

*FINAL*

*WORD*

**UNDERSTAND HOW LEGAL  
YOUR REDEMPTION IS!**

# FINAL WORD

When God spoke, He was not wasting words. He was not gathering some sounds together to somehow express meaning, He is a God with His *mind made up when He speaks*. When He spoke, *He accurately expressed His inner thoughts and being to mankind*. He is not running any risk of possibly being misunderstood for that which He finally spoke in His Son Jesus Christ. God cannot afford it to be misunderstood. He desired relationship and unity with mankind and misunderstanding can drown everything. God understand the finality of that which He spoke in Christ Jesus. The finality of that which He purposed in Christ Jesus is of greater substance, of greater reality than what any contradiction could ever measure up to. We find our foundation in this final Word, in this Word which He spoke in His Son. When we come to the *understanding* of the final Word, that same persuasion that rules the conviction of God begins to rule our own.

What do we mean if we say that Jesus Christ is God's final Word? It is so difficult to understand that Jesus Christ can be the final Word of God, because we are living in a world that is constantly changing. After all, is God not still speaking to people today? There is something about Jesus that is final, full and complete forever, and no time or circumstances or man can add to it. Let us see what Heb.1:1-2 has to say about this. "God,

who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has *in these last days spoken to us by His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds". Right through all the ages, God desired to reveal His heart fully to mankind, but it was not possible because of sin and guilt that prevented man from entering God's presence. That is why He spoke through prophets, but that was not a final and full revelation of His heart.

Jesus came and dealt with every negative thing against man that prevented him from entering the presence of God and hearing God personally. Then God revealed Himself fully, not in a letter or a speech, but in sending His Son Jesus Christ as *the exact replica and representation of His own being*. That is why Heb.1:3 says "Jesus being *the brightness of His (God's) glory and the express image of His Person* and upholding all things by the Word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high." In these last days God HAS SPOKEN to us through His Son, because His Son was the only Person that could *fully and once and for all reveal everything that God had to say* to mankind. Although God can speak through literally anything like donkeys, stones, people, circumstances, suffering and sickness, He preferred to speak once and for all a final Word through His Son Jesus Christ. Christ was the only person who could fully and finally reveal at once everything that was in the heart of God.

Although God still speaks today through the Holy Spirit in the spirit of man, it is only *a confirmation* of what He has already spoken in His Son Jesus Christ. It is actually *the*

*knowledge of the final Word*, that was spoken in Christ, that gives the Holy Spirit a chance and the foundation to apply it to the practical walk of your life. If we do not know what God has already spoken in His Son, we will always look to circumstances, sickness and suffering as things through which God wants to teach me something. If you do not listen to what God has spoken in Christ, God will most probably have to make use of sickness, suffering and circumstances to get your attention on Him and to teach you something. The quicker you come to the full revelation of what He has spoken in His Son, the better your chances are that your life will be stable, smooth and without all these hazards and crises. All these turmoil in our circumstances is usually in most cases a direct outflow of a lack of knowledge of what God has already spoken to us in His Son two thousand years ago.

We see thus that Christ was indeed the final Word of God, not in terms that He stopped speaking to mankind, but in the sense of the full revelation of the heart of God. Nothing new will be revealed in the future that has not already been revealed in Christ Jesus. Christ was the full revelation, but not everybody is conscious of the revelation and knows what it is all about. Christ is the total sum of *God's thoughts concerning mankind*. Christ Jesus is the complete and final revelation of God's thoughts about mankind in Christ Jesus. Christ is the full revelation of God's opinion concerning mankind. Therefore the Word is encouraging us to keep our eyes fixed upon Christ, because as He is, so are we in this world! (I John 4:17; Col.3:1-3 and Heb.12:2).

II Cor.1:17-21 says God's word in Christ Jesus was not yes and no. The word in Christ was YES AND AMEN! It is not a wavering word, because it is a final word in Christ Jesus and in the heart of God. God has made up His mind concerning mankind This mind of God is fully revealed in Christ Jesus and it is final in the sense that nothing and no one can change or influence it. II Cor.13:8 says "For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth." The truth is Christ Himself personally and no one can add or take away from that which happened in Christ. Truth is standing on its own feet and defending itself. Our redemption is complete and final in Christ.

