "In the Likeness of Men"

#### Overcomes the Fear of Criticism

The third step that Jesus Christ took on His Humility Stairway was that He was made in the "likeness of men," which is the cure for man's third basic vicious fear — the fear of criticism.

As soon as Christ surrendered to be a Servant, He was "made in the likeness of men." What Humiliation for Christ to be made in the likeness of fallen man who was a bond slave of Satan, sold under sin, a servant of sin, ruled by the corrupt passion of his master, a despicable creature chained by fear and despair, ever subservient to the terrible tyrant of Death, which waited to escort his soul to Hell.

Christ came in the likeness of fallen man, as a Baby in a manger, as a young Boy Who sat in the Temple, as a grown young Man who worked in His adopted father's carpenter shop, as a Servant of God Who walked the length and breadth of the land, as a physical Being Who needed clothes, food, and rest, and as a Soul Who knew joy and sorrow.

His "likeness of men" hid His Divine Holiness and Glory so that Lucifer, the renegade apostate, was not afraid to approach Him in order to tempt Him.

Christ's human Cloak of "likeness of men" so veiled the Divine Truth that ignorant, corrupt humans did not shrink from approaching Him in order to accuse Him of being a deceiver.

Christ's human Cloak of the "likeness of men" so perfectly and so completely concealed His Humility that Lucifer's Satanic and Devilish nature thought that Christ might be tempted through pride.

Christ's human Cloak of the "likeness of men" so completely covered His Divine Perfection and Temperance that ignorant, sinful men fearlessly accused Him of being a wine-bibber and a gluttonous man.

His human Cloak of the "likeness of men" concealed His Divine Holiness so completely that arrogant and contemptible men brazenly testified, "We know this man is a *sinner*."

Christ's human Cloak of the "likeness of men" so obscured His identity as the Divine *Torah* in flesh, Who had a delight in obeying the Father's Will, that men, in their blind, diseased perception of reality, reproached Him for disobedience to God and accused Him of being a breaker of the *Torah*.

When we meditate on just this third Step of Christ's Humility and see Him willingly constrained to be made in the "likeness of men" and note the sufferings that He gladly endured on this step alone, we spend the rest of our life, as a believer, repenting of the proud, miserable murmuring and contemptible complaining we have done over our puny sufferings for Christ's Sake.

Christ suffered sinful man's vicious criticisms as a result of His covering Himself with His human Cloak of the "likeness of men." But, He was willing to suffer so that He could deliver us from our vicious fear of criticism and so that He could teach us that vicious criticism can neither prevent us from doing God's Will nor keep us from delighting in doing God's Will.

Evil criticism is a malignant passion that destroys both the devourer and the devoured. It is like a caterpillar that devours the blossoms, the leaves, and the fruits of the tree, leaving it naked, stripped, and bare.

The chanting criticisms of this chanting world have devoured and destroyed many good reputations. People who develop a pleasurable taste for malignant criticism dull their taste buds, which causes them to lose the ability to enjoy that which tastes good, delightful, and pleasant. Weight and wit are not necessary for a person to become a malignant critic of others; only a frivolous or foolish heart is a requisite.

Malignant censoriousness destroys, in a person's disposition, the ability to enjoy beautiful and noble things. The soul who lives to be the servant of malignant criticism lives in unmitigated misery. Malignant criticism always finds fault and cavils about people and things.

Our vicious fear of malignant criticism terrifies us, causing us to shake and tremble to the very foundation of our being. Malignant criticism produces much variance, emulation, and strife. Not only do we bitterly hate someone's malicious, unkind, and spiteful remark, but we also despise and detest the person who dares to heap such venomous criticism upon us. Contrary to all the laws of Christ's Humility, our wounded pride fights back with more cruel criticism, after we have received someone's censorious criticism. The ministry of malignant criticism is to belittle others and destroy their good wares, while all the time a person justifies himself for committing such dastardly deeds.

Jesus Christ stood on the third Step of Humility in the "likeness of men" in order to feel men's temptations to fight back when they are either assailed with malignant criticism from without or when they are tempted to attack others with malicious criticism.

Jesus Christ took on the *internal weaknesses and outward frailties* of our flesh, being made similar in appearance and character, yet without sin. Jesus Christ suffered all the afflictions and trouble of our fleshly fallen nature; yet, He was without sin. Jesus was touched, stirred, and softened with all the feelings of our infirmities, such as no other person ever was or ever could be.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but **was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin** (Hebrews 4:15).

Because Jesus Christ lived on the third Step of Humility for us, He is able to sympathize with us and to satisfy us in the midst of malignant criticism. No man ever suffered such malicious criticisms as Jesus Christ did; and, yet, He never once allowed vicious fear of criticism to take root in His Holy Heart and cause Him to sin.

The people who should have known Jesus, best, were the ones who cast blasphemous and contemptible words of malignant criticism in His precious Face.

Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? And they were offended in him... (Hebrews 4:15).

They could deny neither His gracious Words nor His mighty Works. Their prejudiced mouths could offer malignant criticism against Christ's Words only by attacking His lack of formal education since He never had been to a university, never had obtained a degree from man, nor had He ever been ordained by man. Their malicious mouths could condemn and censure Him only for having an earthly, adopted father who was a carpenter, as though honest and honourable work were wicked. They bitterly condemned Him because His mother had a plain, common, and simple name (Mary). They maligned Him because His brothers and sisters were common ordinary people, as though things of true value consisted in a great and glorious outward appearance. Their malformed mouths could offer malignant criticism against His mighty Works only by claiming that His mighty Works and mighty Power were from the Devil. They pretended that His mighty Works were the results of some hidden form of magical art or witchcraft. Their blasphemous words said, "Who does He think He is, saying He is the Son of God, the Anointed One, the Messiah? We've known Him all His life, and He is just a 'nobody,' a good-for-nothing from Nazareth."

Jesus suffered vicious criticisms from the covetous Pharisees who derided Him. "And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him" (Luke 16:14). Jesus had taught that man could not love and hold on to God while loving the mammon or riches of this world. The love of riches and possessions was the luscious lust, the precious "god" of the Pharisees. Therefore, because they resented and despised Jesus for putting His finger on their covetousness, they derided Him.

The Greek word for *deride* means to sneer outright at. Because the Pharisees had no respect for the *Person*, the Words, nor the mighty Works of Jesus Christ, they openly sneered at Him and laughed in His Face. They displayed the utmost contempt and scorn for Christ's Words. They laughed, mocked, and scorned Christ for going contrary to the worldly rules of the day. When people hate to be ruled by the Word of God and its moral standards, they will ridicule it, jest about it, and deride it.

To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, **the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it** (Jeremiah 6:10).

The Pharisees in Jeremiah's day also treated the Word of God with derision and reproach. They had no delight in its illuminating Light because it exposed their covetousness.

Covetous souls are miserable fools and wicked wretches who live in vicious fear and perpetual slavery because

they make worldly possessions their “master,” in place of the LORD Jesus Christ. Therefore, they live in suspicion, sorrow, and discontentment. They become slaves and drudges to created substances, instead of being servants to the LORD, the Creator.

When covetousness and worldly possessions are a man’s gods, he will reject having the Word of Christ rule over Him by scorning and deriding it.

Some of the Jewish leaders in Christ’s day went so far as to say He was possessed of a devil. “And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?” (John 10:20). They numbered the Holy Son of God among the transgressors and accused the Living Word of Truth of being a liar.

Jesus suffered the worst malignant criticisms of all creatures. Christ’s enemies spoke against Him with unparalleled impudence. They, corrupt creatures, accused the Holy Creator of being demonic. They accused Christ of being mad, a raving, delirious maniac. Through their malicious slanders of Christ and His Holy Word, they endeavoured to prevent His listeners from hearing His Holy Word.

When Jesus Christ hung upon Calvary’s Cross as the Holy, perfect, spotless Sacrifice for sin, these wicked men continued their malignant criticisms against His Omnipotent Power by saying that He was too helpless to redeem even Himself.

And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors. And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, Save thyself, and come down from the cross. Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, **He saved others; himself he cannot save** (Mark 15:28-31).

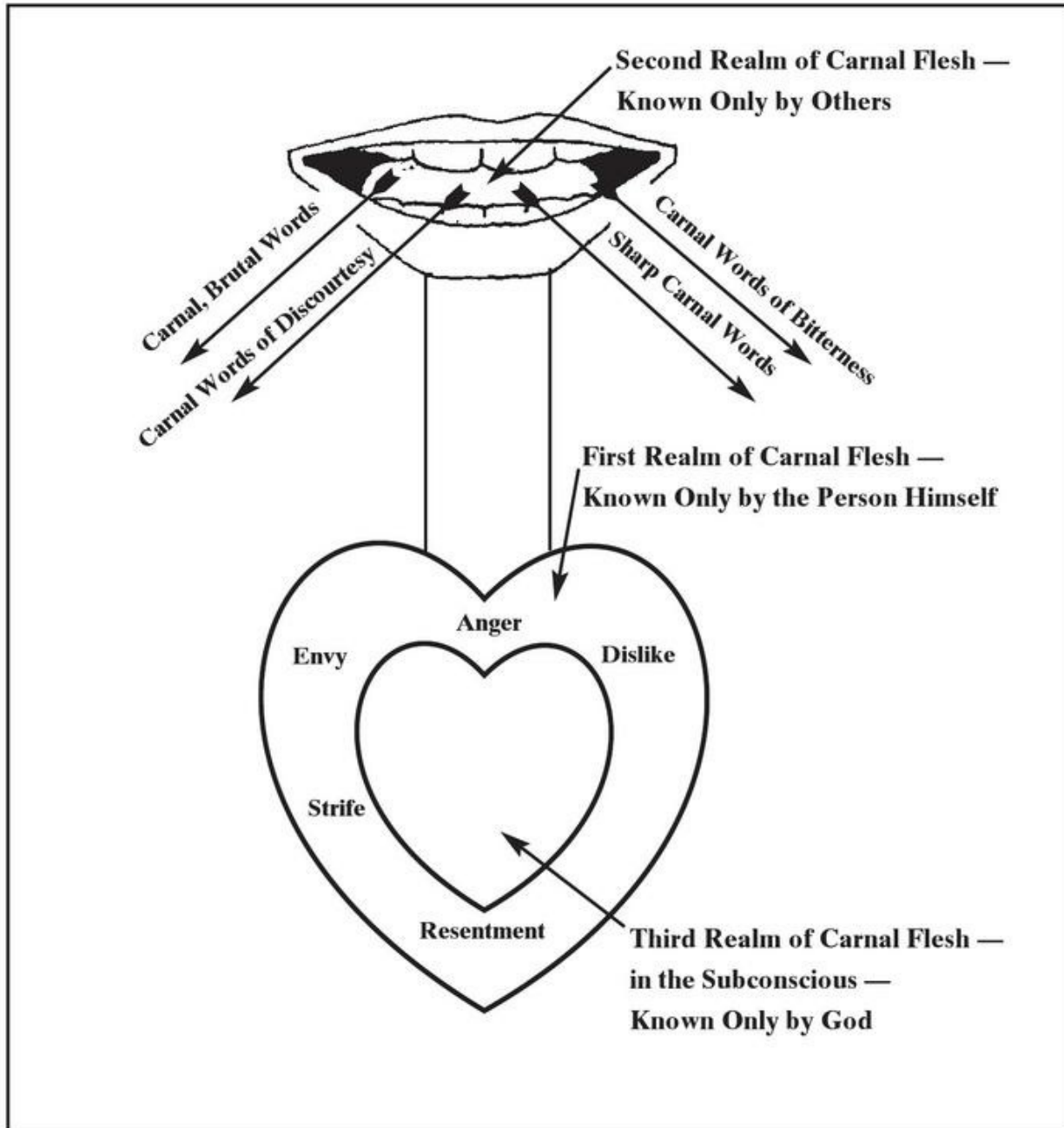
The malignant criticisms and detestable words of the Pharisees continued to fly like burning arrows at Jesus as He hung upon the Cross. They railed, ranted, and raged against Jesus. The horrible hate of Christ’s enemies was not appeased when they beheld the shameful and sorrowful spectacle of Christ’s marred Body hanging on the Cross. They sarcastically gloated that now they would not lose their Temple, their possessions, nor their positions. They ridiculed Christ’s Power by suggesting that the Power He had used to heal others was not His; otherwise, He would be able to save Himself.

Such undeserved criticisms would cause most of us, if we had the power to do so, to call fire down out of Heaven and burn up our enemies. However, Jesus Christ ruled over vicious fear of criticism when He was hung upon the Cross, standing faithful and true on this Step of Humility also. “Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:” (I Peter 2:23).

When malicious mouths assailed Jesus by blaspheming and mocking Him, He opened not His Mouth to threaten them. After they had beaten and buffeted Him, He committed Himself to His Heavenly Father, His Master and Owner, Who, in due season, would avenge Him of His enemies and acquit repentant sinners.

The vicious and maliciousness of Christ’s enemies at the Cross could not tempt Him to revile and bring revenge upon them from the Cross. Instead, Jesus prayed for His Father to forgive them.

Sinful man has three realms of carnality: (1) that which can be seen only by one’s self; (2) that which can be seen only by others; and, (3) that which can be seen only by God.



The first realm of man's carnality is visible to himself. For example, within the conscious realm of man's heart and will, there are feelings of dislike, anger, resentment, envy, and strife which, while hidden to others, are known by the individual. Therefore, he has no problem admitting that he possesses these realms of carnal flesh.

The second realm of man's carnality is discernable by others, but it is hidden from one's own eyes. For example, carnal man speaks words out of his mouth that are bitter, sharp, brutal, discourteous, and unkind. Yet, he is unaware of their repulsive, poignant wounding and cutting effect on the hearts of those who are receiving them. We label our brutal carnality, which wants our own will and way, as *good determination* that is protecting our interests. In reality, our stubborn self-will expresses itself in brutal words that wound and offend others and, thus, prevent the Unity and Harmony of Christ from being established. We may label it *loving concern*, but when other people come in contact with our discourteous curiosity, they call us a prying busybody. Then, we feel that we have been falsely accused; thus, as a result, we feel depressed and discouraged. The problem was that we could not discern our carnal flesh as others did.

The third realm of man's carnal flesh is seen only by God. Only He can draw back the subconscious veil, which hides the depths and heights of pride, and reveal to man that which motivates his thoughts, actions, and feelings.

When we are desiring to grow up unto the Measure of the Stature of the Fullness of Christ, it is important for us to look for the workings of these three realms of flesh in our life.

First, we need to confess and repent of the unChrist-like thoughts, actions, and feelings of which we already are aware. Next, we need to ask God to separate our constructive criticism from our malicious criticism so that we can learn about our carnal flesh through others. Then, we also can confess and repent of this second realm of flesh. Finally, it is essential that we pray and ask the LORD to remove the veil from our subconscious mind and allow us to see the third realm of our carnal flesh, with its corrupt motives. We must humble ourselves in order to accept the Truth of what is not Christ Jesus in our heart and life. However, it is so wonderful when we do accept the Truth, confess the Truth, repent of our faults and failures, and allow Jesus to cleanse and redeem us.

However, it is important for us to realize and understand that man's malignant, critical words have no power to change nor destroy the Truth. If we love Jesus and are serving Him with all our heart and mind, we do not change just because someone malignantly and maliciously accuses us of being a witch or a devil. We remain the same after the false accusation as we were before. Unjust criticism never turned Jesus into a devil just because they said He was a devil. Unjust criticism never changed the Living Truth into a liar just because they falsely accused Jesus of being a blasphemer for saying that He was the Son of God. Neither can unjust criticism make us guilty when we are innocent.

But, if we allow it, unjust criticism can stir up our carnal flesh, causing us to become bitter and unforgiving toward those who have criticized us unjustly. We must look to Jesus when we have been criticized unjustly and allow Him to give us His precious Forging Love that will cause us to love our enemies instead of hating them.

On the other hand, we can profit from constructive criticism when we understand that God often permits us to stand on the Humility Step of Criticism for the purpose of opening our eyes to the second realm of our flesh. He allows others to criticize us, constructively, so that we can humble our heart before Him. If we honestly lay all criticisms before the LORD, He is faithful to open our eyes so that we can see exactly which part of the accusation is destructive and which part is constructive. Suppose the criticism we receive is that we are stubborn, stiff-necked, and a gossip; then God will say, "Yes, you are stubborn and stiff-necked. Yes, you do gossip."

If we use the constructive criticism we receive, it will open up a whole new realm of repentance to us. Since we can confess and repent of sin in our lives only as it is made known to us, we should be grateful for constructive criticism and not despise it when it comes our way. However, if God shows us that the criticism is unjust, this gives us an opportunity to commit our souls into the hands of the Righteous Judge who will deal faithfully and justly with our enemies.

Jesus testified that the low place was, indeed, a blessed place. In the low place of Humility, before God, we find Jesus Christ's wonderful, Spiritual Treasures of the Gold of Wisdom, the Silver of Understanding, and the Precious Stones of Knowledge, if we keep our hearts right with God.

Blessed are ye, **when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.** Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: **for great is your reward in heaven:** for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you (Matthew 5:11,12).

If we join ourselves to the Righteousness of Christ, the enemies of the Righteousness of Christ also become our enemies. When we are unwilling to be separated from the Righteousness of Christ, to the point that we are willing to suffer for the Truth, we are suffering for Christ's Sake. When we are willing to endure malicious criticism, in the form of false revilings, false persecutions, and false speakings against us, we should rejoice and be exceedingly glad because Jesus has reserved for us an exceedingly great reward in Heaven.

Jesus rewards us greatly for the scandalous language that is heaped upon us for Christ's Sake. The temptation of the flesh is to return the reviling insults that we receive by retaliating with contemptible, abusive language. God's Word has promised us that all who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (II Timothy 3:12). There will be those who will harass us with repeated acts of cruelty and annoyance. There are those who will afflict us because of our adherence to particular understandings we have in the Word of God. However, persecution produces no real change of opinion in those who have sincere convictions about the Word of God.

Religious persecution always has been a vicious and malicious tool in the heart and the hand of the intolerant. The medieval church persecuted all whom it considered heretics, and the reformation in England had to struggle against vicious and malicious persecution everywhere. History reveals that always when the "persecuted" become powerful enough, they, too, become persecutors. Jesus desires that we do not become a persecutor of others but that we follow

Him in peace and love. However, He does desire that we learn how to rejoice and be glad when we are persecuted for Christ's Sake.

We cannot have the experience of *rejoicing* and being *exceedingly glad* until God's Plow of Humility breaks up the fallow ground of our heart that nurtures our pride and vicious fear. After the fallow ground of our heart has been broken up and after the weeds of pride and vicious fears have been destroyed, Jesus Christ plants the flowers of His Love, His Humility, and His Faith in our heart, making our heart a pleasant, fragrant garden and a delightful paradise. Thus, criticism is just a means of bringing benefit and blessing to our Spiritual Man, whether it be constructive criticism or malignant, malicious criticism. The LORD makes *all things*, including criticisms, work together for our good and for His Glory.

Jesus Christ descended the Stairway of Humility and stood on the third step, taking on our mortal likeness, our mortal resemblance, our mortal form, and our mortal appearance so that He could die on the Cross and obtain the precious Substance of His Resurrected Blood. Because He did this for us, we can resemble Him in Righteousness and Holiness.

Jesus desires to lead us to this Step of His Humility and help us to take on His lovely Likeness, His Righteous Resemblance, His Holy Form, and His Glorious Appearance. Through His precious Blood, He is able to cleanse and destroy our vicious fear of both constructive and destructive criticisms and fill us with His Humility Faith and Truth which empower us to suffer all manner of revilings, persecutions, and evil speakings for His glorious Name's Sake.

## Chapter Four

### Christ's Fourth Step of Humility: "In Fashion as a Man"

#### Overcomes the Fear of the Loss of Love

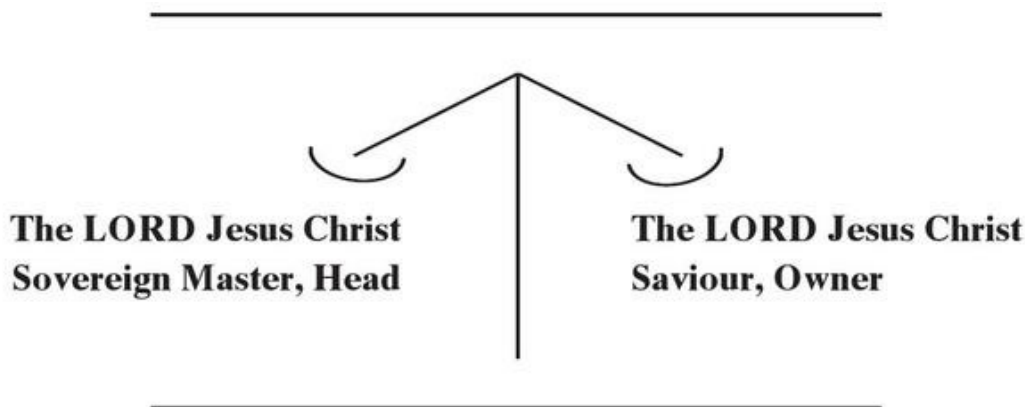
The fourth step that Jesus Christ took on His Humility Stairway was that He was found "in fashion as a man," which is the cure for man's fourth basic fear, the fear of the "loss of love."

Jesus Christ was found in the "fashion of a man," with all the attitudes of humanity. God the Father prepared a human Body for Christ so that He could be our Saviour by taking our place in Death and Hell. God the Father, in His Miraculous Act of Fashioning and with His Perfect Workmanship, presented Christ a sinless and perfect Body that was the *external* Model, Form, and Pattern of Christ's *internal* Spiritual Stature of Truth. As an Example for sinful man, Jesus Christ, in His perfect, sinless "fashion of a man," displayed, by His humility manner, His humility method of conduct, and His humility way of behaviour, all the things that God intended man to "be" and to "do."

Jesus Christ, in His "fashion of a man," did not give His Heart to this evil, fashionable world and let its "best" corrupt company dictate His tastes. Instead, He kept His Roots in God's good, fashionable Spiritual World and kept the Best Holy Company with His Heavenly Father, continually, even though He was in the "fashion of a man."

Jesus is our Example to show us that we, too, are to be concerned with the latest Heavenly fashions of Holiness and Truth and the *Best* Company of God and His Son, rather than this world's evil fashions and evil company.

Although Christ was adorned in the Humility Garment called "fashion of a man," He was perfect in His quality of rank and title as the LORD Jesus Christ. Christ's Humility Adornment in the "fashion of a man" made Him a Man of Distinction. Christ's Humility Garment, the "fashion of a man," made Him a Man of Honourable Superiority and gave Him Supreme Preeminence in the earthly society of men. Because Jesus Christ wore the Humility Garment called the "fashion of a man," He is qualified to be both our Saviour and our Sovereign Ruler.



Jesus Christ, our Saviour, has saved us and purchased us with His own precious Blood at the Cross. Therefore, He is our Owner. We are His personal property, and He has all the Just Right to be our Sovereign Ruler, controlling His property. The LORD Jesus Christ, as our Sovereign Master, has the Supreme Power, Rank, and Authority to govern and guide us by His Royal Rule and His Righteous Reign. Christ, as Master, has the Right and Power to impose His Will upon us, His servants, His bond slaves. Christ is the Head over all the Church, His Body (Ephesians 1:22,23). Therefore, He has the Moral Right, as our chief Governor and Guide, to require the same Mind that is in His *Head* to be in His *Body*, of which we are a part.

Jesus Christ, our Head, took on the Mind of the "fashion of a man" so that He could put the same Mind (fashion

of a man) that is in His Body in us. Then, He can teach us, through His Humility Fashion, the sin and folly of pride and the Wisdom of His humility passive Obedience.

Jesus Christ humbled Himself and took on the “fashion of a man” in order to teach us His perfect Humility Surrender, both the Surrender of the Divine Humility Mind of Christ and the Surrender of the Human Humility Mind of Christ Jesus. The Humility Mind of Christ will perform His passive Obedience on the inside of our heart and our will, and His Humility Mind will impart His Divine Strength to our hands and feet to perform His active Obedience on the outside. Thus, willingly, from the heart, we can join our will to Christ’s Will and, thereby, make God’s Will a visible reality in our life. The Divine Humility Mind of Christ and the Humility Human Mind of Christ Jesus can deliver and heal us from all our vicious fears, converting our sinful fears into virtuous fear and trust in God’s Divine Will for us, both in the Heavens and on Earth.

Of all the vicious fears in the human heart, the malicious fear of the loss of love seems to cause more agony and trouble for the human race than any other. It turns the world’s avenues of society, the fellowship in the Church, and the mental and spiritual emotions of individuals, into hellish nightmares of torment and torture.

In the business world, the terror of losing the loyalty of his employees abides constantly on the brow of the employer. The employee lives in constant nagging fright of losing the favour of his employer. So vicious fear of losing out continues to manifest itself in the office and the factory, as friends strive among themselves for the position of being *most loved* and for the title of being *most popular*. All the bonds and restraints of fear under which men lie can be broken so that any soul may be free.

Fear of the loss of love grows also in the hearts of God’s children. Christians do not want to give up possession of something that brings pleasure and delight to their hearts. Although they do not intentionally hold on to things because they bring satisfaction to their souls, this is the real reason they do not rid themselves of things they should. For sinful man to be alienated from the love of his family and friends is to him a paradise lost. The visible Church would be almost like paradise regained on Earth if these vicious fears already were eradicated from the hearts of believers. There would be harmony and trust abiding “within” and “without” the hearts of God’s people.

However, since carnality and fear still exist in the hearts of Christians, the Devil stirs up the vicious fear of loss of love, which causes strife, confusion, division, and disunity in the Body of Christ. Denominations strive against one another because each hopes to add to his list of followers. Believers are most concerned that other believers follow them and their denomination, instead of showing them how to follow Christ and His precious Humility Truth. When we stand before the LORD in the Day of Judgment, we will not be rewarded for the number of people who have *followed us*, but for how many people we have taught to follow Christ and grow up unto the Measure of the Fullness of His Holy Stature of Truth.

In the case of a Pastor and his church, the vicious fear of “loss of love” constrains the Pastor to work and move in many special ways, as he tries to hold the loyalty of his congregation. The special actions of the Pastor toward some members may cause one member to feel that the Pastor is partial and that he loves one member more than he loves another, when in reality, the Pastor is not partial but rather driven by fear of the loss of love. This vicious fear nourishes and sustains many feelings of resentment, bitterness, and ill will among God’s people.

The vicious fear of the loss of love works unceasingly in families. Fathers and mothers each suffer hidden, nagging fears that their children will love the other parent more. Children also suffer the vicious fear of the loss of their parents’ love toward them, which creates envy between the children. In fact, much quarreling between siblings can be traced directly to the fear of loss of love.

Jealousy is the cruellest and most vehement fruit of the vicious fear of the loss of personal love. “Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame” (Song of Solomon 8:6). The Husbandman/Bridegroom asked to be set as a seal on the heart and on the arm of the Spouse/Bride. He wanted to be given an Eternal Position as a seal on her heart and on her arm. The Love of Christ and His Bride is a Love that is as strong as Death. The Love between Christ and His Bride is as irresistible as Death, which none can overcome. The Bridegroom and Bride Love excites the Bridegroom and the Bride to be completely enslaved to each other. All the flood waters of trials, tribulations, and testings cannot quench the godly love between the Bridegroom and the Bride. If the world would open all their treasure houses and offer all their money to the Bride, she utterly would contemn it because she would not sell one precious Word of Christ’s Truth. The godly jealousy of the Bride for the Word of Truth constrains her to resist all temptations to sell it that are dangled before her eyes.

However, when corrupt, jealous fear grows to maturity in the human heart, it causes people to wound and sometimes even kill the physical body of the person they love rather than to face the “loss of love.”

This same vicious, jealous fear causes others to kill with their tongues. Using words instead of guns, they slay the

name, reputation, and honour of one to whom they once rendered love and loyalty.

God's Sixth Commandment forbids man to kill, to murder. God's Moral Law is neither antiquated nor obsolete.

God is a God of Life; therefore, He forbids all classes of murder, whether it be killing oneself or killing others, in any form, directly or indirectly. The Scribes and Pharisees taught that the *Torah* forbade the sinful act of murder but not the sinful thought. However, Jesus taught that the Moral *Torah* forbade both the sinful thought and the sinful act of murder. Jesus laid a restraint on the inward lusts, fears, and jealousies that are responsible for our committing heart murder, for then they come forth in the form of tongue murder to kill those whom we think do not love us any more. Because our vicious fear of loss of love deceives us into thinking someone does not love us anymore, we take our tongue and turn it into a malicious, sharp two-edged sword to wound and kill the name, honour, and reputation of the person we once loved.

Christ came with His Divine Humility Mind and humbled Himself and took on the Human Humility Mind and appeared in the "fashion of a man" so that He could deliver us and set us free from this vicious fear of "loss of love" that drives the heart and tongue to commit heart and tongue murder.

The "fashion of a man" is what helped to qualify Jesus Christ to be the one and only Mediator between God and man. The "fashion of a man" helped Christ Jesus be a "Go-between," to mediate and interpose between God and man who were at variance with each other. The purpose of Christ Jesus' appearing in the "fashion of a man" was for the reconciliation of God and man. Christ Jesus, as Mediator, carries messages of Truth from God to man, and He carries man's confession of sin and repentance back to God. It is for Jesus Christ's Name's Sake that sins are forgiven (Ephesians 4:32; I John 2:12).

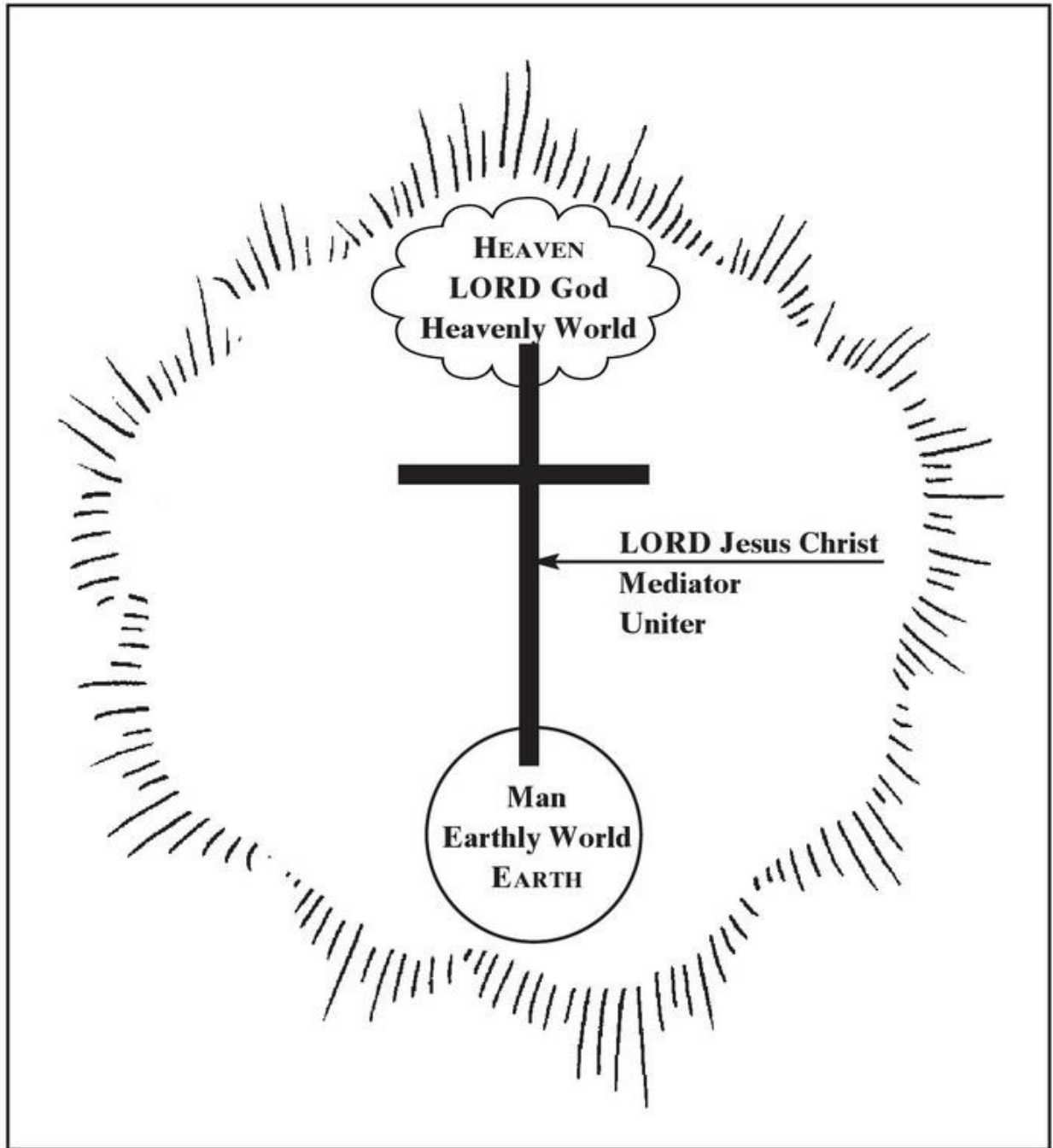
Jesus Christ took our internal frailties, and He also accepted the external weakness of our human body so that He could walk in every one of our sinful steps. Thus, He is qualified, by Empirical Knowledge, to convict us of sinful frailties and weaknesses so that we can confess and repent. He carries our confessions and repentances back to God and returns with a message of Love and Forgiveness. Thus, He procures reconciliation between God and man.

Without Christ Jesus' "fashioning of a man," He could not have been our Mediator. Because He has known and tasted the vicious fears and terrible temptations that abide inwardly in our human heart and outwardly in our life, and has been victorious over them, He is able to succour us when we need help. "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted" (Hebrews 2:18).

Christ Jesus knows how to help tempted, sorrowful souls because He took our sin-sick diseases upon Himself. In this present evil world, God's people never will be free from Lucifer's temptations because he always will try to incite and solicit us to do evil and to think ill. Lucifer always is enticing us to do something wrong, in one form or another, by presenting some pleasure or advantage to the mind or by adducing plausible arguments. He always tries to provoke us to defy the Divine Humility Mind of Christ and the Humility Human Mind of Christ Jesus. But, Christ Jesus, Who was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin, is faithful to succour and strengthen us when we are in need.

While Christ was exalted in Heaven, He shared the Father's Body of Glory; He was equal with the Father's Creating Power; He knew the Father's Love; He was known and exalted in the spiritual world; and He was worshipped by all the Holy Angels. Yet, the Humility Mind of Christ humbled itself to be lowered to Earth and to be clothed with the "fashion of a man," in the Humility Human Mind of a Human Body, which was inferior even to the bodies of Angels. He did all things so that He could redeem fallen man. "But we see Jesus, who was made *a little lower than the angels* for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; *that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man*" (Hebrews 2:9).

Christ Jesus was made lower than the Angels because of the Humility Human Mind and Human Body with which He voluntarily clothed Himself so that He could understand fallen man's earthly, sinful world. Then, through His Death, Burial, and Resurrection, He has been crowned with Glory, Honour, and All Power so that He can unite the Heavenly world and the earthly world of man.



Although the Divine Christ had all Creative Power in Heaven, He did not have the Power to unite fallen, sinful man to God. However, He humbled His Divine Humility Mind and took upon Him the “fashion of a man,” the Humility Human Mind and Human Body, and through His passive and active Obedience, He went to the Cross, Death, the Grave, and Hell, and was resurrected with Glory, Honour, and All Power as a Mediator Who could unite God and man. The Head of the LORD Jesus Christ, with the Divine Humility Mind of Christ and the Humility Human Mind of Christ Jesus, is a Footstool for the Feet of the Heavenly Father. In turn, the precious nail-scarred Feet of Christ Jesus make a Footstool out of the head of man by washing the prideful mind of man and delivering it from its vicious fears and bringing it into a place of perfect peace and rest. When our mind is at peace and rest, we become a restful Footstool for Christ. Should Christ Jesus not reap what He has sown? If He has given us rest from sinful pride, should we not give His precious Feet rest upon our head? Christ has sown rest and peace, and He

deserves to reap rest and peace.

What greater humiliation could our precious Jesus suffer? He, Who was *Creator* of all things and *known* by all the spirit world, humbled Himself and took upon Himself the “fashion of a man,” the fashion of His very own creation, so that He could become *unknown* in both the natural world and the spiritual world (unless His Father caused Him to be made known). “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (I Timothy 3:16).

The mystery of godliness is not comprehended by prideful human nature and carnal reasoning. It is understood by the revelation of the Spirit. Christ the Word *voluntarily* took on the Humility Human Mind of flesh. Although He was reproached and crucified as a sinful malefactor, He was justified by the Spirit which raised Him from the dead (I Peter 3:18). Christ Jesus offered Himself to the Gentiles as Saviour and Redeemer, the same as He did to the Jews. He was received by a remnant of both Jews and Gentiles. He was received up into Heaven with All Power to bring Heaven and Earth into complete harmony and unity. The mystery of “God in flesh” is indeed great.

Christ might have refused a fleshly Body, saying, “My Father will be ashamed of Me, and the Angels will cease to worship Me.” However, instead of losing Heaven’s love and respect, Christ’s Humility retained love and respect in Heaven and gained, on Earth, the love and respect of poor, lost man’s heart, who has joined the Angels in love, worship, and adoration *of* Him and *to* Him. Now, both Heaven and Earth are united in love and adoration to Him because His Humility Mind ruled and reigned over the vicious fear of the loss of love, and He retained His Virtuous Fear and Trust in God.