Truth is always according to "in Christ" (what happened in Christ) and it is final and unchallengeable. When Jesus died He called out: "It is finished!" and He fulfilled all that God had planned for mankind. He brought to light *the right* that the human race lost at the fall of man, but kept on living in the heart of God towards mankind - Is.42:3-4, 51:4. Jesus brought forth a final and eternal victory for mankind. Deliverance reached its climax in Christ Jesus. Jesus changed everything on earth completely and forever. Although Jesus brought a finality to the spiritual things, most of it will only be experienced in a person's life through *the knowledge* of its finality. It will therefore do us good to heed the prophetic Word as a light that shines in a dark place and which was made more sure, until *the day dawns and the morning star rises in your heart* - II Pet.1:19.

Let us turn to John 4:35 where it says: "Do not say there are yet four months, then comes the harvest..." *Man's ability to interpret the harvest has always been time-*

*related.* Man's ability to interpret seasons has always been time-related and time restricted. I believe the impact of the revelation of the New Testament is found in the revelation *in the fullness of time!* The revelation of the fullness of time is absolutely connected to what was always true in Christ Jesus. Even time has its origin and existence in Christ Jesus, because creation was out of Christ Jesus. It says here in John 4:35 "I tell you lift up your eyes..." *God's challenge to us is to have a new perspective, a new vision. God's call to us is to encounter His sight, His insight and His vision.* We are not studying the Scriptures to gather enough information, to re-enforce our senses with enough evidence so that we can be just a little bit more confident in our own perception of time-related realities. Our encounter of the Word is an encounter of faith realities. It is an opportunity that man is given to *share in agreement the insight of God.* The Scripture is there to understand reality from God's point of view, the God who calls things which were not as though they were.

The scripture says here in John "Lift up your eyes and see the fields are already ripe for harvest." How often in the light of our previous teachings about being fruitful and abundant in Him, we have used the *excuse of time* to be unproductive in the meantime. In the meantime we are barren, because it is not the season yet. "In His time", just continuing in the process to put it out in the unknown and uncertain vague future, when God has already spoken a final Word concerning His thoughts of man. "Already the fields are ripe for harvest." When would the field be ready for harvest? *When the seed in the ear matches the seed that was sown.* How we have judged the harvest and said: "Well, let us give this brother

another four months or four years maybe. Hopefully within the next ten years, he will get somewhere in his life where he can make a meaningful contribution to God's harvest and God's kingdom".

In the midst of all our doctrine, God comes and He blows the doctrine of years of religious struggle based upon man's own endeavor and experience. He says the fields are already ripe unto harvest. Somehow we feel we need to apologize for God, because He does not quite understand things the way we see it. "God is in heaven and He can afford it to be heavenly minded, but here we are on a very real planet, so let us get down to earth. Let us be reasonable and more confused". God says: "already the fields are white unto harvest." God has seen the end product even before time was there to interfere. God has seen the ripeness of the age, the ripeness of that which He purposed in Christ Jesus *even before He spoke*. But when He spoke, *He spoke in such a way that no history, no time, no season could effectively contradict what He has said, because He has spoken a final word*. This final word causes our hearing to be awakened, to hear that which *takes us beyond disputes*, which takes us beyond contradiction and time. He circumcises our hearts to hear an accurate Word, reality as God knows it.

In the ministry of Jesus we find Him very boldly ministering healing and deliverance to people. To explain His ministry, He uses as His reference a prophetic Word that Isaiah spoke. Let us read Matt.8:14-17. Jesus had just returned from ministering to the multitudes and there He was in Peter's house, and He saw Peter's mother-in-law lying sick with the fever. Jesus did not limit His ministry strictly to the large audiences, He ministered in

the house also. "He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she arose, and served Him. And that evening they brought to Him many who were possessed with demons and He cast out the spirits with a word, (not with a struggle) and healed all who were sick." I want to draw your attention to verse 17 - "this was *to fulfill* what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases." Now if you would take time to study this quotation in its context, you cannot but agree that Isaiah 53 reveals the suffering of Jesus Christ on humanities behalf on the cross. Isaiah 53 very clearly gives definition to our redemption in the sufferings of Christ, but here Jesus ministers sometime *before His death* on that cross. He ministers with the same confidence and the same conviction as if He had already died, as if He had already hung upon that cross and if the stripes had already fell upon His back. He ministers in the persuasion of God's final Word.