All vicious, sinful fear has its origin in the roots, trunk, branches, and fruit of the Tree of Pride. The roots of the Tree of Pride consist of *disbelief* or refusal of a person to believe that he deserves the low place or that he is worthy to *humble* himself. The roots of pride cause us never to believe that it is necessary for us to humble ourself. Pride esteems that it always is needful for the *other* person to humble himself. The trunk and the branches of the Tree of Pride consist of *mistrust* in God’s Word. Pride always makes us doubtful and causes us to be suspicious that God’s Word is withholding the “best” from us. Our prideful mistrust always is unsettled, uncertain, and undecided in its opinion of God’s Word and God’s Will. Mistrust always is fearful that God will let us down in the middle of the stream. The fruit of the Tree of Pride is the mature spirit of *discredit* that continually searches and seeks ways and means to damage the credibility of the Word of God. The *fruit* of prideful discredit seeks to disgrace and dishonour the Will of God by trying to lower the Honour and Respect due to God’s Word and God’s Will.

Proud man loathes to leave the high place of an exalted reputation in this world (which he can hold only for a season) so that he can descend to the lower position of Christ’s Humility, where he can learn of the Humble Mind of Christ Jesus, which will exalt him eternally in the New City. Man’s deadly disease of pride can be cured only with the medicine of Christ’s Humility. Jesus Christ taught us to take the *lowest* place and wait for the King to invite us to come higher.

But when **thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room**; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, **Friend, go up higher**: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee (Luke 14:10).

Christ taught that when someone is invited to a wedding he should take the lowest place in humility of mind and spirit; then, the Master of the feast will say, “Come higher.” The Master will see the sweet humility of the soul and will invite that one to come near to Himself.

It is impossible to get lower than the lowest. Therefore, the lowest place is the most blessed place. In the lowest place with Christ’s Divine Humility Mind and His Human Humility Mind, there is neither fear of falling nor fear of loss. The prideful carnality of the human mind is such a blind enemy of the Humble Mind of Christ that it fails to see or appreciate the lowest place of Christ’s Humility until the Holy Ghost leads it there and it discovers the beauty of the precious jewels of Christ’s Humility and the ugliness of its own proud nature. When we discover the beauty of Christ’s Humility, our heart leaps for joy and sings grateful praises to God for every persecution, trial, false accusation, and suffering that He has used to bring us to the lowest place.

Jesus Christ knew the suffering of being forsaken, and He experienced the loss of love of those who should have loved Him the most. Therefore, He is able to deliver us from the vicious fear of the loss of someone’s love. As we submit ourself into His Holy Hand, He gives us His unfailling, undying Love that makes up for all the loss of love from all creatures.

No mortal temporal love can be compared to the Eternal, Divine, Infinite Love of our spiritual Bridegroom, Jesus

Christ. His precious, sweet Love is the only perfect Love and the only enduring Love. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us" (I John 4:18,19). When the Perfect, Divine, Infinite Love of Christ Jesus prevails in the soul, vicious fear ceases, and the virtuous fear and trust of God rule and reign in the soul. Perfect love casts out vicious fear.

Virtuous fear of God and trust in Him are not marred with dismal, dreadful suspicious of God's Holy Justice and His Almighty Power.

Perfect love casts out the warring, tormenting, and torturing passion of vicious fear and calms the tossing tempest of the soul, leaving joy and peace.

After the Truth of the sufficiency of Christ's Love has been brought to birth in our heart, we willingly surrender to lose all natural love, if necessary, in order to obtain His Eternal and Supernal Love. How wonderful is Christ's great Divine Love that constrained Him to humble Himself and take on the humility human Cloak, called the "fashion of a man," in order to cast vicious fear from our heart and fill our heart with His Humility Mind and His Infinite Love!

## Chapter Five

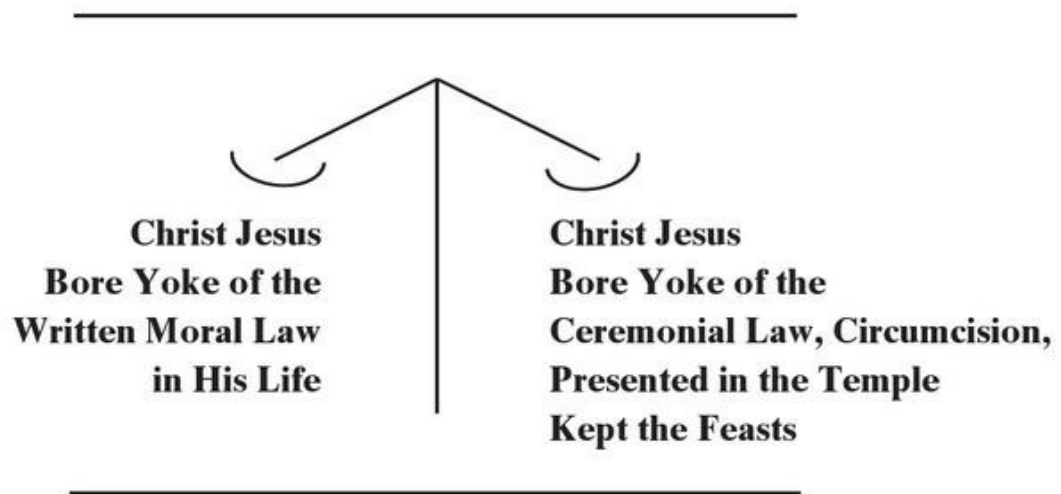
### Christ's Fifth Step of Humility: "He Humbled Himself"

#### Overcomes the Fear of Having to Suffer Illness

The fifth step that Jesus Christ took on His Humility Stairway was that He "humbled Himself," which is the cure for man's fifth basic fear — the fear of illness.

To *humble* the self means to abase the self, to bring self low, to depress, humiliate in condition or heart, humiliate in circumstances or disposition, base, cast down, low degree, low estate. More specifically, *humble* traces back to a word meaning the low feelings of the mind as well as the body.

Christ, the Eternal Divine Word, humbled Himself by stooping to become a man. He condescended to become a man and put His neck under the yoke of the Written Law, the *Torah*, both ceremonially and morally.



Christ Jesus humbled Himself and took upon Himself the yoke of the Ceremonial Law.

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, **made under the law**, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons (Galatians 4:4,5).

The creation is indispensably subject to the Laws of the Creator, the Owner and Master, and is dependent upon the Creator for its existence and the maintenance of its existence. This is rightfully normal and does not involve any humiliation. But, Christ Jesus is the Creator, the Living *Torah*, and the Lawmaker of the Written Law (both the Moral Law and the Ceremonial Law). Therefore, when He took on the yoke of the Law and subjected Himself to the Law, He submitted Himself to great humiliation because the Law was written for sinners and unrighteous people.

Knowing this, that **the law is not made for a righteous man**, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; (I Timothy 1:9,10).

A righteous man does not need the restraint of the Law to do righteously because his heart is filled with love and desire for nothing but the LORD God. However, fallen man, although he may be redeemed, is not in this stage of

perfection. He has to be instructed and reminded, continually, of the right things to do. Lawless carnal flesh, in its blind fury, does many cruel wrongs. The rough and rude manner of man is a constant reminder of his lawless condition.

How many times do we, as Christians, either rebel and refuse to do God's Will or, out of careless neglect, *fail* to do His Will? But, how merciful and gracious our LORD is to keep looking upon us and working with us until He subdues our disobedient will.

The ungodly deeds of sinners are faithful witnesses of man's fallen condition and his need for the restraint of the Law. How grossly do many Christians contradict the plain humility Precepts of the Gospel of Christ with their ungodly murmurings and complainings and their worldly lusts.

Jesus Christ came not to call the righteous to repentance, but sinners (Matthew 9:13). All have committed sin and come short of the Glory of God. All willfully have violated the Divine Law. All have failed in their duty to God and transgressed His Law, whether they be the charming sinners or the charismatic saints.

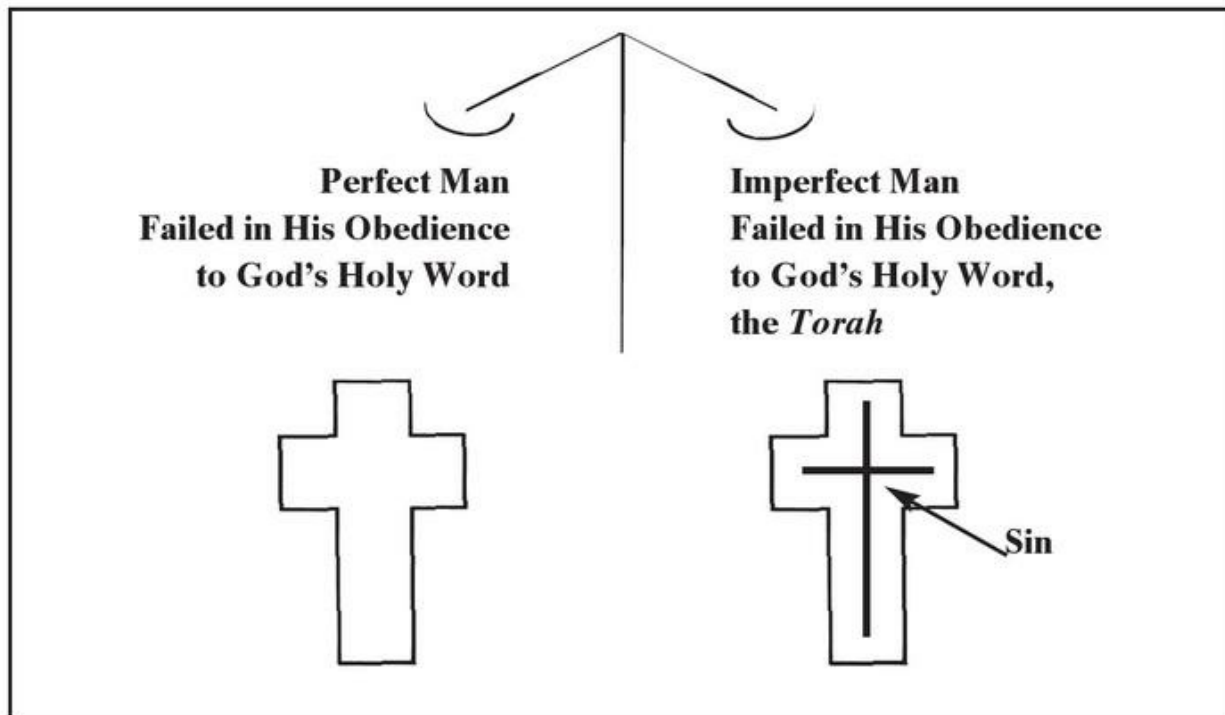
The LORD Christ made the Law for unholy, fallen man who, through sin, fell from his Holy, sacred, consecrated, and hallowed condition before God.

When man fell into sin, he became profane and unconcerned about the Law of God and its Righteousness and Holiness.

Man's heart was filled with the seeds of murder after he fell into sin, as was evidenced by Cain's slaying of Abel. The world is filled with murderers who commit unlawful, malicious, and premeditated killings in a barbarous and inhuman fashion. The LORD made the Law to teach man the evil and wickedness of sin and to restrain him from his sin.

Christ Jesus came in our place and stood under the yoke of the Law and was circumcised, fulfilling the Moral Law by His Holy Life. This humility subjection was not a debt to God, but it came out of Christ's *voluntary* humbling and His *consented* agreement.

Christ Jesus humbled Himself and appeared in the likeness of sinful flesh and walked in man's sinful footsteps, but *without* sin and *with* complete, perfect obedience to the Law. In the beginning, Christ, the Creator, created man perfect and gave him an opportunity to obey His Word, but man failed. Then, He gave fallen, imperfect man a Law and another opportunity to obey His Holy Word, and man failed again.

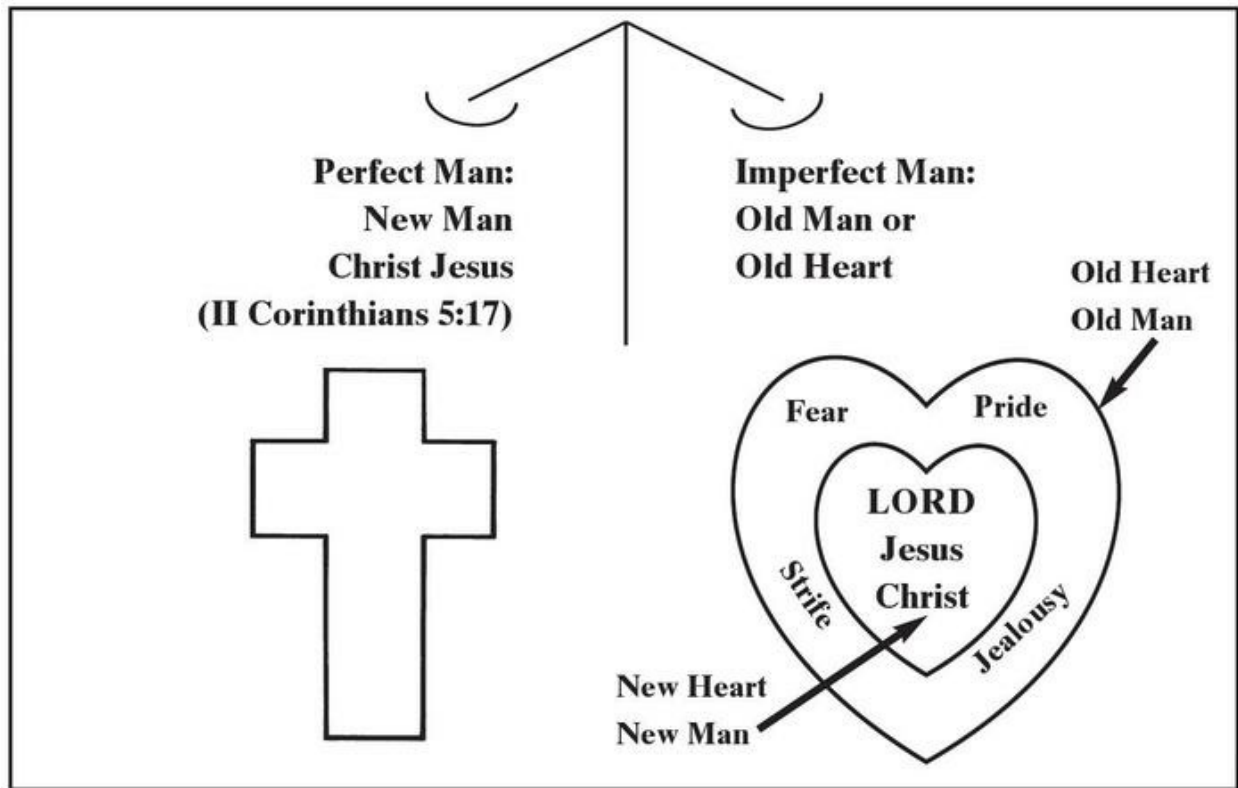


Perfect man had a choice to put the Word of God within his being, and the Word would have helped him to be the loving, obedient creature that God intended for him to be. But, man chose to have sin fill his empty being. God sent His *Torah*, His Law, to reveal the nature of sin that ruled inside man in his fallen condition. The Law could neither

redeem fallen man nor strengthen his weak sinful flesh to obey it because it was a dead letter, written in stone and on parchment.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. **For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh,** God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Romans 8:1-4).

Christ, the Creator, in His manifold Mercy and great Grace, did not leave fallen, sinful man to his wretched plight. The perfect Law demanded perfect obedience, or death would be the consequence of disobedience. The Law, the *Torah*, could neither redeem fallen man from death nor free him from his guilt, shame, and disgrace. Poor, sinful, shameful, and guilty man was too weak in his flesh to render obedience to the Law. God's beloved Son, Christ, voluntarily humbled Himself, lowered Himself to the place of man, and as a perfect Man, He satisfied the Law by rendering perfect obedience to it in our place. Then, He died, was buried, rose again, and obtained a Glorified, Resurrected, Omnipresent Human Body so that He can enter into all who believe and receive, redeeming them from death, freeing them from guilt, and strengthening them to obey the Righteousness of the Law.



Christ humbled Himself and took man's place under the yoke of the Law so that, ultimately, He might come into man's heart and fight against the enemy of sin within the very heart of man. Christ humbled Himself in order to redeem us and free us from our vicious fears. The least we can do is humble ourselves and receive the help and liberation that He has provided for us in the place of humility.

The Law could neither justify us nor sanctify us by freeing us from the guilt of sin and the power of sin. But, Christ Jesus, by the Power of His Holy Life and by the sacrifice of His Holy Life, has liberated us from the guilt of sin and the power of sin so that, through His Justification and Sanctification, we are being continually strengthened to obey the Moral Righteousness of the *Torah*.

Christ Jesus humbled Himself and received stripes on His blessed Holy Back in order to bring us healing, both naturally and spiritually.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and **with his stripes**

**we are healed** (Isaiah 53:5).

Christ Jesus, God's suffering Servant, was wounded because of our transgressions. He was crushed because of our iniquities. The chastisement of our welfare was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.

Our sins and our sicknesses were laid upon Jesus Christ so that we might be healed and made fit to serve God and so that we might be prepared to find joy, delight, and satisfaction in God.

The healing Blood and Stripes of Christ Jesus are curing, mild, gentle, mollifying, and healing to our sin-sick, diseased spirit, soul, and body. Christ Jesus is able to make us whole, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. He can cure our diseases and wounds, making us whole and sound. "And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. *And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour*" (Matthew 8:13).

Jesus Christ is able to remove and subdue all diseases and wounds. He is able to purge, purify, and remove all foul, diseased attitudes, and all feculent, hateful matter from our being. Jesus Christ is able to free us from all guilt so that we can return to Christ and resume a whole and sound state before Him.

One of man's greatest fears is of becoming physically or mentally ill. Vicious fear itself is such a warring, tortuous emotion that it disquiets the soul, filling it with anxiety and fright, which prevents people from humbling themselves and believing and trusting God for healing.

It is impossible for the Holy Faith of Christ and the vicious fear of the flesh to flow in unity and harmony through the human heart. Vicious fleshly fear is an enemy of the Holy Faith of Christ. Therefore, we must first deal with fleshly fear, which doubts God's merciful Nature, doubts the Faithfulness of God's Word, and doubts His Power to deliver, before we can have faith. Fleshly fear causes people to distrust God's Holy, Just, and Righteous Nature and makes them think that He will put more suffering or heartache on them than they are able to bear, without giving them any escape in either the natural realm or the spiritual realm.

The solution of how to overcome fleshly fear, with its vicious, tortuous torment, is to humble oneself before Christ Jesus, the Owner and Master of our life. He is the Source and Cause of our existence, and He is the Maintainer of our continued existence. Therefore, it is imperative that we humble ourselves before Him and look to Him to free us from our fleshly fear of illness.

Fleshly fear blocks and hinders the flow of Christ's Holy Faith and Divine Healing Power in our being. Christ Jesus died to give us life, so He is not going to withhold His Life from us after enduring such humility, pain, and suffering in order to obtain His Resurrected, Omnipresent Life. It is our fleshly fear that produces the distrust that prevents Christ's Resurrected Life from having free course through our being.

Not only did the Christ humble Himself by leaving His High and Holy Position in Heaven, but He also humbled Himself by yielding to take the lowest place of dwelling — in a Human Body of flesh — so that He could take our illnesses on Himself. He willingly accepted all the humiliation that came upon Him because of taking our infirmities and our sicknesses upon Himself, carrying our sins and diseases in His own Body to the Cross, and, then, nailing them there. When He felt the humiliating pain of our physical, spiritual, and mental sufferings, there was no vicious fleshly fear that constrained Him to draw back from suffering for us. Instead, He ruled and reigned over fallen man's vicious fear of suffering, disease, illness, and death.

When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and **he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:** That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, **Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses** (Matthew 8:16,17).

Man's vicious fleshly fear is frightened of the state of being infirm, weak, or feeble in body and health. We blindly envision ourselves growing stronger because of our strength and health, or growing weaker because of our infirmity and poor physical health. But, this is not true when Christ reigns in the heart. The body may be growing weaker and more infirm by reason of age, but we can keep growing stronger inwardly in His Peace, Love, Faith, and Humility. If we are conscious of our infirmity, our weakness of mind and purpose and our faults and failures, and if we confess them to Christ Jesus and give them to Him as the rightful Owner, He will heal us both naturally and spiritually since He already willingly has taken on all these things, as our Owner. Christ Jesus is not only the rightful Owner of our infirmities but also the rightful Owner of our sicknesses. He is the Owner of all our physical diseases, illnesses, and poor health. He is the Owner of all sick feelings of disgust and dislike in our soul. He is the Owner of all disturbed feelings of doubt and distrust in our sick heart and spirit. He is able to heal all our sick feelings of disgust, aversion, and abhorrence by His Holy Peace Offering Blood.

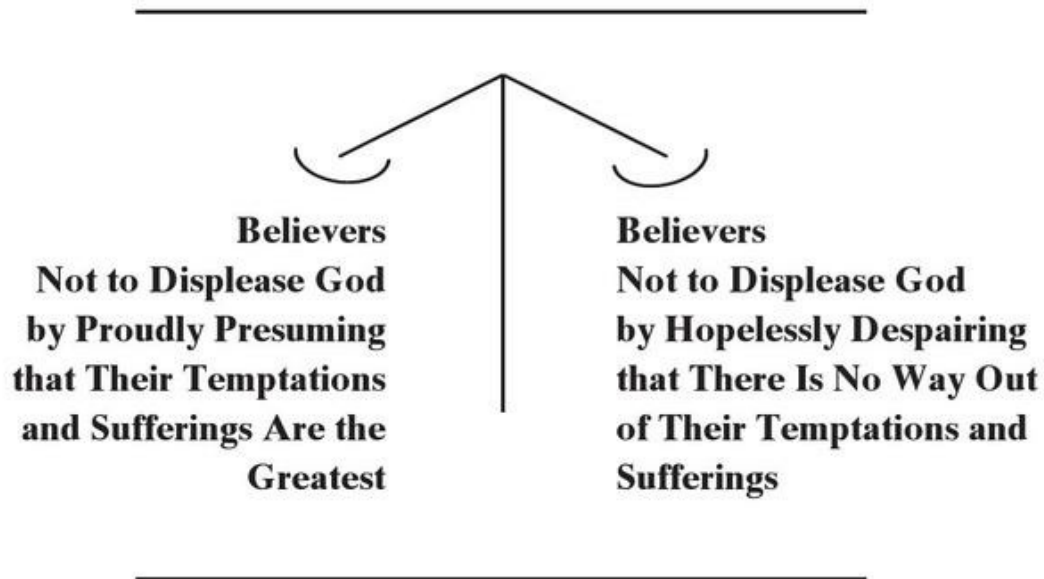
Only after we have humbled our heart to Christ Jesus and surrendered our vicious fears to Him, will He allow His Holy Faith to flow through our being, applying His precious Peace Blood which gives us the victory over our infirmities and our sicknesses. Christ's Holy Faith lays hold of God's Promises and puts them into living action in our life.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by the faith of the Son of God**, who loved me, and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20).

What a glorious spiritual and mysterious union we have with Christ! Although we are still an imperfect man with an imperfect and infirm heart, we can live by the perfect Faith of the perfect Man, Christ Jesus, Who lives in our heart. Christ lives *in* our flesh, but He does not live *after* our flesh. Christ is busy teaching us not to live after the flesh, but to live after His Holy Faith. What grace is bestowed upon us that, while we live in the death of the flesh, on one side of the Scales, we are alive by the Faith of Christ on the other side of the Scales. Christ's Faith has perfect confidence in the Headship of the Heavenly Father. Therefore, His Faith gives us this same firm and certain confidence in the Father.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape**, that ye may be able to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

God does not want us to displease Him, on one side of the Scales, by proudly presuming that our temptations and sufferings are uncommon and abnormal, compared to the temptation and sufferings of others. However, He does not want us to displease Him, on the other side of the Scales, by hopelessly despairing because we think there is no way out of our sufferings.



God proportions our temptations and sufferings, on one side of the Scales, according to *our* strength. Therefore, it is a lie from our vicious fear that says our temptations and sufferings are greater than anyone else's, which would make God unrighteous and unjust as our Owner and Master. On the other side of the Scales, God proportions our temptations and sufferings according to *His* Strength. Therefore, the deceitful lies that our vicious fear whispers send us to the pit of despondency in hopeless despair. Thus, we again falsely accuse God of being either too weak or too unconcerned to make a way of escape for us.

However, in spite of our sinful imperfections, God is Faithful and True and does not put on us more than our strength can bear; and, He will, by His Strength of Grace and Mercy, make a way of escape for us. The way of escape is the Cross of Christ. When we allow Him to nail our vicious, fleshly fear to the Cross, which releases His Resurrected, Holy Faith in our heart, His open tomb also becomes our doorway of escape.

When fleshly fear is crucified and Christ's Holy Faith is resurrected within us, we step into a whole new realm of glorious liberty and freedom in our spirit, soul, and body.

The early Church, in the first century, learned how to rejoice in the Faith of Christ while standing on His Humility Step of “suffering illness for His Name’s Sake.” They experienced the glorious victory over fleshly fear as they rejoiced, counting it a Blessed and Holy Privilege to suffer in their physical bodies because of the beatings they received from their enemies for the Sake of the LORD Jesus Christ.

...and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

**And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.** And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ (Acts 5:40-42).

The men of the council gave vent to their rage and fury against Christ Jesus by stripping, beating, and scourging His Apostles as malicious malefactors.

The desire of the vile council was to appeal to man’s vicious fleshly fear of illness, with the hope of making the Apostles fearful and ashamed to speak any more in Christ’s Name, and with the hope of making the people fearful and ashamed to listen to the Message of Christ Jesus. The vile council hoped to place great ignominy upon both the Message and the Messenger. However, the Apostles went forth with such unconquerable joy that they continued as cheerful “chandeliers,” bright and shining lights, lighting poor sinful man’s way to Jesus Christ.

But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how **great things he must suffer for my name’s sake** (Acts 9:15,16).

The LORD Jesus Christ chose Saul, an earthly, marred, broken, and dishonourable vessel, and made him into a Paul, a better, whole, and honourable vessel. Within Paul, He placed the glorious Treasures of Truth and sent him forth to bear His Name to the Gentiles and to suffer for His Name’s Sake. As Paul, he was to be persecuted for Christ’s Sake. Paul’s sufferings for Christ’s Sake brought Honour and Glory to Christ. They brought Salvation to the lost, and they brought spiritual growth in the Stature of Christ to the believers. Last of all, they brought Paul joy unspeakable and filled him with Glory in this present evil world and gave him an exceeding Eternal Reward of Glory in the New City. Therefore, Paul confessed that his present sufferings and afflictions were but *light* in comparison to all the blessings that came as a result of his willingness to suffer for Christ’s Sake.

Paul has shared with us some of the sufferings in his body that he encountered while walking with Christ and serving Him as a bond slave. When we compare our sufferings to Paul’s, we have to hang our head in shame and humility — and even much more when we compare our sufferings for Christ to Christ’s Sufferings for us.

Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? (II Corinthians 11:24-29).

Paul did not share his suffering with us out of boastful pride and vainglory, but out of Honour to Christ and for our encouragement and comfort in our sufferings for Christ.

The Apostle Paul could have set himself forth as a remarkable scholar, Apostle, and minister of God; instead, he set himself forth as a remarkable “sufferer” for Christ’s Sake.

Paul worked and laboured abundantly as a servant of Christ. He endured painful sufferings in the form of stripes for Christ’s Name’s Sake, and he frequently was imprisoned for Christ’s Gospel Message. He was often led to death’s door and was ready and willing to lay down his life as a martyr. Stripes and rods were Paul’s frequent companions in the “Way of the Cross.” Jails and whipping posts were his places of abode. Stones were his recompenses from rebellious, idolatrous crowds who rejected the Message and the Messenger. Paul suffered shipwreck, all sorts of perils, dangers, strife, and all kinds of weariness and pains; and he suffered the spiritual burden and care of all the churches. There was not a small, weak, suffering “little one,” in any church, that Paul could not relate to for Christ’s Sake. Paul’s sufferings for Christ’s Sake could not defeat his unconquerable joy for the privilege of serving Christ.

And **at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises** unto God: and the prisoners heard them (Acts 16:25).

By beating Paul and Silas, the persecutors of Christ plotted to make them “sick and ill” of the cause of Christ and

planned to dishearten and discourage them in Christ's work. After the enemy had plowed deep furrows on their backs, leaving them bleeding and broken, and had cast them into an inner prison and put their feet in stocks, Paul and Silas turned the inner prison into a prayer closet and an oratory chapel by praising and thanking the LORD that they had been counted worthy to suffer for His Name's Sake. Their praise and gratitude were so pure and powerful that it created a "heavenly quake," as it were, before God's Throne, that redounded to an "earthly quake" in the prison which resulted in the jailer being saved and his house within him.

The Apostle Paul never despised the sufferings he endured for Christ's Sake, but in everything he praised and thanked the LORD. He said, in so many words, "If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities" (II Corinthians 11:30). Paul praised and thanked the LORD for his sufferings and his infirmities because they redounded to the Glory of God, and they only resulted in the furtherance of the Gospel and the Word of Truth, both to sinners and to saints. In spite of all the perils and pains he suffered, Paul never allowed them to separate him from the joy and praise and thanksgiving for the Will of the LORD in his life nor from the Humility Way of Christ and His Cross. At the end of his life, Paul still retained his good testimony.

Some people begin well in their walk with Christ, but as they progress in age, they deteriorate in their relationship with Christ and their faithfulness to Him.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, **I have kept the faith**: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing (II Timothy 4:7,8).

Paul, in his old age, was a valiant victor in Christ's Army. He contended for the Word and the Spirit, and he disputed against the enemy forces of error, darkness and death for the cause of Christ. He laboured and worked until he was overworked, wearied, and exhausted, but he never gave up the fight.

Paul finished his course. He completed Christ's Master Plan for his earthly life. He was a faithful performer of God's Will and carried it out to the finish, fulfilling his duty of making Christ known.

Paul was like Jesus, Who is the great Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrew 12:2). Many begin the race, but not every one finishes the race. He that performs the greatest of works is the "Finisher." Paul was a keeper of the faith of Christ. He retained "the faith" in his possession and power. He guarded it, watched over it, and preserved it, lest the enemy snatch it from him. Paul practiced "the faith" habitually, carefully observing it, so as not to break it or violate it by doubts and distrust of Christ.

Thus, Paul may be said to be a *fighter*, a *finisher*, and a *faither*, so to speak. Therefore, God crowned him with a Crown of Righteousness at the end of his sojourn in this world.

Before the Apostle Peter conquered the vicious fleshly fear of suffering illness and affliction, through his obtaining the Divine Humility Mind of Christ and Humility Human Mind of Christ Jesus, he denied the LORD Jesus Christ during His passion and crucifixion. The vicious fear of suffering moved the Apostle Peter to deny the LORD and, in his denial, to curse vehemently. However, when Peter saw what his fear had coerced him to do, he went out and wept bitterly. Nonetheless, we know that Peter later learned to rule and reign over the vicious fear of the flesh because of his testimony in his first Epistle on the subject of suffering.

For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because **Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps**: (I Peter 2:19-21)

Sufferings that we deserve as a result of our fleshly disobedience in thoughts, actions, and feelings should be taken patiently. But, if we, for conscience toward God, suffer wrongfully, it is praiseworthy, and we bring Honour and Glory to Christ Jesus. When we do well and suffer for it, we bring the highest joy and satisfaction to God. Believers in Christ must expect to suffer because our sovereign King, the LORD Jesus Christ, suffered for us in the most unjust forms and by the most cruel means, even the Death of the Cross. Peter learned how to suffer, after he had watched Christ as He was suffering for him. Christ's Sufferings for us should quiet our vicious fears when we have to suffer for Him.

But and if ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; (I Peter 3:14).

It is a happy, joyous privilege to suffer for Christ because we enjoy sweet, precious fellowship with Him now; and, in Eternity, we will receive an exceedingly great reward. "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:10).

We do not have to allow vicious, fleshly fear to smite our heart with terror and tortuous torment because of the raging wrath and rancorous rantings of our enemies.

Let us learn, first, to follow Christ for Righteousness' Sake and for His Name's Sake. Second, let us learn to trust Him, as our Owner and Master, to mete out the amount of suffering that is necessary for our Eternal Good and for His Eternal Glory.

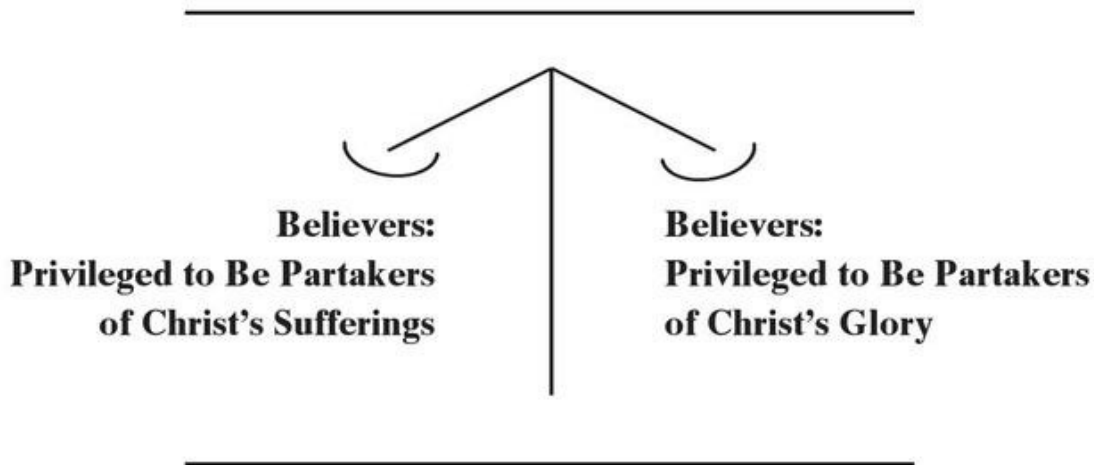
Remember, God's enemies are our enemies too. They already are objects of His Judgment if they do not repent. They can do nothing without God's Permission; therefore, let us not trouble ourself about them. Let us ask Christ Jesus to sanctify our vicious fleshly fear and convert it into Virtuous Fear of the LORD and Holy Trust and Confidence in Him.

Forasmuch then as **Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh**, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;... But **rejoice**, inasmuch as **ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings**; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.... Wherefore, **let them that suffer according to the will of God** commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator (1 Peter 4:1,13,19).

Christ suffered in His Holy, Humility Human Nature in order to obtain man's Salvation, which was a Gift of His Grace, and He has asked believers, as recipients of His Salvation, to arm themselves with the same Mind as Christ Jesus. We are to suffer in our unholy, proud human nature by crucifying it and mortifying it until we are made conformable to Christ in His Death and in His Resurrection.

The Mind of Christ Jesus consists of the Divine Humility Mind of Christ that was willing to suffer by being *unknown* and the Humility Human Mind of Christ Jesus that was willing to suffer by being *known*. This Humility Mind of Christ Jesus arms our mind with war-like weapons of determination and patience to suffer either in the *unknown* or the *known* for His great Name's Sake. The Humility Mind of Christ imparts to our heart and mind all the necessary things that will make us more fitted for both offensive and defensive warfare for His Name's Sake.

Believers in Christ Jesus are to joy and rejoice in their sharpest, sorest sufferings, in their most piercing, poignant pains for Christ's Sake because they are partakers in Christ's Sufferings. Therefore, they also will be counted worthy to be partakers of Christ's Glory!



If we are willing to take part, to share, to have a portion in Christ's Sufferings, we also will be a participator in Christ's Resurrection Glory. If we are willing to have something of the nature, quality, and character of Christ's Sufferings, we will also have the properties and features of His Resurrection Glory.

When we suffer according to the Will of God, if we will commit our soul unto the Creator, He will guard and protect our soul. It is the soul that suffers the most, through the tortuous tormenting emotions that are generated by the vicious fleshly fear in our heart. The soul is most precious and priceless part of us, and it is the part that is in the most danger. If the soul is unguarded and unkept in its hour of temptation, it will apostatize.

For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity (Psalm 125:3).

If the soul of the righteous is left unprotected in the times of suffering, the rod of the wicked persecutor will smite it, and the soul will lose its faith. In its despair it will throw in its lot with the wicked persecutor by abandoning the

LORD. The LORD God, the Owner and Master of the soul, will protect and guard the soul if we will commit it to Him in the times of our sharpest and sorest sufferings.

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, **make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you** (I Peter 5:10).

Peter assured the believers in Christ that, after they had suffered a short while, the God of all Grace would use their sufferings to perfect them, to stablish them, to strengthen them, and to settle them.

The God of all Grace is able to complete, in all respects, without any defects or omission, our Spiritual Stature in Christ Jesus, even in the midst of piercing and poignant pains. He is able to bring us into a perfect union of trust and confidence in Him, by delivering us from our vicious fleshly fears.

The God of all Grace is able to make us stable and firm as His subjects and His servants. We can continue to respect the order and government of His Ownership and Mastership, even in the midst of sufferings and afflictions.

The God of all Grace is able to impart His Strength, Force, and Power so that we can resist the stress and strain that attack the soul when it is in pain. The Strength of Christ is impregnable and will endure all sufferings.

God's all-Grace plants us under the Eternal Headship of Jesus Christ and arranges our understanding in an orderly fashion so that we are confident and certain that all things, including suffering, work together for our Eternal Good and for God's Glory.

Between the time of his denial and cruel cursing, Peter had progressed a long way on his spiritual journey up to the spiritual maturity that is evident in the First Epistle of Peter. He had followed in the Footsteps of Christ and His Suffering and had become a good teacher, both by Truth and by deed.

History tells us that Peter requested to be crucified head downward when he was appointed to martyrdom for Christ's sake, saying that he was unworthy to suffer in the same position of crucifixion as his LORD. Peter, in his death, desired that his head remain a restful footstool for the blessed Feet of Christ. Therefore, Jesus Christ and His Righteous Apostles have taught us that we have nothing to fear from suffering.