Jesus' ministry was not influenced by time. His ministry was not arranged according to time and the success of His ministry was not influenced by time. He did not look to people out of the reference of time, but out of the reference of the eternal covenant in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world. He lived out of *the eternal covenant* that was settled before time and even above time. Jesus knew that salvation did not need time and man's contribution to get itself sorted out. No, *salvation is fixed in the mind of God even before time began! God had made up His mind even before time began.* Salvation itself reached its fulfillment in the heart of God before time began. Fullness of time came with the cross and resurrection - Eph.1:10.

Jesus lived and ministered out of what He knew what was sure, steadfast and finished in the heart of the Father. What was in the heart of the Father He did even before time began. Eph.1:3-4 "Blessed be the Lord and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as *He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world*, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." Heb.4:3 testify to the fact that "all God's works were finished from the foundation of the world."

Jesus ministered the full spectrum of grace to the people even before the cross and resurrection, because He knew that grace was given even before time began. II Tim.1:9-10 "God has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and *grace which was given before time began*, but has now been *revealed* by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ..." The only thing that time could do was *to reveal* what was done before time began. I Pet.1:19-20 says that we were redeemed by Christ as the lamb that was without blemish and without spot. "He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you." This is confirmed by Rev.13:8 which says that the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world!

When God spoke, He spoke before time was. If we would allow our faith to be interfered with time related things, we will continue to be confused in our experience. We will continue to adjust our understanding and our doctrine to some very earthly related matters and we will continue to allow distance in our doctrine that will continue to justify lack in the now of our experience. One

of our famous doctrines that we have developed around this thought is called the "*positional and the experiential*". The wrong concept of this has become such an easy excuse for the theologians to say, well positional in Christ Jesus all have these things in Christ Jesus, but experientially we see differently. Experientially we must first do this and this before we really have it. We have a different reference and so we have to allow within our experience reference enough room to accommodate our own failure. And how many more months do we have to wait before we are confused and disappointed again.

We have allowed our flexibility to rob us of the real harvest, of the real thing. Flexibility is actually only a nice word for compromise. The real thing is *seeing from His point of view*, of seeing it the way He has always seen it. God is not a nervous God who sits in heaven biting His nails, waiting for the next world event to confirm His doctrine. Sometimes we think God is just reading all the newspapers, watching all the news broadcasts worldwide just to try and pick up some confirmation and some evidence that He is still in line. *God does not need the testimony of time to confirm the Word that He spoke before time was.* God's Word was big enough to consume time. Sometimes we think, "Well God is really going to get things together now." We get nervous on His behalf, especially when it comes to things related to our own needs. We really think, "O God if You are not going to do it now, You are going to be in trouble. People are not going to believe me anymore and how are they going to believe You".

God *took everything into consideration* when He spoke in Christ. When God spoke He was not guessing about

man. God was not taking chances, running any risk of possibility. God had His mind made up. The final Word, the covenant of His grace spells out to our understanding the *reality* of that which gives substance to our faith, the reality of that which our faith can feed upon. We behold Him, we consider Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. He says the harvest is ready. *When Jesus died He brought a final end to the rule of darkness over the whole human race. When He was raised from the dead He took redemption beyond any risk. His resurrection is all the evidence we ever need. His resurrection is the final proof of man's justification.* The resurrection of Jesus did not bring any confirmation to God. God did not need confirmation. God was not in some kind of sweat about whether or not His Word would prosper. God was not unpersuaded whether or not that Word which is spoken into the wilderness and drought of man's fallen condition, will indeed prosper in His purpose, will indeed cause the earth to bring forth and sprout. *God was absolutely persuaded from the beginning.*