Christ has suffered for us in Body, Soul, and Spirit and has been raised in the Glory of His Father with All-Power in Heaven and Earth. At Calvary's Cross, He paid the supreme Sacrifice for us. Christ does not ask us to be a partaker in *all* His Sufferings, only a small portion of them. But, He has invited us to be a partaker in His highest degree of Resurrected Glory, if we are willing to share a small portion of his sufferings. Therefore, nothing we face is comparable to the suffering He endured while He walked this earth in a fleshly Body. Once our vicious fleshly fear of suffering illness is gone from our heart because we have allowed Christ to drive it out, we will have complete confidence in Him. Then, through His virtuous Faith, we can lay hold of His blessed Promises for healing and deliverance and walk in His perfect liberty.

## Chapter Six

### Christ's Sixth Step of Humility: "Obedient unto Death"

#### Overcomes the Fear of Death

The sixth step that Jesus Christ took on His Humility Stairway was "obedience unto death," which is the cure for man's sixth basic fear, the fear of death and the hereafter.

Death of the natural body is a harsh reality which shocks the senses and shakes the souls of the living who watch it transpire. No matter how delightful and downy the bed upon which the body lies, the cold finality of this ultimate, earthly transition cannot be lessened. At death, the Truth no longer can be escaped, and the unredeemed sinner is rightfully fearful of this moment which marks the end of his earthly time of choosing.

Death, Hell, and the Lake of Fire are a punishment for the spirit, soul, and body of a sinner for the sin he has committed. At death, the spirit and soul depart from the body, leaving it lifeless and dead. The soul goes to Hell, and the wicked spirit is left free to roam *unhoused* and *unclothed* until the resurrection of the All Dead. This is called the First Death because only the soul is punished in Hell. Then, the wicked body will be resurrected, and the wicked soul and wicked spirit will reenter the body; thereupon, they will be cast into the Eternal Damnation known as the Lake of Fire.

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and **they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation** (John 5:28,29).

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. **And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire** (Revelation 20:13-15).

Because Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, all persons, both righteous and unrighteous, will be resurrected from the dead. There is an appointed hour for the resurrection of the All Dead to occur. Death and Hell will be cast into the Lake of Fire to continue their punishment of the body and the soul, and the Lake of Fire will continue its punishment of the spirit, soul, and body.

God declared that the soul that sinneth shall surely die.

**The soul that sinneth, it shall die.** The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him (Ezekiel 18:20).

One person is neither afflicted nor punished for the other. Every *individual* soul must assume the *responsibility* for its own sin before God.

Death is something terrifying and destructive. But, Christ Jesus came and, through His Death, has divested Death of its terror and its power. Therefore, for believers in Christ Jesus, Death is the happiest period of his mortal existence because his spirit and soul go immediately into the Presence of the LORD. Death for the Christian is passage from this mortal life into new Life with the LORD.

Paul looked forward to being absent from his body because of the joy and delight his spirit and soul would experience in the Personal Presence of the LORD.

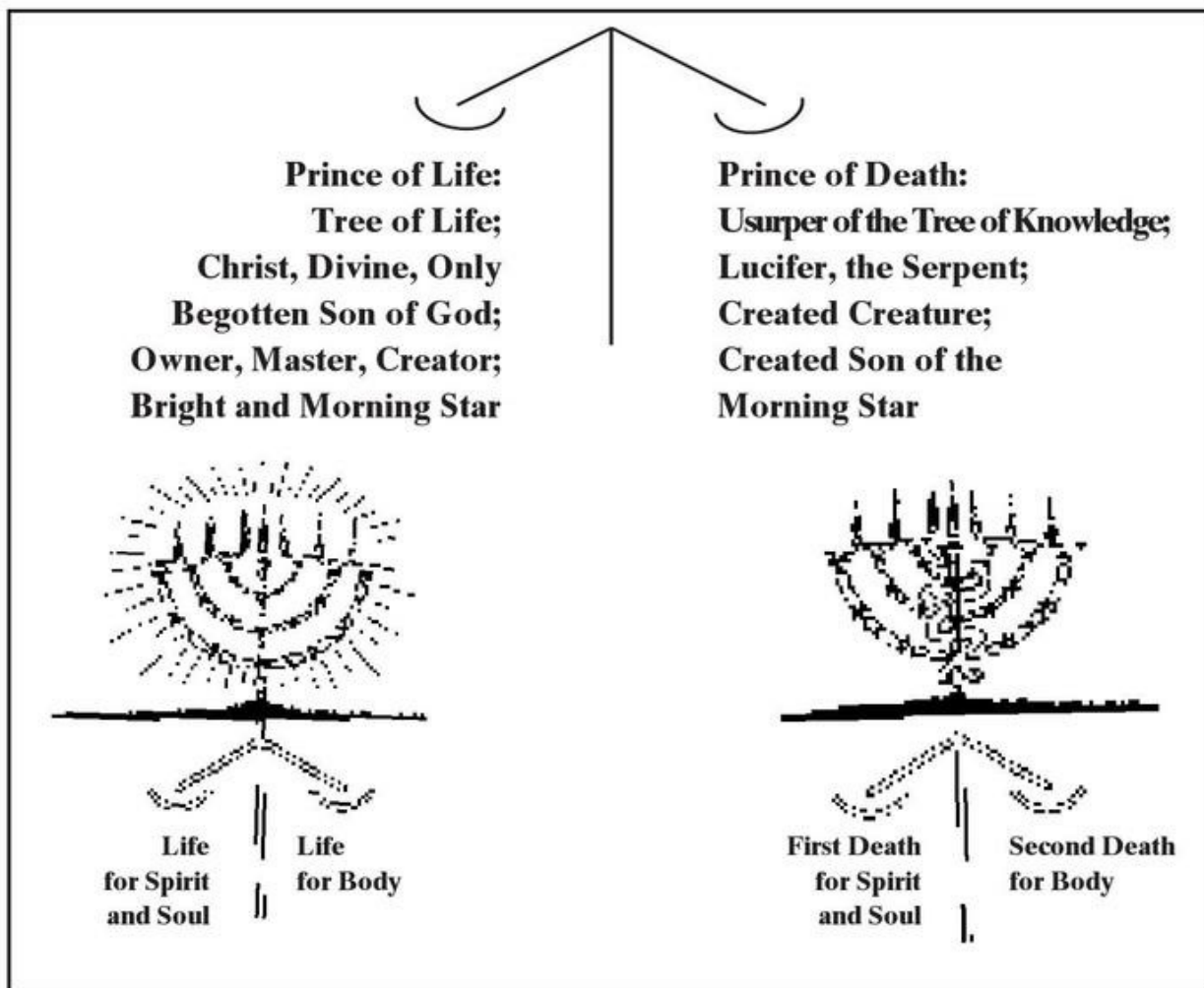
Nothing is more certain and sure than Death, both for the sinner and the saint. The only saints who will by-pass Death will be the overcoming saints at the Rapture. We know that we have no Eternal resting place of abode here on Earth. It is the Wisdom of God, therefore, for us to look forward to our departure from this present evil world. Moreover, if we desire to spend Eternity with the LORD, we need to make the necessary preparation now.

The Death of Jesus Christ was a special, remarkable, and extraordinary Death. So, when He humbled Himself unto Death, it was a special Humility, unto a special Death.

Death for this present evil world of mankind had its origin in Paradise.

God created Adam-male and female, and for them He planted a paradisiacal Garden in which He placed them. In the midst of the Garden, God fastened the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The Tree of Life was no other than the LORD Jesus. The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was Christ, the Divine Word, the Eternal Son of God. God commanded the newly created pair not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil or Pleasure and Pain. God intended for the pair to eat of the Tree of Life, first; then, in due season, He would have taught them pleasure and pain, and it would not have killed them. God commanded the pair to dress and keep the Garden and to guard it and protect it, signifying that there would be an enemy who would endeavour to enter the Garden.

Adam-male and female were careless in watching over the Garden. So fallen Lucifer, the Serpent, walked into the Garden and usurped the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. From the Tree of Pleasure and Pain, he slandered God's Word in a most subtle effort to make God a liar. God had said that if Adam-male and Adam-female ate of the Tree of Knowledge they would *surely die*. Lucifer, the Serpent, deceitfully said that they would *not* surely die if they ate of the forbidden Tree. The Serpent knew that the only way he could become the Prince of Death, the Prince over the spirit, soul, and body, was by causing disobedience in Adam-male's and Adam-female's spirits, souls, and bodies. After God had given His truthful Commands concerning Life and Death to Adam-male and Adam-female, the Tree of Knowledge, the Christ, remained silent to see whether this newly created pair voluntarily would receive Him as their Source of Life and as their Maintainer of Life and as their Owner and Master.



Adam-male and Adam-female chose the lie of the Serpent that lured them to the Tree of Knowledge and to

disobedience of God. They chose to reject Jesus, the Tree of Life, as their Source of existence. They refused Him as the Maintainer of their existence and as their Owner and Master, choosing disobedience instead of obedience to God. Death could only be the speedy consequence for the guilty pair once they had separated themselves from Jesus, the Source of Life and the Maintainer of Life.

Through the Death of Adam-male and Adam-female, Death passed upon the whole human race. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" (Romans 5:12). Through Adam the First, sin and Death, with all their unmitigated misery, entered the world upon all the human race.

Christ the Word, the Redeemer, came walking in the Garden in search of the lost, guilty pair, and He preached the first Gospel Message in *Paradise* to the man and woman who had sinned. Adam-male and Adam-female were the first to hear and receive the Message of Redemption. They were the first to see the bursting forth of a new world of Redemption, before their eyes, as Christ made a sacrifice for them and clothed their nakedness. They were the first to know the peace that comes from a view of Christ as the Saviour.

The LORD Christ had His Master Plan, Cause, and Message of Redemption in His Bosom long before the guilty pair had newly provoked and offended God by their sin. Long before God's guilty creatures and subjects had rebelled and had become His enemies, God and His Son, in their Omniscience, knew that man would sin, and they had made Provision in advance for sinful man's Salvation. Therefore, after man's fall into sin, the LORD Christ came immediately, bringing a Message of Salvation out of His Mouth, making known His great Design of Salvation by Grace.

God cursed the Serpent who was the instigator of man's fall into sin. But, in the midst of God's curse on the Serpent was found the Promise of the great blessing of the Messiah, the Coming of Christ in a human Body for the purpose of breaking the Serpent's power of Death.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, **he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them, who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.** For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham (Hebrews 2;14-16).

When the First Adam sinned, separating himself from the opportunity to eat of the Tree of Life, he became a mortal body of Death with flesh and blood. With Death flowing in his veins, instead of Life from the Tree of Life, Adam's Life could not continue to exist because he was cut off from Jesus Christ, the Creator, the Source of his existence and the Maintainer of his existence. Absolutely no sinful man can justify himself before God by working his way into Salvation.

Christ was the Divine Son of God, and, as God, He could not die. Therefore, in order to die, as the Son of *Man*, He assumed another nature and another form, called a "human nature and a human form." God so loved the world that it pleased Him to give His Holy Son to come to Earth in the form and fashion of our human nature, to suffer in His human nature, and to die for us in His human nature. Thus, He satisfied the Justice of God's Word that righteously had punished sinful man's disobedience by Death.

Christ Jesus, in His understanding Mercy and Grace, as the Son of Man, cleanses and forgives sinful man and translates him out of the power of darkness and Death back into His Kingdom of Light and Life in God. Thus, Christ again becomes man's Source of Light and Life and man's Maintainer of Light and Life.

Christ could not deliver man from both the First Death and the Second Death without taking on man's nature and his state of being. Christ Jesus could not procure the keys of Death and Hell from Lucifer (known now as Satan, Devil, Serpent, and Dragon) without experiencing our nature and our state of being. He had to overcome Lucifer, the Devil, in the place of Death and Hell. Lucifer was the first sinner in this present evil world, and he was the first one to tempt man to sin in this present evil world. The Devil tempts and allures souls into his ways of Death and Hell; then he torments them with terrifying fears and tortuous frights.

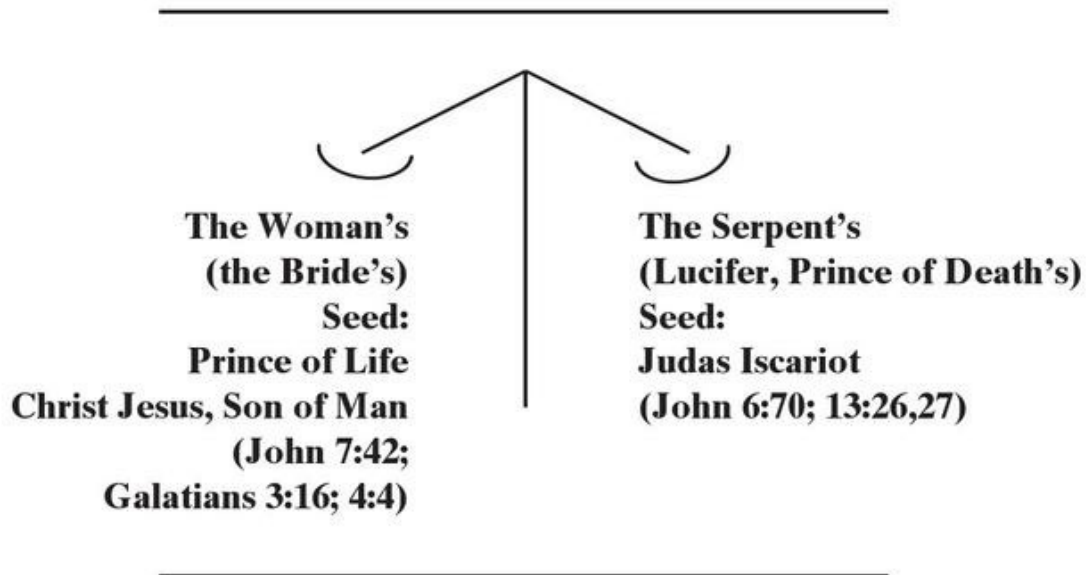
But, in the course of time, Christ Jesus died, while in our nature and our state, and obtained the Keys of Hell and Death. "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Revelation 1:18).

The Resurrected Christ carries the Keys of Hell and Death on His Sovereign Shoulder, and He is able to deliver His people from the vicious, fleshly fear of Death that the powerless tempter and tormentor, the Devil, still tries to use to hold man's soul in bondage.

However, the Devil, for now, still has the power over souls who choose to continue to be his willing slaves and subjects and who persist in their enmity to God and their rejection of Christ Jesus as the Source of Life. But, to those

who choose to continue to be Christ's willing servants and subjects, Death is a conquered enemy and a reconciled friend. Death is now no longer an enemy in the hand of the Devil to escort the slave-soul to Hell, but Death is a friend in the Hand of Christ to escort the believing servant-soul into the joys and blessedness of Eternal Life with Christ.

In Christ's first Gospel Message in Paradise, He said that He would put enmity between the Serpent and the woman, the bride, the wife of Adam the First, and between the Serpent's seed and the woman's Seed. This conflict and enmity was to be carried on between two Seeds: the woman's Seed (Christ Jesus) and the Serpent's seed (Judas Iscariot).\*



The conflict is between these two Seeds who have *Heads* and *Heels*. In this great warfare, bruises, injuries, and wounds are given on both sides.

The woman's Seed (the Body of Christ Jesus) was to bruise the Serpent's head with His Heel, and the Serpent's seed was to bruise the Heel of the woman's Seed (the Body of Christ Jesus). The Serpent, working through his seed, Judas Iscariot, accomplished the crucifixion of Christ Jesus' Feet, while the Serpent bruised Jesus' Heel.

Jesus answered them, **Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot** the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve (John 6:70:71).

Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. **And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him.** Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly (John 13:26,27).

Jesus clearly stated that Judas Iscariot is a Devil. Judas, at the point spoken of in the Scriptures, already had the devilish nature of Lucifer in him. Therefore, he was a fit vessel for Lucifer (Satan) to enter into and to possess so that he could be used as a tool to betray Christ Jesus, preparing the way of Jesus' Crucifixion. Judas, the familiar friend of Jesus who ate of Christ's Bread, lifted up his heel against Him (Psalm 41:9). Jesus was the Seed of David, the Seed of Abraham, and the Seed of the woman.

Hath not the scripture said, That **Christ cometh of the seed of David**, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? (John 7:42).

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And **to thy seed, which is Christ** (Galatians 3:16).

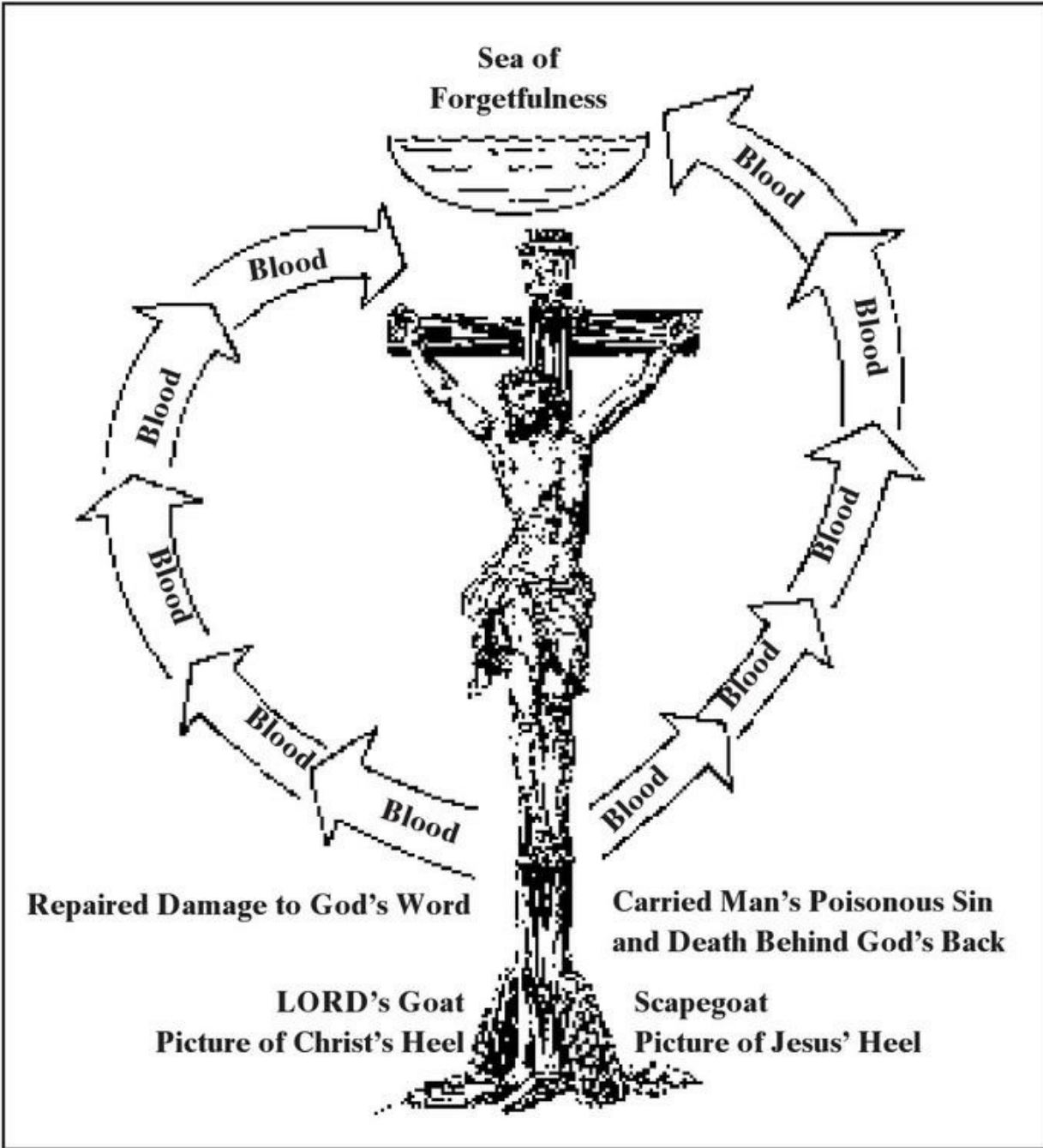
But when the fulness of the time was come, **God sent forth his Son, made of a woman**, made under the law, (Galatians 4:4).