The resurrection of Jesus Christ became the tangible historic proof and evidence to convince the devil. The church need to realize that we are not dealing with a devil that is not already convinced about our redemption. He cannot afford to agree with what God revealed concerning our lives through the resurrection. While we struggle with the time issue, we will struggle with the evidence. We will continue to allow contradiction to be greater evidence to confirm our theory and to disqualify our faith. The decision that this Word leaves us with is only one: God is not adjusting His concept of us so as to widely accommodate every possible opinion and contradiction, so that some of us might be able to get

close to the truth as He has it. *God is determined to so unveil truth that the reality of His purpose will be within the reach of every individual who has an ear to hear.*

There is only one thing that can interfere with the harvest and it is man's hearing. Let us turn to Luke 8:16-18. Now after Jesus has said all that He said in the parable of the sower, He continues in verse 16 to say that after lighting a lamp, you cannot cover it with a vessel. You do not light up a lamp to hide it under a bed, then there will be no purpose in the light that the lamp exhibits. The whole purpose for seeing what the Word reveals is for *that insight to become the evidence*, to become the light source within your community. In the light of the parable of the sower, God anticipates in the seed a harvest so big as to feed the world with. The effect or enlightenment that comes through this Word is there to enlighten the whole world. It is there to become a city upon the hill. Not some embarrassing situation that we always have to apologize for.

Luke 8:18 says the secret is this - "*take heed then how you hear.*" Do you see that the "how you hear" has everything to do with the harvest which you enjoy. "Take heed then how you hear" in reference to the sower and the various kinds of soil. Some soil would bring forth abundantly for a season, and all of a sudden there would be nothing left. It would just be a barren field again, but "the how you hear" is the secret of this harvest that God anticipates. The "how you hear" is a description of the type of soil that the Word is falling upon. God anticipates that you wholeheartedly embrace the Word and treasure it in your heart until you come to the full insight of the implications of it. For to him who has, more will be given.

It sounds unfair, but it is as fair as faith can put it. And from him who has not, even what he thinks that he has, will be taken away. *Do you know it is possible to be enlightened once and then to lose that light. It is possible to enjoy the impact of the Word and then to lose that impact, you lose it through the ear,* because you get it through your ear. It is possible to think that you have, because you were once enlightened, but you have allowed some form of covering, some form of restriction in your mind. You have allowed some form of contradiction to destroy the brightness of you rising.

You can destroy the brightness of the harvest of the Word in your own wrong judgement. Then you are back to the judgement of the Adamic race. "O give him another four months and then comes the season. Jesus how can you look for fruit on that fig tree? Have you not watched your calendar lately. It is not the season for figs yet?" The Word says "Already the fields are ripe unto harvest." Jesus judges man in only one light and that is the light of redemption. *He can no longer see man independent of Himself,* because He is the final Word. He as the incarnation is the express, visible evidence of all God could ever think about man. Take heed then how you hear. Hear in such a way that what God says will not be misunderstood. Hear in such a way that there will be an abundant harvest in your life. Hear in such a way that what you hear takes you beyond contradiction and dispute. And then speak in such a way that others may hear what you have heard.

Acts 14:1 - "Paul preached in such a way that *many believed.*" There is a specific way and that is God's way. It is very popular to preach, taking all the contradiction

and the popular excuses into consideration, and so adjust your doctrine and your scope. If God spoke a final Word, He spoke it in such a way that you and I may accurately tap into that resource and reference. Then your faith is no longer something that is in the balance of time. "O well let us wait and see, let us wonder and guess whether or not this could be." No, let us consider Him, let us see Jesus, let us see what God spoke in His Son concerning us and draw from Him as our only reference". Our faith is the giving substance to that which already happened to us in Christ Jesus at the cross and resurrection. Our faith is not a guess in the dark, but a sure persuasion of what is spoken of my life in the final Word. Our faith or persuasion is an outflow of hearing God's persuasion concerning us.

In II Cor.4:5 Paul says - "What we preach is not ourselves", and we think that is a bad excuse. He says: "no we preach Christ and ourselves as your servants." We preach Him, because in Him all the fullness of Deity becomes visible in a human body. "Beholding Him, we are being changed". In beholding the contradiction we are being confused. Beholding Him we are being changed into His likeness. His glory becomes the energy, the life generating influence in our spirits, so that God is glorified in man. The final Word is the only energy source that man knows. Take heed then how you hear.

Job 12:11 - "Does not *the ear try words* as the palate tastes food." You know mealtimes would be totally meaningless if they were there just to force food down this system to add to the substance and nourishment of the body. But the beauty of mealtime is found therein that we partake boldly of the spices, the saltiness and the

tastefulness of the food. We may make a meal a blessing to our tastebuds. "Does not the ear try words as the palate tastes food." God placed that capacity in your mouth to discern food and to enjoy food. The Word says "My sheep knows My voice." They flee from the voice of a stranger, because they have become addicted to the taste of the Word. The appealing voice of a stranger is the senses, which tries to addict man to the voice of man's opinions and circumstances. Man was never created to be ruled by his senses, by a foreign influence who judges only as his eye tells him to judge. Flee from the voice of the stranger and embrace the voice of the good Shepherd that finds its echo, testimony and confirmation in the spirit of man.

In Isaiah 55:2-3 it says "Hearken diligently to Me and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear and come to Me. Hear and your soul shall live." You eat with your hearing, you draw nourishment that God has in mind for you. We are speaking about the how in the hearing. Take heed then how you hear. The enemy knows if he could successfully interfere with your hearing and cause *a dullness of hearing* to begin to dominate your ear and your heart he will soon rob you of the evidence of the Word. Rom.10:17 "So, then *faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God*". The enemy knows that he can do nothing about the finality of the Word, because it is forever sure and steadfast in Christ Jesus. The only two ways he can still nullify the Word is to water the word down in its finality to an "if-gospel" where everything is dependent on man's decision. The second way is in the hearing of the final Word. He can make you dull of

hearing, by keeping you busy with the stimulation of the senses from the outside.

Heb.5:11-12 says - "about this (the priestly order of Melchizedek) we have much to say and is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing." Notice verse 12 "For *though by this time* you ought to be teachers." What measures time? Hearing. What measures the effective use of time in your life? Hearing that brings insight! Dullness of hearing will delay the reality of the harvest in your life. Dullness of hearing is allowing a strange voice of a foreign master to interfere with your mind and your persuasion so as to cause a delay and a disappointment in your life. Hearing the final Word puts my faith beyond dispute, because the fullness of time has come in Christ Jesus. Hearing the Word is the beginning, foundation and starting point of everything in your life - Rom.10:14-15.

*God anticipates a harvest equal to the seed that He sows.* God does not anticipate an inferior harvest to the seed that He has sown. God is not prepared to just put up with the second best. God does not have second best in mind. He is not able to think that way. He only sees a seed that prospers and He only measures the harvest in that light. The seed in you is God's final Word. It is the best seed you can get and is capable of producing a full harvest. Embrace and treasure this seed in your life. Jas.1:21 "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and *receive with meekness the implanted Word*, which is able to save your souls." It is possible to be enlightened and to hear the Word and to allow the contradiction to come over that Word and to destroy its light in your life. Heb.6:7 says "the land that has often

drank the rain that falls upon it and brings forth vegetation useful to the use of those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. If it bears thorns and thistles it is worth less and near to be cursed, its end is to be burned." Thorns and thistles are still the old evidence of a fallen nature. God says in Is.55:13 that instead of the thorn comes up the cypress and instead of the brier the myrtle tree. You get confused because the evidence of the thorn and the thistle somehow contradicts the anticipation of the farmer.