The only way that Christ could consummate the warfare and struggle with the Serpent was by bruising his head. Christ had to take on our nature and state of being, as a human, in order to obtain the precious Blood of Life that would flow out of His bruised Heel onto the head of the Serpent, wounding the power of His wicked, deadly, and

poisonous mind.

Christ, in His Gospel Message in the Garden, did not say that the Serpent would bruise the *Heels* of the Seed of the woman, but the *Heel*.

The *Heels* of the Seed of the woman signified the two sides of the Blood that flowed in His Veins — the Blood of Christ (the Son of God) and the Blood of Jesus (the Son of Man). The two Heels of Jesus Christ were pictured by the two goats offered by the congregation of Israel on the Day of Atonement. One goat was the LORD's goat, and one goat was the scapegoat for man's sin.



Although both of Jesus' *Heels* were nailed to the Cross for the release of the flow of Jesus Christ's Lifeblood, the Serpent could not "bite" or poison the LORD's part, the Divine side of Christ Jesus, which was for the repairing of God's Holy Word and the reconciling of God. There was no sin in either God's Word or in God Himself. The

Serpent could “bite” only the Heel of the humanity side, the side that was the Scapegoat for man’s sin. The human Heel of Jesus bruised the Serpent’s head by overpowering his poison of sin and death and carrying it behind the Back of God, creating the powerful Sea of Forgetfulness (Micah 7:19). The Heel of the Prince of Life, Christ Jesus, bruised the head of the Prince of Death, fallen Lucifer. The Serpent’s head could not reach up to the “Head” of Jesus Christ on the Cross. He could not even reach His other Heel, much less His Head. Christ Jesus, the Seed of the woman, crushed the Serpent’s noxious head, overthrowing and destroying his works as “tempter to sin” and his ruling power over Death. When the head of a creature is crushed and bruised, the strength and life of it perishes.

There are two great opposing moral forces in the world today, the LORD Jesus Christ (the Prince of Life) and Lucifer (Satan, Devil, Serpent, and Dragon). All nations and religions basically believe in these antagonistic forces. The Word of God clearly has defined both. Lucifer works, with his error and falsehood, in a dual manner against the individual believer of Christ. Lucifer works “without” through his cruel, tormenting persecutors who generate painful circumstances and situations for the believer in Christ, hoping that the believer will grow tired and weary of being Christ’s servant and give up Christ’s Cause. Lucifer works “within” through the carnal flesh of man by generating evil, deadly thoughts, actions, and feelings in the heart that are contrary to the Holy Light and Life of the Truth.

Remember, evil has a “head,” and his head does not just consist of erroneous theories but of deadly immoral feelings of hate, envy, strife, bitterness, and murder. It is this “head” of evil on the inside that Jesus Christ also desires to bruise with His Resurrected Heel.

Jesus established this Truth in His Sermon on the Mount, His Spiritual Tabernacle of Truth, when He dealt a blow of Truth to man’s heart, as He taught on *inner* lust, murder, covetousness, anger, theft, and adultery.

This is the great failure of the Christian world. They have been more concerned with outward theories than with the inner workings of the Resurrected Heel of Jesus Who desires to bruise the “head” of immoral feelings (the works of the Devil in the carnal heart).

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose **the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil** (I John 3:8).

When the Devil has to give up sinners out of his kingdom of darkness, to be converted and translated as saints into God’s Kingdom of Light, he tries to continue his evil works through evil, immoral feelings of resentment, bitterness, and unforgiveness in the old heart or man’s carnal nature, which is unChrist-like and is against the Holy Nature of the LORD. Jesus conquered Lucifer at the Cross, and he can continue conquering him in the lives of the saints, both “within” and “without,” by dissolving his wicked works.

The great Humility that is found in Christ’s humbling Himself to this extraordinary special Death lay in the fact that Christ was the Divine, Infinite Creator; yet, He lowered Himself to take on the human form and “fashion of man.” Then, He went to the *lowest* by allowing Lucifer, the Serpent, His fallen creature, to bite and bruise His Holy Heel.

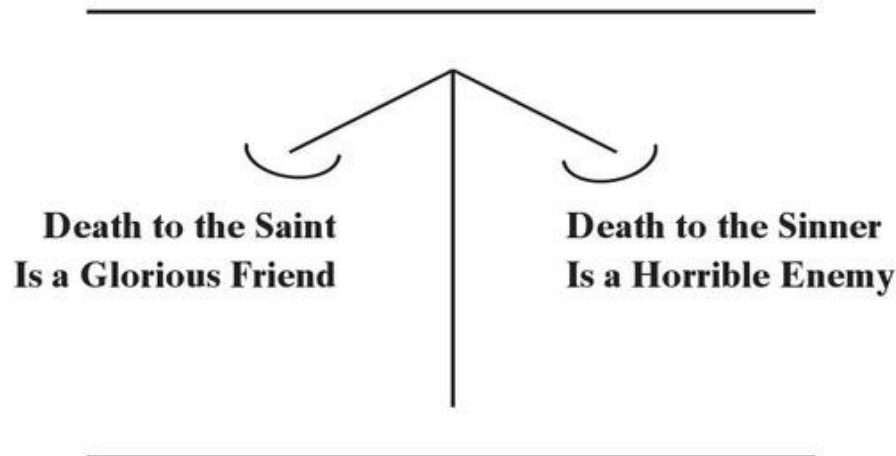
What unparalleled Humility! the Creator allowed an evil creature to bruise His Holy Heel. All Christ needed to do was to speak a Word or ask His Father to speak a Word, and the Serpent would have been disintegrated. But, Christ Jesus humbled Himself to this kind of Death so that He might liberate us from our vicious fear of Death. Jesus said that when we know the Truth it will set us free. The greatest Truth is that Christ has reconciled Death into a friend that, in His Holy Hand, merely escorts believers into His Eternal Presence.

Apart from Christ, we draw back from Death because it is unknown to us. We tremble and shake, thinking that the enemy of Death might be lurking around some dark corner or waiting around the next curve in the road, not realizing that Death in Christ Jesus is no longer an enemy but a friend. Apart from Christ, we viciously fear death because we distrust God to keep His Word and resurrect us as He promised.

All people, both saints and sinners, have this vicious fear of Death unless they are mentally sick or unless they have been delivered from it by Jesus Christ. The saint who has not allowed Christ to deliver him from his vicious, fleshly fear of Death trembles in fright and distrust of the unknown, the hour when Death will separate his spirit and soul from his body.

The sinner trembles with overpowering fear at death, seeing it as the unquestionable enemy that it is for him. The enemy, Death, will carry the sinner’s soul to Hell, where he will be tormented and tortured by continually having his soul’s evil desires stirred. But, the tormented soul will not have a body through which it can obtain the satisfaction of its desires. The enemy, Death, will devour the body in the grave until it is reduced to dust, without form. The enemy, Death, will leave the sinner’s wicked spirit free to roam, and this wicked spirit always will be looking and

searching for a living sinner's body, which it can borrow to live in so that it can have a body and, thus, continue to enjoy the pleasure of sin in the flesh until the resurrection of the wicked dead.



At death, the saint brings a mortal, cumbrous body and lays it down, and the friend, Death, helps the saint to bridge the distance of time between him and the Personal Presence of Christ. The friend, Death, is Christ's Vehicle for assisting the saints in their departure from this world and their arrival in Heaven. When a saint dies, the friend, Death, separates the saint from the temporal "toys" of earthly riches and helps him pick up the Eternal Treasures of Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge in Heaven. Friendly Death is Christ's "Deliverer" who receives the saint from the earthly dreams of *unreality* and assists his passing into the everlasting bliss of *reality* in Heaven. Friendly Death is Christ's "Physician" who separates a saint from finite sickness and assists his entrance into Eternal Health. Friendly Death is Christ's "Captain" who leads the exiled soul and spirit of the saint out of the darkness of this world into God's glorious, Heavenly Sunlight of the Sun of Righteousness. Friendly Death is Christ's "Guide" for the saint's soul and spirit, who shows him into the Presence of the radiant rising of God's Bright and Morning Star, the Luminary of Eternity, the LORD Jesus Christ.

Thanks be unto the Truth of the Gospel of Christ that liberates our eyes from the blindness of human ignorance so that we can see that He has reconciled Death from being an enemy to being a Friend. Friendly Death helps the believer to make the transition into an endless Life with Jesus Christ. As a faithful "Conductor," the Friend of Death ushers God's saints into His Heavenly, Everlasting, and Delightful Paradise. This is why the Word of God says that the Death of His saints is precious in His sight (Psalm 116:15).

However, the opposite picture of Death, as an adversary, comes into view for the sinner who dies without Jesus Christ. For the sinner, the enemy, Death, is an adversary who ministers terrors, darkness, and bondage. The enemy, Death, renders the sinner sad, melancholy, and disconsolate at the prospect of standing in the Judgment because he is unfit to meet Jesus Christ, his Judge.

The death of the sinner — whether he be a conqueror, a king, a magistrate, or a common person — brings the sinner to his individuality and to the reality of the kind of relationship that exists between his soul and his Creator. There are only two kinds of relationships with God. The soul is either a friend or a foe of God. We all are foes of God until we receive Christ, and He reconciles us unto God as a Friend. The enemy, Death, brings the sinner into a night of overwhelming despair when his soul receives the fatal decree to depart from the LORD and to enter into a Hell of fire and brimstone. The sinner may live like an ignorant fool, but he will die a wise fool. In a matter of a few moments, he will see how vain and foolish he was to neglect the welfare of his Eternal soul while he was on Earth. The faithful enemy, Death, leads the sinner's soul to the Judgment of Christ. Then, Christ delivers His Righteous Verdict, requiring Death to deliver the sinner's soul to the prison house of Hell.

If a sinner spurns God's great Love that gave His only Begotten Son and if he rejects the Son's great humbling of Himself unto Death, in order to reconcile Death into a friend for the sinner, then death will remain an enemy to the sinner.

The sinner cannot find armour thick enough to deliver him from the spear and shaft of Death, his adversary. When Death remains an enemy to the sinner, it causes him to descend in alarm and panic from the pleasurable dust of Earth to the painful horrors of Hell. On the other hand, because Death is a friend to the saint, it causes him to ascend in serenity and love from the painful dust of Earth to the glorious delights of Heaven. How sad for the sinner

who lives on Earth *without* Christ. When he dies, he has to be escorted by the enemy, Death, to live eternally in Hell *without* Christ. But, what delight there is for the saint who lives on Earth with Christ living *within* him. The saint has the privilege of the joyful blessings and the delightful Glory of Christ, both now and forever. When the saint dies, he is escorted into Heaven by the friend, Death, to live eternally *with* Christ.

O, Death! Where is thy sting for the saint of God? The enemy of physical death did not strike sinful Adam, first, nor his hypocritical son Cain. It struck Abel, the innocent, righteous one, and carried him to Paradise where he was held captive until the Prince of Life, Christ Jesus, came to the Prince of Death, Lucifer, and took away the Keys of Death and Hell, liberating the captives and leading captivity captive. God has revealed to man that his only deliverance from the horrors of Death and Hell is through the Blood Sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Abel's blood sacrifice was a picture of the precious Blood Sacrifice of Jesus Christ that delivers us eternally from the horrors of Death and Hell. Abel's blood sacrifice, by faith, covered him and protected him from Hell, but the animal blood could not bruise the Serpent's head, making him relinquish the Keys of Death and Hell. Abel had to wait until Jesus' Human Heel, with its flowing Blood, had bruised the head of the Serpent and until Jesus Christ had descended into Death and Hell to unlock the gates of Death or Paradise before his soul could be liberated.

The special, remarkable Death of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind, did not happen in a secret, hidden corner; He died upon an open, revealed Cross. Wicked sinners lifted up Jesus Christ between Heaven and Earth and made Him a public spectacle before all the visible and invisible creatures of Heaven and Earth. Thus, He took the place of man's sinful death before men.

Christ's spectacular Death on the Cross was a voluntary offering. He willingly gave His Human Flesh to be stripped with rods, His Head to be crowned with thorns, and His Hands and Feet to be nailed to the Cross while His Blood flowed down. Then, finally, He laid down His own Life and gave up the Ghost. God's Word teaches that a cross of wood carried a special curse. "...Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree;" (Galatians 3:13). No other death could portray such complete public shame and disgrace.

Adam-male and Adam-female's sin concerned the two Trees in the Garden. They sinned by ignoring the Tree of Life and failing to eat thereof, and they sinned by stealing from the Tree of Knowledge and eating thereof. Jesus Christ is both the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge.

The Law is that whatever we sow, we must also reap (Galatians 6:7). Man sowed sin against these two Trees, so his punishment was a Tree of Death or the Cross. Jesus Christ took our punishment on the Tree of the Cross and has given us the privilege of again coming to Him, the Tree of Life, for Salvation and Eternal Life. After Salvation, we are allowed to feed on Him as the Tree of Knowledge. Thus, we can grow in Grace and Knowledge of the LORD and Saviour, Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18).

As far as the world was concerned, crucifixion on a Cross represented the greatest ignominy and dishonour of all time. The Disciples also must have shared these same feelings because they returned to their fishing nets in total disillusionment after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

While the world saw only a human Man hanging on a Cross of wood, God saw the complete passive and active Obedience of His Son, Jesus Christ. He saw the Blood flowing from the crucified "Heel" of Jesus, as it bruised the head of the Serpent, the Prince of Death. He saw a fountain of Blood opened to form the Sea of Forgetfulness for man's sin. He saw a Living Way opened into the Holy of Holies. He saw the Living Divine Substance of Christ's Blood repairing the Divine Law. He saw Jesus Christ fulfilling the Ceremonial Law.

God's Son, Jesus Christ, fulfilled the Old Testament sacrifices that were shadows and types of His true Sacrifice for sin and reparation of the Word of God. By His precious shed Blood and Resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ conquered, once and for all, sin, Death, Hell, and the grave. Here was a Holy Human Man (the Son of Man) and a Holy Divine Man (the Son of God), Jesus Christ, Who all the days of His Life kept His Human Will and His Divine Will in subjection to the Will of God the Father. Jesus exercised neither His Human Will (as the Son of Man) nor His Divine Will (as the Son of God) to redeem Himself from going to the Cross, where He suffered such intense humiliation for us through His special, remarkable Death upon a cross of wood.

In spite of the scorn with which sinful man looks upon the Cross of Calvary, God looks with pleasant gratitude and satisfaction upon the Cross of Jesus Christ because it is the greatest *victory* of all Time and Eternity. Jesus Christ paid the greatest price ever paid in order to redeem fallen, sinful man from the vicious fear of Death and Hell. He took the sinner's place in Death, Hell, and the grave so that the condemned sinner might go free and learn there is no reason for us to carry, in our heart, the vicious fear of death. If we will humble ourself to be joined to this Step of Christ's Humility, we will enjoy the rest and peace of Christ's Freedom from fleshly fear. Christ Jesus has broken the bondage of death and the fear of death for us by humbling Himself to walk down every Step of Humility and to die the most shameful, disgraceful, and extraordinary kind of Death.

The Cross of Christ still bears its shame and disgrace, but Eternity will reveal the fullness of its Glory and Honour. Only then will the world and the whole creation see the exaltation that Christ Jesus has gained with “all Power” because He willingly came down to Earth and walked the Stairway of Humility in His sojourn in this life.

He is the only Begotten Son, with both Divine and Human sides, Who could descend all the way into Death, Hell, and the grave and take away the keys of Death and Hell from the Devil’s hand and rise again with all Power in Heaven and Earth.

Today, the living Resurrected Christ holds the keys of Death and Hell. Thus, we need not suffer the vicious fear of death in either the natural or the spiritual realms, if we are a believer in Christ Jesus.

As Christ Jesus liberates us more and more from the vicious fear of death in our soul, we are filled with more trust and more confidence in Him in every situation and circumstance of life. Then, we can offer ourself unto Him for more new crucifixion and death of our flesh and allow Him to place His Resurrected Heel upon the “head” of the evil, immoral emotions of resentment, bitterness, and unforgiveness within our old heart which are diametrically opposed to the Nature of Christ Jesus. As we give the head of our evil emotions to the Heel of Jesus, He will destroy the evil emotions of our earthly flesh and replace them with His glorious Eternal emotions of love, joy, peace, and forgiveness. Then, the soul will be filled with Holy Gratitude for the new revelations of the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge of Christ’s Head.

Every time Jesus sees the Waters of His Death close over a new portion of our fleshly man, He raises us up with a new portion of His Resurrection Power and Glory. What a wonderful privilege we have, as children of God, to trade our evil emotions, which have their origin from the Serpent’s head, for the Holy emotions of love, joy, peace, and forgiveness from Christ’s Head. The Death of Jesus Christ is our friend, both now and at our death. The friend, Death in Christ Jesus, is just the doorway to life; on the other side of the door, Jesus waits in love. “...Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (I Corinthians 15:54,55).

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\* B. R. Hicks, [Antichrist](#), (Jeffersonville, Indiana: Christ Gospel Churches Int'l, Inc., 1984).

## Chapter Seven

### Christ's Seventh Step of Humility "Even the Death of the Cross"

#### Overcomes the Fear of Failure

The seventh step that Jesus Christ took on His Humility Stairway was His "obedience unto death, *even the death of the cross,*" which is the cure for man's seventh basic fear, the fear of failure.

Crucifixion is a mode of execution of great antiquity. Reportedly, certain parts of the world still use this form of punishment. The Romans regarded crucifixion as the lowest and the most ignominious death, deserved only by traitors and slaves.

And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death (Luke 23:32).

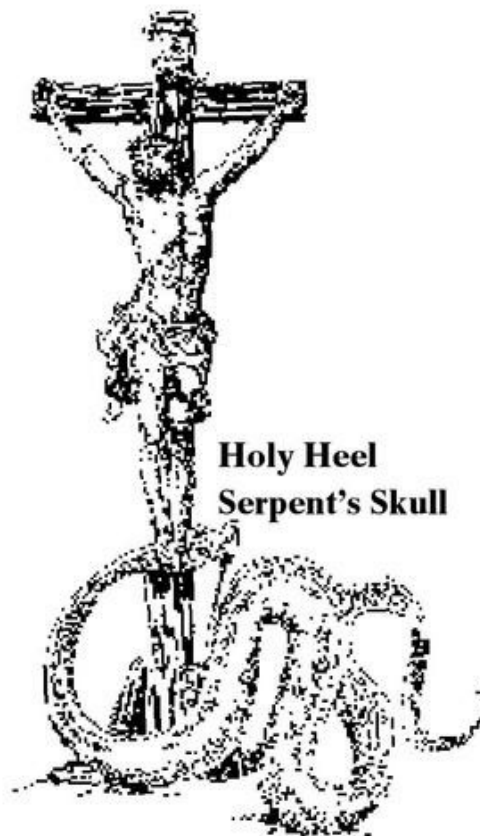
Jesus Christ was executed by means of crucifixion, hanging between two thieves and two malefactors. He was crucified at Golgotha, the place of the *skull*. How fitting that His Holy Head or *Skull* was crowned with thorns by the mocking, sneering throng, who thought Him to be a complete failure, while in reality, He was a complete Success as He bruised and crushed the head or the *skull* of the Serpent.

**LORD Jesus Christ Crucified at Golgotha —  
the Place of the Skull**

**Jesus' Skull Crowned  
with Thorns**



**Serpent's Skull Crushed  
by Jesus' Holy Heel**



Death on a Cross was considered an “accursed” death. Although Christ’s Death was an accursed death, on one side of the Scales, it was a Death of blessed, glorious victory over the Serpent, on the other side of the Scales. The Serpent had caused man to sin through a Tree, the Tree of Knowledge, so Christ, through a Tree, redeemed and delivered man from sin.

His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; **(for he that is hanged is accursed of God;)** that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance (Deuteronomy 21:23).

**Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law,** being made a curse for us: for it is written, **Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:** (Galatians 3:13).

The *Torah* commanded that a body was to be taken down before the sun went down if it had been executed by hanging. In the daylight, the people would be able to see the punished one who had been executed, and the victim would serve as a warning and a deterrent to keep the onlookers from walking in the footsteps of such an accused one. Therefore, after the sun had gone down, there was no reason for the executed body to remain on the tree.

What a shame and humiliation the Holy Christ of God had to feel as He was made sin, made an *accursed* one in our place on the Cross!

As soon as the sentence of crucifixion was pronounced upon a person, he was stripped and fastened to a post and, then, was scourged with rods or whips made of leather strips which were armed with small bits of lead. The scourging of the condemned one was so severe that it often occasioned death. After the scourging, the condemned one was compelled to bear his own cross to the place of execution.

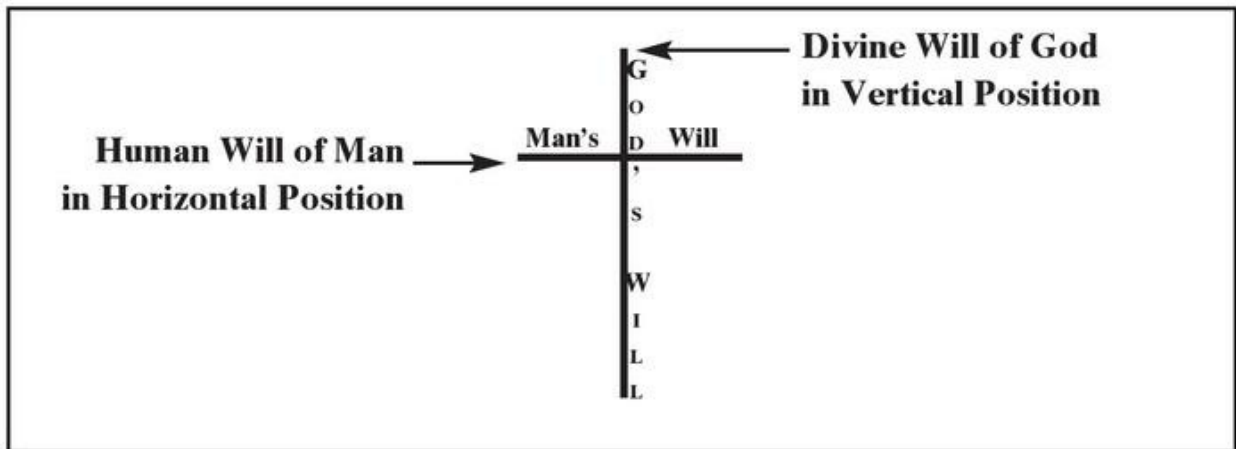
The cross was fixed into the Earth so that the condemned one's feet were more or less two feet from the ground. First, the prisoner was bound to the crossbeam; and, then, his hands were nailed to the cross with strong iron spikes. There is conclusive proof in secular history that the hands were pierced in this way, making such wounds peculiar to the punishment of those who were condemned to execution by crucifixion.

The feet then were nailed with the same kind of strong iron spikes. The agonies of this kind of death were extreme. Crucifixion was the utmost torment and the most extreme punishment. The extension of the legs on the cross just after severe scourging caused agonizing suffering when the legs were moved only slightly. The hands and feet were pierced in the parts most susceptible to acute, agonizing pain. The exposure, hour after hour, of the wounded, bruised, and lacerated flesh to the actions of the sun and the air increased the agonizing anguish and the torturous suffering of the body. The loss of blood added unbearable weakness to the body.

The Suffering of the Body of Jesus Christ for us is beyond our human conception. But, worse than the Suffering of His Body was the Suffering of His Soul that was made a Sin Offering for man. *All* the sins of the world were heaped upon Him from "within" and from "without." The cruel crew at the Cross heaped indignities and contempts upon Him, with the most bitter, malicious, and unsparing words that their wicked hearts could conceive and that their wicked mouths could speak. They all conspired to make Jesus Christ's Death on the Cross a Death of pain to the last degree.

The Sufferings of Jesus Christ on the Cross are unparalleled in Time and Eternity. He humbled Himself to the Death of the Cross so that we might have the Power of His Cross in our life to crucify and mortify our flesh as, by faith, we take our place on the Cross with Him.

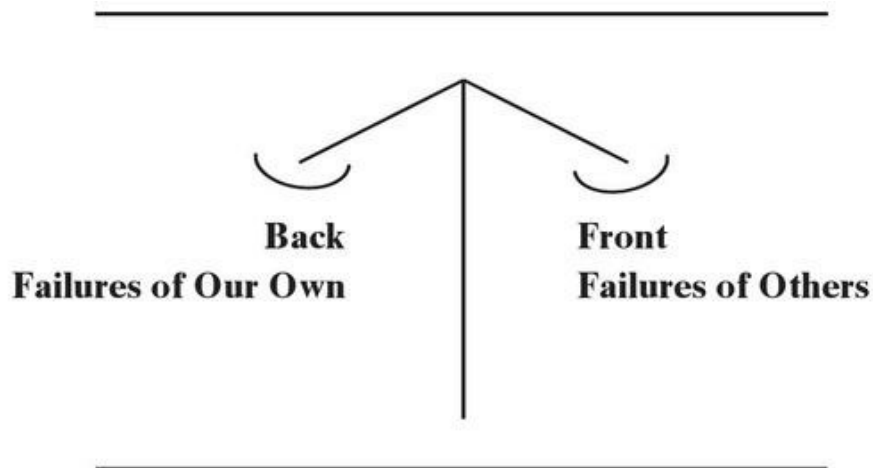
God's Will and our will are like two separate pieces of wood, and, as long as there is no joining through the Cross of Christ, they lie unjoined. But, when, through the Cross, we allow our will to be nailed horizontally to the vertical, upright Will of God, the Cross of Christ appears in our heart.



Once our will is joined to God's Will, we can pick up the cross that Christ has appointed in our life and follow Him as His disciple.

Although Jesus Christ appeared to be a condemned, total failure before the world, in actuality He was carrying sinful man's cross victoriously, paying sinful man's just debt to the Law (which was Death and Hell) and proving that His precious Blood, flowing out through His two Heels, could reconcile God and man — by removing man's sin and casting it into the Sea of Forgetfulness and by repairing God's broken *Torah*.

The vicious, fleshly fear of failure and the fear of the appearance of failure stir up a most violent and vehement emotion in all sinful human nature. This great deceitful, immoral emotion constrains us to put others' failures in *front* of our face and our own failures *behind* our back, as though such action can solve our actual problem of failure or our fear of failure.



Except for the fact that we hide our own failures behind our back, where we cannot see them, we would not take so much pleasure in dwelling on the failures of others, which are in front of our face. If our understanding were enlightened, we would see that our failures are only heaps of ruins which provide a glorious occasion for Jesus Christ to descend and display the powerful Success of His Cross over our failures. Through His Humility and the overcoming Power of His Cross, Jesus Christ can remove our failures and our vicious fear of failure and, then, lift us up to the successful Triumph of His Cross.

Jesus Christ can turn our failures into stepping-stones in our spiritual education and moral development, if we turn to Him and His Cross. Every step of failure that has been a stumbling stone for us can be turned into a stepping-stone through the Success of Christ and His Cross. When we recognize the Humility Price that Christ paid as He appeared to be a failure on the Cross, in order to lead us into all victory and success in Him, we can, by faith in Him, turn our failures into successes. God allows us to stumble and fall, in apparent failure, in order to bring us to the end of our prideful, independent self so that, through humility dependence on Christ Jesus, we can use our failures as a step up and find this spiritual Success of the Cross.

Every discernment, through the Spirit of God, of what is false and untrue leads us toward what is real and true in God's Word. Likewise, discerning Christ's Humility Victory at the Cross turns every failure into success when we confess and repent at His Feet. Therefore, in Christ Jesus, we can be set free from the vicious fear of failure and the proud fleshly fear of the appearance of failure.

If we are successful in Christ Jesus, it does not matter how the world views us. Many people in the world still scorn and blaspheme Christ and His Cross as a foolish, weak thing, but that does not change the Power and Success of Christ and His Cross. Therefore, in a sense, failure on man's part is only the gate to the Highway of Success in Christ Jesus.

Every discovery of what is unreal and false leads us to seek diligently that which is real and true, if we are sincere for God in our heart. Every fresh discovery of our failures and errors also leads us to seek the Success of Christ and His Cross, which helps us avoid the same errors and failure in the future.

If we do not allow our *failures* to lead us to Success in Christ Jesus, then God is forced to set us aside and look for other instruments to use in His Kingdom. It is sad when God presents us with great opportunities to serve Him and be a blessing in His Kingdom; yet, because we never have learned to join our failures to the Humility Success of Jesus at the Cross, the LORD has to set us aside.

Every temptation and trial to which Jesus Christ subjects us reveals some form of vicious fear of failure within our heart; they also reveal the fleshly fear of the appearance of failure in others' eyes, from without. Our failures serve God's Purposes in *revealing* our pride and in *humbling* our pride so that He can use them to push us to the Humility Success of Christ Jesus at the Cross. However, if we continually experience the same failures, it is obvious that we have never joined them to the Humility Success of Jesus Christ at the Cross. If we continually experience the same vicious fear of failure, it is obvious that we never have allowed the Resurrected "Heel" of Christ Jesus to

bruise the “head” of this evil, immoral emotion. If we trust God to give us His Will, and if we trust God to help us to do His Will after we find it, there is no room for vicious fear where love, trust, faith, and hope abide.

When we truly can call on Christ out of a humble heart and trust Him to do in us and through us what we cannot do by ourself, we will experience the victorious rest and peace of the Humility Success of Christ and His Cross.

Fleshly failure is a “circumcision” tool that God uses to cut off our pride. God uses failure to carve out the fine outlines of the Humility Character of His Son in us by allowing us to see our proud failures in comparison to Christ’s Humility Success. When our spiritual eyes are opened, we see that the most crushing and bitter failures of our life were only stepping-stones to new beginnings in the Humility of Christ Jesus and the success of His Cross. The Humility Way of Christ brings us the greatest rest, the deepest love, and the highest joy. This is true Success because we can carry it with us into Eternity with Christ.

Our proud way is the way of vicious fear of failure. We fear failure only because our pride abhors the low place. Christ went to the *lowest* place for us so that He might teach us how to ascend into the Heavenlies with Him and how to descend with Him into the humility low place of His Cross. The humility low place in Christ is one of sweet love, joy, and delight in Him as the Bridegroom. The Humility Way of Christ is the way of Success and deliverance from the vicious fear of failure.

The seventh layer of man’s fleshly fear is the vicious fear of failure in the eyes of the world. Our failures are much less painful to our proud flesh if no one knows about them but us.

When Jesus Christ carried His Cross up Calvary’s Hill, He appeared before the world as a shameful and flagrant failure. Jesus had demonstrated His great miraculous Power in healing the sick, in casting out demons, in walking on water, in raising the dead, in feeding thousands, in stilling the roaring waves and whirling winds, in escaping from His enemies, and in turning water into wine. Now, however, at the Cross, He “appeared” to have a “Power failure.” Even Judas, Jesus Christ’s betrayer, expected Him to deliver Himself after he had sold Him for thirty pieces of silver. Jesus Christ appeared to be cut off from His great Source of Power when He hung upon Calvary’s Cross. In the eyes of the world, Jesus walked the road of apparent failure, from Pilate’s hall to Golgotha’s Hill. Jesus appeared so powerless before Pilate that Pilate bragged about his power to crucify Christ.

**Then saith Pilate** unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that **I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?**

Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin (John 19:10,11).

Jesus was strangely silent before Pilate; as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so Jesus opened not His gracious Mouth because Pilate’s power was being used to do the Will of His Father in Heaven. But, when Pilate became proud of his God-given power and usurped God’s Glory by pridefully boasting that he had power to release or to crucify Jesus, Jesus spoke up and defended His Father’s Power and Glory. Jesus informed Pilate that he had no power of his own to crucify Him, except from His Father in Heaven.

These verses reveal the mystery of Christ’s lowest Humility Step. He accepted His Death on the accursed Cross and looked to the Divine Father, the Eternal *Cause* of all things, and submitted to His Holy Will in all things with passive and active Obedience. Jesus did not look to the wicked hands that were bringing Him pain and death, but He looked *above* the wicked creatures to His Heavenly Father, Who is the Eternal *Cause* of all things. Therefore, Jesus could say, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” The evil creatures did not know that, in spite of their wicked malice and viciousness, they were just tools in the Hands of the Father, carrying out His Holy Will.

It is a great day in our spiritual journey when our eyes are opened to see that all people and things are just tools in the Hands of the Father to help us accomplish His Holy Will. Then, there is no reason to be angry or bitter against anyone or anything. There are not many believers who descend to this Step of Humility in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is our High Priest, and He can lead us to this Step of His Humility, if we desire to go there. He knows how we feel and how we fear man’s opinion when we have failed. He has walked the road of apparent failure so that He might deliver us from our vicious fear of failure and join us to His Humility Success, which is *complete trust* in the Father’s Will.

Failure means to be deficient, insufficient, to come short of the expected return, to come short of the proper amount or measure, to miscarry, to be frustrated or disappointed, to err, blunder, lose strength, lose courage.

Because we are sinful, carnal creatures, we live in a world of failure and fear of failure. But, Jesus knows how to deliver us from failure *and* the fear of failure.

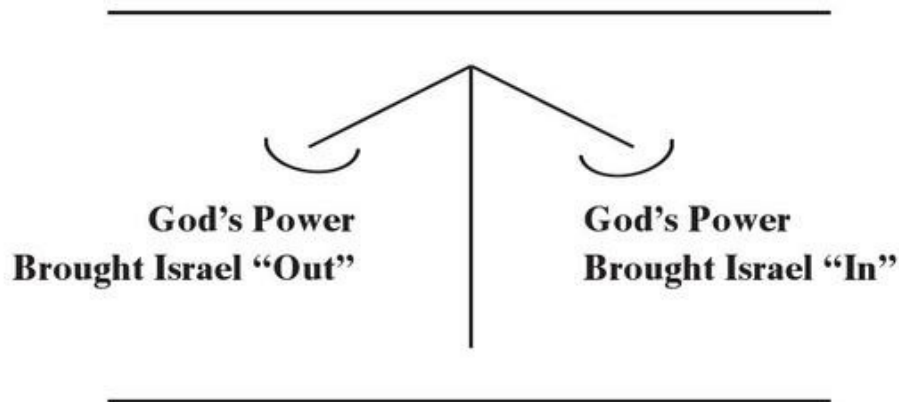
Man fears failure because, again, he lacks faith in God’s Word and His merciful Nature. Man carries a horrible image of fright in his mind at the very thought of appearing to be a failure in the eyes of others. Man’s proud

rebellion against being found in the low place of failure terrifies and paralyzes his human heart with vicious fear.

Israel, as a whole, never really believed and trusted in the Merciful and Kind Nature of God, Who desired to take them from Egypt to Canaan's Land. She feared to place her life into God's Merciful Holy Hands and trust Him to bring her all the way from Egypt to Canaan's Land. She expected God to have a "Power failure" in His Ability to bring her into the Promised Land and to supply her with food and drink in the Wilderness. She feared God would bring her into a place that would not be pleasant and satisfying — a place where her desires and needs would not be met. She feared that God would fail in His Almighty Power to help her drive out the giants and possess the land.

Likewise, we fear failure in our own life, as believers, because we distrust God's Almighty Power and His Merciful, Gracious Nature. We often fear failure because we subconsciously doubt that what we are doing is in the Perfect Will of God. Thus, we think He might let us fail. When we know God's Will, we can rest in Him and trust Him to bring His Will to pass.

Israel continually accused God of bringing her out of Egypt to kill her in the Wilderness because she thought He would *fail* to give her water, bread, and victory over the enemies in the land. But, after God had done all of this, Israel still feared that the Water and Bread would *fail* to give her the necessary strength and satisfaction to make it to Canaan's Land. Therefore, Israel loathed the Manna and spitefully esteemed it as being insufficient. When Israel spied out the land, she feared she would fail in her endeavours to possess the land. Israel again spitefully esteemed God's Power, seeing it as insufficient to meet her need. But, her charge against God was false. His Word clearly proves that His Power brought Israel out of Egypt and brought her into Canaan's Land and gave her the land.



And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord our God hath commanded you? Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaohs bondmen in Egypt; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand: And the LORD shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes: **And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore unto our fathers.** And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, **for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day** (Deuteronomy 6:20-24).

By His mighty, glorious Power, God mercifully brought Israel out of Egypt into the Wilderness; and, finally, He brought her into Canaan's Land. There was no "Power failure" when it came to God's implementing His Master Plan in Israel's life, bringing her out of Egypt into Canaan's Land.

God's mighty Power also will preserve Israel alive throughout Eternity. Had Israel remained in Egypt, she would have died under the weight of the burdens that the Egyptians put on her, or she would have died spiritually by becoming totally corrupted with their heathen, idolatrous worship. In the latter case, she would have shared in Egypt's punishment of spiritual death in the pit (Ezekiel 31:16-18).

Great is God's Goodness and Mercy; never does He lead us in a more painful way than is necessary. The LORD never withholds the Bread and Water of Life in our sojourn in the Way, and He never allows our soul to fail when we trust Him. Many souls of Israel failed and, consequently, died in the Wilderness because of their unbelief. But, the souls of Caleb and Joshua and Phinehas and Eleazar were made strong through faith in God's mighty Power, and they entered into and possessed Canaan's Land.