Heb.6:9-10 says "that though we speak thus, yet in your case beloved we *are confident (feel sure) of better things that belong to salvation*. For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love which you have shown towards His saints in serving the saints as you still do. But our desire is..." There is something beyond what the church enjoyed at that time. Their religious services had become such a ritual and the author of Hebrews knew in His heart there is so much more, so many better things that legally belongs to salvation, but the dullness of hearing was a problem. What was it that the author has desired for his hearers to experience? Heb.6:11-12 "And we desire that *each one* of you show the same diligence to *the full assurance of hope until the end*, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience *inherit the promises*." God is desiring that each one of us must live out of a full persuasion till the end. The "full assurance" in Greek means " a fullness, a full abundance, an entire confidence, a full fruitfulness or a knowledge of the full carrying in Christ Jesus".

God carried us all the way of redemption in His final Word, namely Christ. We must show diligence to come to

the full knowledge of this full assurance of hope that we have in this life in Christ Jesus. Do not let busy schedules withhold you from beholding and appreciating the better things in salvation. God is not overlooking how busy you are, but there are better things that belong to salvation. If your busy schedule is causing you to continue to bring forth useless vegetation, then there is *another priority* that God wants to awaken in your heart. No amount of busyness and Christian service can justify a barren life.

The prophets words has already come to fulfillment in Christ Jesus. According to I Pet.1:10-12 they studied the Scriptures to perceive the time. They knew in their hearts that in the fullness of time, in the fullness of God's purpose or *in the full manifestation of this final Word, all that this Word says will be available to the ear and the hearts of the man who has an ear to hear.* We are conscious of better things that belong to salvation, the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glory. In the light of this I Pet.1:13 says "Gird up your mind and be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is being brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ". There is nothing that sobers you up more than the final Word. You become intoxicated when many voices begin to appeal to you and contradiction begin to have their sway over your live. When you sober up, is when you gird up the loins of your mind and set your hope fully upon the final Word as the essence and substance of your life. This revelation of the mystery communicated in Christ Jesus becomes all the substance my faith ever needs to root into. When I judge my life, my time, my future, in the light of the final Word; the confidence and persuasion of the God, who

calls things that were not just as though they were, begins to rule my heart.

Even John the Baptist staled for a while in prison, because maybe the circumstances began to overwhelm him. The next option was doubt "Are you the One who is to come? Must we then wait for another?" We desire each one of you to show the same earnestness in realizing the full assurance of hope until the end. *I can never offer anything greater to God than the completeness of my redemption realized. Worship can never be anything more than your realizing the completeness of your redemption.* God could not draw more from the heart of man than through the realization of the completeness and finality of our own redemption in Christ Jesus. Nothing can draw a higher worship from your heart than your appreciation which comes through realizing the greatness of your redemption.

There is no comparison between the Adamic race and the New Creation. Do not allow the enemy to confuse your mind with a contradiction. The Adamic race operates from *works to attain to value*. The Adamic race operates from *a position of lack*, from being ruled by a *consciousness of need*, and so the best way he knows to overcome that need or that lack would be his own inspiration of works to attain to value in life. But here is the difference. *The New Creation operates from a consciousness of his worth in Christ Jesus.* The New Creation is energized from *the revelation of his worth* and not by the consciousness of his need and lack. *The Adamic race is need conscious, the New Creation is provision conscious.* God wants us to be ruled by a

consciousness of our completeness and find that as the basis of our whole life.

Do not let the contradiction become your lifestyle. It is so easy to adjust your doctrine to give credit to the enemy and your whole conversation becomes one of justifying your present lack. The contradiction begins to gain the sway over your life, and it becomes your lifestyle. We are not called to *abundant endurance* but we are called to *abundant life*. If contradiction becomes your lifestyle, then all you can show is your endurance, although endurance is a powerful ingredient of the new creation. But do not let that be your conversation. Make your conversation the final Word, and not "Well soon we are going to have a breakthrough, soon we are going to have a new season, in four months from now I will prosper financially". The fields are ripe unto harvest. The place where the Word and faith mixes, is the place of power in your life. The law limits you to the effort of your own, to attain gain. The law will continue to arouse sin within you, and will continue to bring condemnation. The Word of grace will continue to awaken in your life righteousness and life. In the light of what is achieved, the Word will awaken righteousness and life. As you have received Christ Jesus, so walk in Him - Col.2:6.