Many in Israel feared that the Manna was insufficient to sustain them and to bring them into the land. Because the long road to Canaan's Land was *longer* than they had envisioned, they felt God and Moses had failed in their efforts to bring them into the land. Therefore, this made them appear as failures before the world, and they resented it.

It is customary for people to blame their leaders for their failure to achieve their goals. We never will reach our longed-for goals if our heart is filled with such fear of failure that we accuse God, our leaders, or ourself because of our lack of trust in Jesus Christ's Peace Offering Blood.

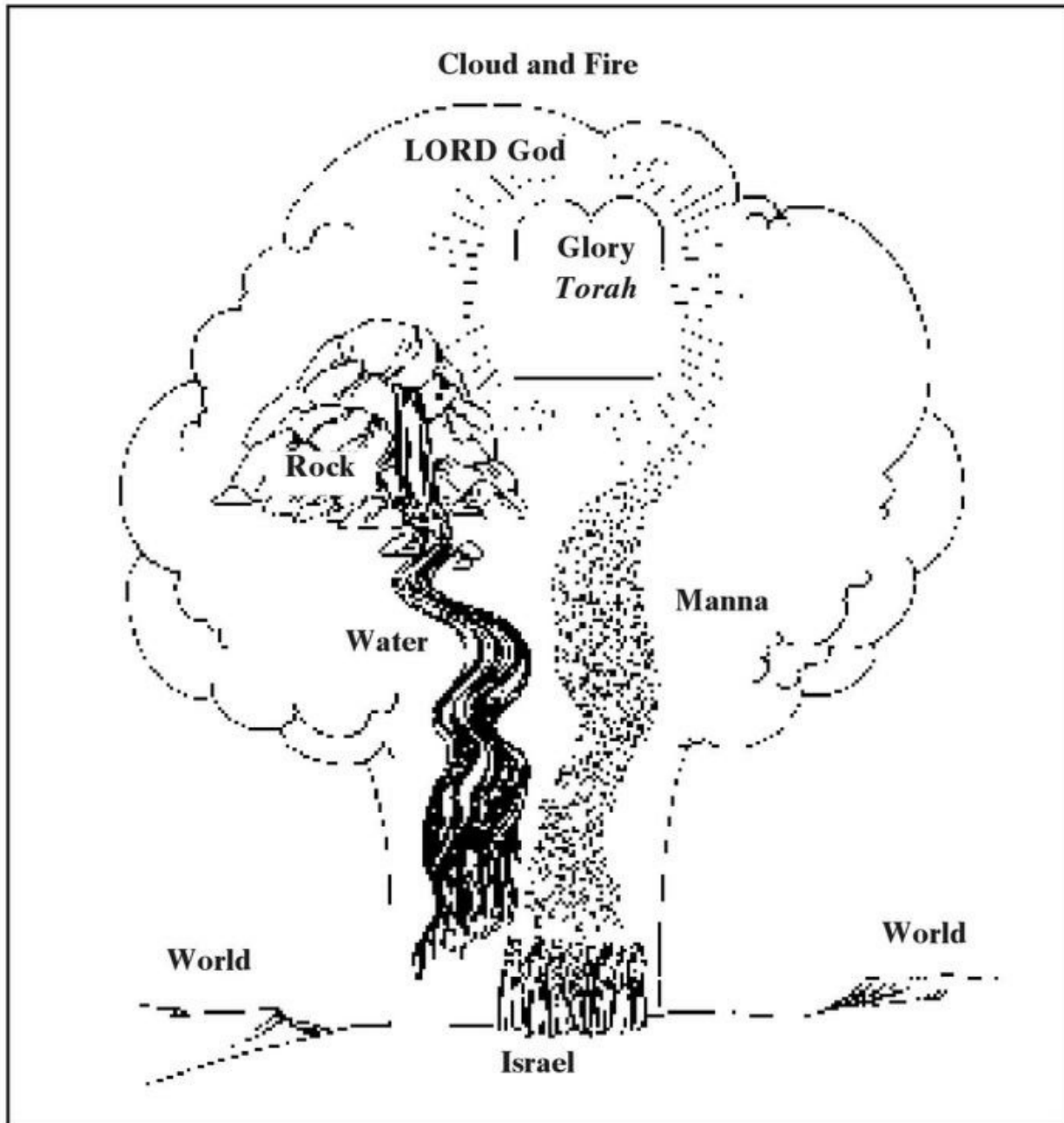
Israel said that her soul was dried away and that the Manna was *light* Bread.

But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes (Numbers 11:6).

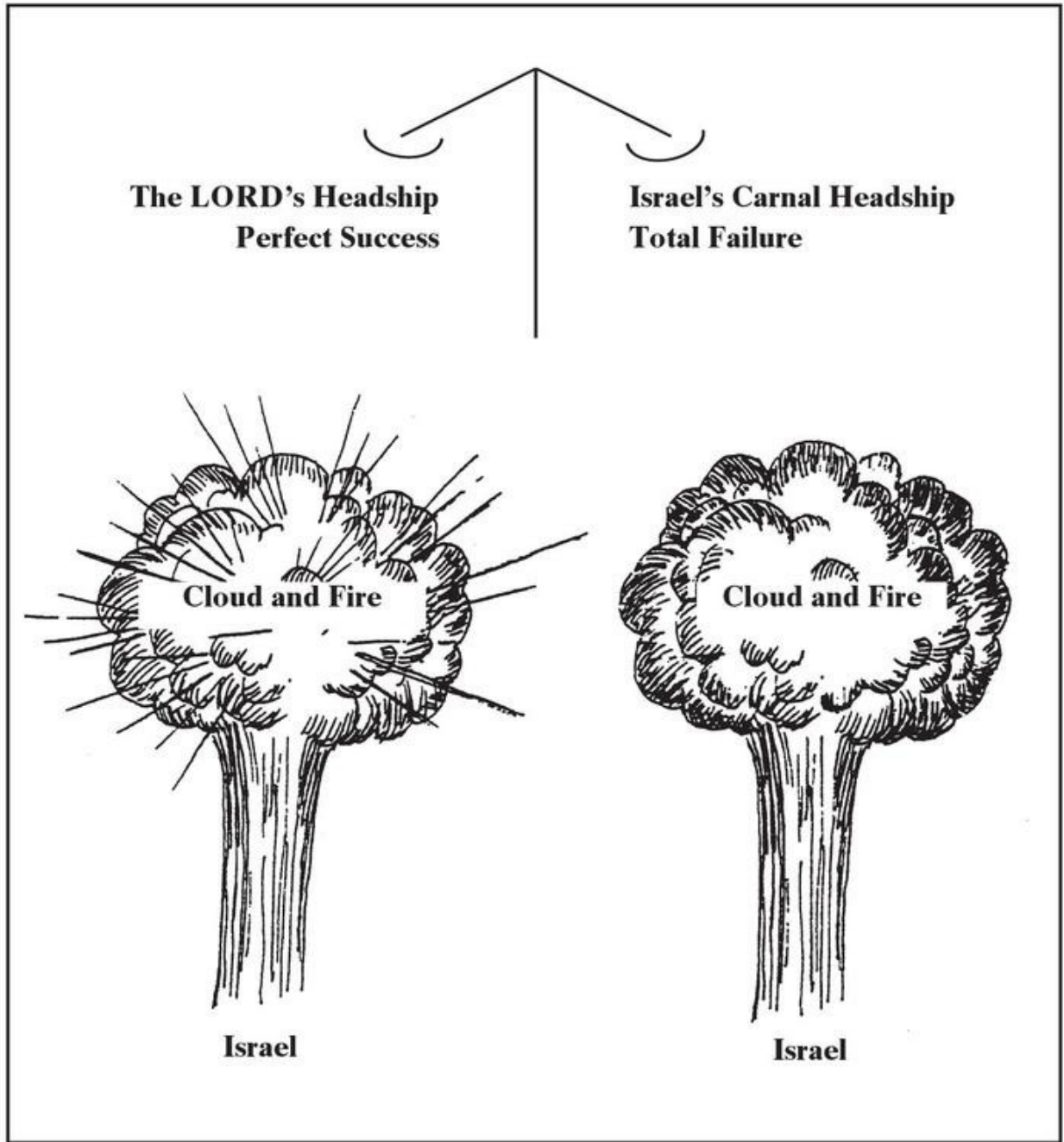
And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread (Numbers 21:5).

Many of the Israelites felt that they were doomed to failure because of God's Cloud and Fire that covered them and separated them from the rest of the world. They were shut in with only the LORD God, His Water from the Rock, His Glory, His *Torah*, and His Manna, and their soul was dried up. What an unparalleled, paradoxical situation! God gave Israel His miraculous *Best*; and, yet, their souls failed in faith. This teaches us that when there is failure in following Christ, it is not His fault, but our proud, rebellious reactions to His *miraculous Best*.

God has given us His *miraculous Best*, His only Begotten Son, the LORD Jesus Christ, Who is the Rock of Truth, the Glory of the Father, the *Torah* in Flesh, the Bread of Life. Yet, many Christians today are in the same place as Israel, with their souls failing in faith.



Israel was in the place of perfect Success in each step of her journey. Nevertheless, many Israelites, in their diseased perception of reality esteemed it a place of total failure.

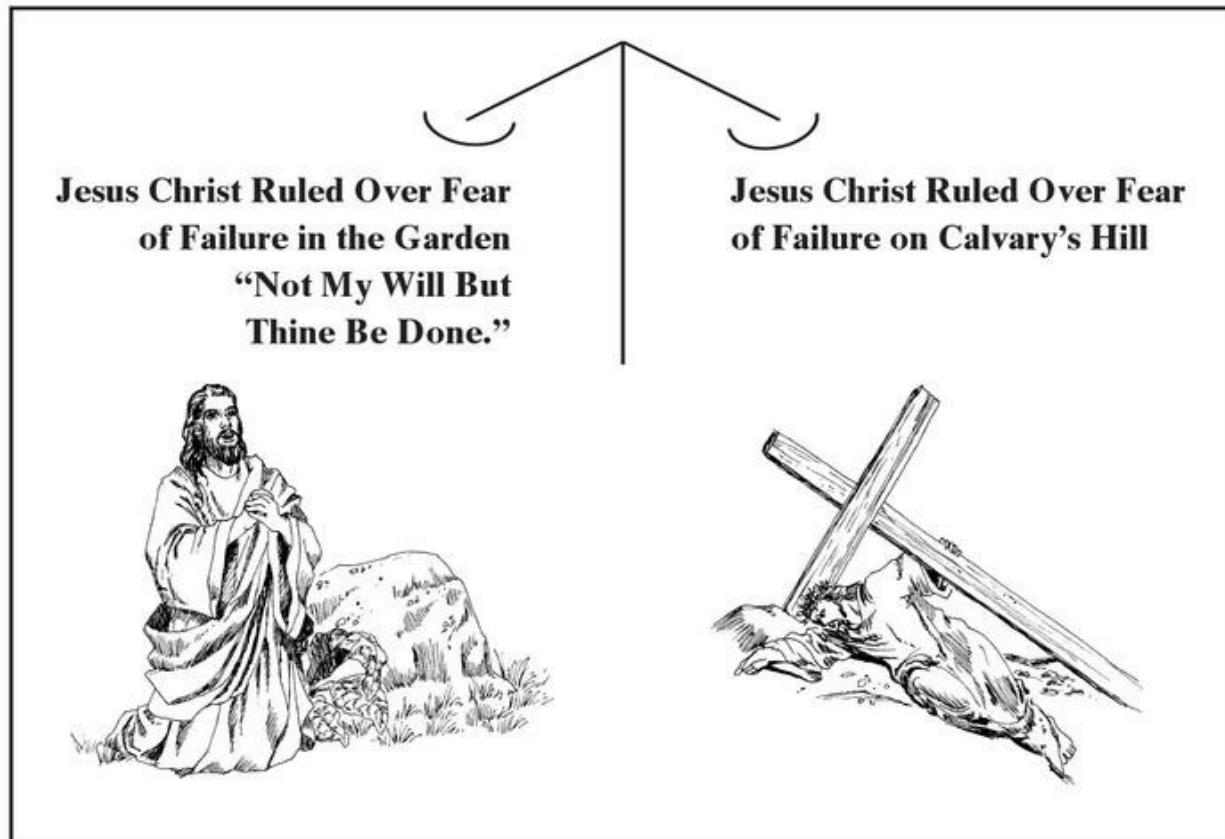


We have seen the parallel of this picture many times in the lives of people in the "Crucified Way." Because they did not reach their longed-for goals in the span of time and in the way they wanted, they esteemed God's Headship for them, at the moment, (on their way toward their goals) a total failure. When the heart is filled with fear of failure, it is blind and cannot see that God's Headship for them, at the moment, is a perfect Success and that it is a sure guarantee of their reaching their longed-for Goal of the New City, the Prize, the Heavenly Canaan's Land.

How thrilling it is to see that Jesus Christ knew He was in the Way of Perfect Success under the Headship of His Heavenly Father, although He fell under the weight of the wood of the Cross.

Jesus Christ ruled over fear of failure from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Cross. He was obedient unto Death. Jesus was willing to die in the Garden if His Father desired to change His Mind about His Death on the Cross. If Jesus *had failed* in the Garden, He would have called it Perfect Success. There is no failure when we are in the Perfect Will of God.

We, too, may fall under the weight of the wood of our cross, but Christ Jesus will lift us up and send someone along to help us carry our cross for a season.



Jesus Christ surrendered to die in the Garden (if that were the Father's Will) instead of going on the Cross. We become obsessed with fear when we feel that the LORD may change His Mind about what He has called us to do, to be, or where He has called us to go. We fear that we will appear as a failure before Heaven and Earth. When Jesus Christ fell under the weight of the wood on Calvary's Hill, He trusted His Father to raise up someone who would carry the Cross on to the top of the hill. Because Jesus Christ ruled over fear, not allowing it to enter into His Heart, He also can rule over our vicious fears by crushing the *head* of this evil, immoral emotion with His Resurrected *Heel* and, then, removing it out of our heart.

When Israel was in the Wilderness, she feared that she was not fully enjoying life, as was the rest of the world. Many in Israel resented being separated from the world, and they felt "ill," as though they would soon die; they even desired death in preference to total separation from the world, which demanded complete separation unto the LORD God. They thought the Bread that God gave them was too light to maintain a good healthy body and too insufficient to preserve a soul in a whole state.

How blessed it is when our heart and soul have been delivered from vicious fear and distrust of the LORD. Then, we rest trustfully, with great joy and ecstasy, in the Arms of Christ, with comforting confidence that He will perform His good Work in us until we reach His desired Goal for us (Philippians 1:6).

The Apostle Paul experienced this as his love for Jesus grew greater and greater. At the last, Paul lived so much in the Heavens that he desired to depart and be with Christ. It mattered little to Paul whether he lived or died; he desired only that Christ might be magnified.

It is a real experience to have Jesus Christ set our heart aflame with a Divine Passion to magnify *Him*, whether by life or by death, and to look above all creatures to God and His Son as the Eternal Cause, the Owner and Master of our fate and destiny. The fear of failure is what prevents us from tasting of the ecstasy of God's Love in this manner. But, Jesus Christ never drew back from being a so-called failure. He said, "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour" (John 12:27). Jesus promised that if we would lose our life for His Sake, we would find it again. If we lay down our life, He will raise it up. No place

Jesus ever leads us is *unknown* to Him; He walked down every Step of Humility ahead of us. Therefore, He is our Example and our Deliverer.

All of man's seven basic fears are rooted in the pride of earthly temporal things. Our *fear of poverty* drives us to grasp and accumulate riches in the economic, social, and religious areas of our life, but we can hold on to our wealth and proud reputation only as long as we live. At death, these things either pass to others, or they pass away.

We *fear old age*, but our fears do not change the fact that our powers of youth fade many years before we normally die.

We *fear criticism* and long to hear the praise of men, yet many men can testify to the fickleness of man's praise.

The *fear of the loss of love* shakes the foundations of our being. But, regardless of how carefully we hold on to natural love, we cannot take it with us into Eternity.

Our *fear of illness* and our *fear of death* bind us as though we were prisoners. Yet, we can avoid neither illness nor the death of the mortal body; both ultimately will come. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

We *fear failure in the eyes of the world*. Yet, it is God, and not man, Who ultimately judges the measure of our true success or failure in this life. We may cling to our proud, vicious fears all the days of our life, but they will cause us to enter Eternity empty-handed of the glorious delivering Power of the Humility of Jesus Christ. We can hold on to our proud achievements for only a short span of time because the grave separates us from all natural success gained in this life.

Great folly causes man to measure success or failure by the visible size of the work or ministry he can see. He bases his judgment on temporal things. God uses no such measurement. True success is determined by how far we allow Jesus Christ to lead us down His Stairway of Humility. Eternal Success and Exaltation depend upon how far we let our human will be brought under subjection to God's Holy, Divine Will.

One's Garments of Glory and his final abode will be Eternal Witnesses to the measure of true Success (or the lack of it) which each individual has attained in this life.

Some believers will wear *White Robes* and will live eternally in the *New Heavens* (Revelation 7:9-15). Other believers will wear *White Raiment* and will dwell upon the *New Earth* (Revelation 4:4; 5:8-10). Unbelievers and apostates will be wrapped in garments of disgrace and shame, and they will spend Eternity in the *Lake of Fire* with Death and Hell (Revelation 20:12-15). But, the *Bride* of Jesus Christ will wear *White Linen* and will dwell throughout Eternity in the New City, the Holy Jerusalem (Revelation 19:8). The whole creation of God will see the Glory, Beauty, and Unity that the Bride has gained as she has followed the Lamb of God down His complete Stairway of Humility. Her faithfulness to follow the Lamb on His descending Stairway of Humility, in this life, will earn her the privilege of following Him whithersoever He goeth in His Exaltation in all Eternity.

The sum of how to humble oneself and overcome fear is to receive a vision of the Stairway of Christ's Humility and, then, to choose to walk there. Jesus Christ will help all who make this choice.

We have no reason to fear the seven basic fears of man: the fear of poverty, the fear of old age, the fear of criticism, the fear of the loss of love, the fear of illness and suffering, the fear of Death, and the fear of failure in the eyes of the world. All these fears have been overcome by the seven degrees of Jesus Christ's Humility.

Great is the Power of Humility! Precious Jesus, make us willing to keep walking down this Stairway of Your Humility until we can become like You so that we personally can know You better and so that we can know the glorious experience of being liberated from our vicious fears and, therefore, enter into Your Glorious, Virtuous Fear and Trust of the Heavenly Father.

**I. No Reputation —  
Overcomes Fear of Poverty**

**II. Form of a Servant —  
Overcomes Fear of Old Age or Loss of Power and Independence**

**III. Likeness of Man —  
Overcomes Fear of Criticism**

**IV. Fashion of Man —  
Overcomes Fear of Loss of Love**

**V. He Humbled Himself —  
Overcomes Fear of Having to Suffer Illness**

**VI. Obedient unto Death —  
Overcomes Fear of Death**

**VII. Even Death of the Cross —  
Overcomes Fear of Failure**