Let us read Col.1:5-6 "Because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you *heard* before in the Word of the truth of the Gospel, which has come to you as to all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you *since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth.*" What is the Gospel? It is the Word of the truth. The Gospel is not some alternative code for lifestyle. It is not some adjusted set of rules to make it

easier for man in his fallen state, when he finds himself in a position not able to attain to the standard of the law. The Gospel is the Word of the truth which has come to you as indeed in the whole world. It is bearing fruit and increasing. Not the other way round. It is bearing fruit and the increase is measured by the fruitfulness. When did it start bearing fruit? After the four months? No. *From the day you HEARD and UNDERSTOOD the grace of God in truth.* How long is it going to take you to be renewed in your mind? I believe as long as it is going to take you to make up your mind about the Word of truth.

How we have adjusted the time of the renewing of the mind. We say, "Well brother, sanctification has to do with the long process of having your mind renewed through various contradictions and experiences that we all go through so that at the end of the day, at least we have our own experience as a reference to give worth to our word". As if Jesus needed to experience sin before He could speak with authority, as if Jesus first needed some form of decease before He could speak with authority. You have got a renewed mind as quickly as you can hear the Word of God in truth and make up your mind. *A renewed mind is a daily walk with God where you keep the renewedness up to date as quickly as you hear new truth in Christ Jesus.*

The most important thing of a renewed mind is to get as quickly as possible the truth of the Gospel in your ear, before renewing can take place. If you give your mind 10 years to be renewed, is it not a risky thing? What percentage of unrenewed mind would you allow the enemy then for the next 10 years in your life. He does not need much to ruin. Because we have allowed our minds

to so accommodate the contradiction, we have allowed every snare that the enemy devised to paralyze us in the now of our testimony. God is not finished with me yet, you know. So it is: "Please be patient, still under construction.

I King 6:7 says when the temple was build it was build with stone that was *already cut in the quarry*. The stones was cut completely before they arrived at the building area, because no sound of chisels and hammers was allowed on the building site. In the same manner we were completely formed in Christ Jesus at the cross and resurrection before we were brought forth in Christ Jesus. That is why Is.51:1-2 says "Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, you who seek the Lord. *Look to the rock out of which you were hewn, and to the hole of the pit from which you were dug.*" How this frustrates our doctrine, because we thought that life and its experiences are the tools that God needs to use to force us into shape. We argue that it takes God many years to get you into shape before He can use you in the field. We see in Acts 9:20 that when Paul had met the Lord, he *immediately started to testify about Him* in the synagogues. He actually went on his first missionary journey eventually twelve years after he met the Lord.

Nothing can hinder you from successful personal testifying with other people, except your own time-related doctrine that will always declare you incapable. It is going to take you as long as it takes you to make up your mind about the gospel. *From the day which you heard and understood the Word of truth, you became fruitful.* The woman at the well became so excited when she heard the Word that she ran off without getting her certificate

first, she just ran off. She did not even have time to attend the next bible-study, but she had a *bubbly experience*. Something in her heart bore witness to the testimony of this Man and it became an inner fountain. It did not become a fountain after a period of time and season but the moment she heard and understood. Understanding needs no delay.

"Behold, now is the accepted time, behold *now is the day of salvation*" - II Cor.6:2. The time has fully come. We are no longer children needing a tutor, needing some instructor under the law. Grace has come and where grace has come, the schoolteacher is no longer required - Gal.3:23-25. This is because in Him you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. When you appreciate your sonship in the light of His, you will find something that will establish your life against onslaughts from the outside. When you begin to anchor your being to the person of Christ, you will find that foundation, that is sure and which can deal with the times and seasons of contradiction which endures the storm and stays cemented. Consider Him, you who pursue righteousness, look to the rock from which you were hewn. Look to the rock, discover the measure of your life in Him. Discover all that God could say about you and His favor about you in Him. Do not let the enemy snare you and bewitch you in your senses, to seek for applause beyond the applause He has given you in Christ.

That is the difference between pride and knowing your worth. *Pride and arrogance* would be the fruit of your own effort to prove yourself, to gain someone's recognition and applause. But walking worthy of your call is walking conscious of His worth that He deposited in you. See

your worth in the light of the price He paid. God was not trying to act bold when He bided on your life to show forth His wealth and paid the highest price. He sees in man the highest product. He sees in you the greatest worth, the greatest beauty. He called us to His own beauty and His own excellence.

It says in I Cor.1:30 - *"Of God are you in Christ Jesus."* You did not get in Christ through personal effort and religious diligence. *"Of God are you in Christ Jesus. When did you get there? When God first associated you with His Son, in the beginning when the Word was.* God never saw man independent of His Son. God made Him to be our wisdom. Your wisdom is not the product of your own experience. I thought that wisdom was how I experience life. No, that is earthly wisdom and it is devilish, because it is ruled by fallen nature. Wisdom comes from above. From God's point of view He has become our wisdom in Christ and He has become my righteousness and He has become my holiness. It is God who worked your holiness in you, so that you can work it out in your daily appreciation and walk. It is God who works within you, both to will and to do, because He has become your holiness. He is the final testimony.

Rom.6:10 - "For the death that He (Jesus) died, He died to sin ONCE AND FOR ALL; but the life that He lives, He lives to God." The Greek word for "once and for all" is EPHAPAX and it is used of a deed so done that it is of *perpetual validity and needs never again to be repeated.* He is the final Word of your life. The work of Jesus Christ with mankind is a once and for all work and is valid in favor of mankind forever. Nothing and no one can change it. There is various other verses of Scripture that

emphasize this "once and for all" finality in the Word. Heb.10:10 - "By that will we have been *sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all!*" What an incredible statement that we were sanctified once and for all at the cross of Christ.

This is confirmed with Heb.10:14 - "For by one offering He has *perfected forever* those who are being sanctified. That is why God is saying to Peter to call no one after resurrection unholy or unclean any longer - Acts 10:15+28. Heb.9:12 - "...with His own blood Christ entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption." Christ opened up the presence of God for mankind once and for all, because of ETERNAL redemption that took place at the cross. The work of Christ is so valid that it can be described as an *eternal* salvation. Time can no longer interfere with the eternal work of Christ, because it is of a higher class, influence and effect than time itself. Heb.7:27; 10:2 and I Pet.3:18 say that Christ was offered up once for sin, and because He was the perfect sacrifice, He fully and finally dealt with the whole sin-problem!

Take heed then how you hear. I know hearing this word will give you much reason for dispute, because many people will experience it so differently, *but do not allow a different experience to disqualify the case of the Word in your life.* The Word becomes the reference of your experience as you draw from this rich abiding Word in your life. II Cor.5:18 Paul says: "All this is from God". All that is worthwhile, stable and long-lasting is from God. God is responsible for the new creation that He speaks of in II Cor.5:17. "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old things have passed away, behold, all

things are new". We thought that the "in" must be the issue. So let us build a doctrine around whether or not you are in Christ. But I Cor.1:30 says "of God are you in Christ." and if that is not enough read II Cor.5:19: "God who in Christ reconciled the world to Himself..." Where is the world? In Christ. God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself. You are not getting there, you do not have to spend another week trying to get closer to God. You are already as close to God as you can get, namely in Christ Jesus at the right hand of God.

Righteousness that is of faith says the Word is *near you*. God is as close to you as His Word is, in your mouth and in your heart. If the enemy can share that place, in other words in your mouth and in your heart, your double-mindedness will cause you to be unstable in all your ways and confuse your testimony. But He is as near to you as His Word is. In your mouth and in your heart. God is not frustrated with barren soil, He sees harvest in that barren soil. God sees enough penetration in His Word to quicken dry bones, dry old waste wilderness. God wants you to discover the capacity of your spirit once His Word waters you, and you no longer need to explore the ability of your senses to somehow make it in your survival effort. But explore the rich fountain of His fulfillment that bursts forth from your inner man.

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