

CHAPTER NINE

CONCLUSION: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

QUESTION #1:

What is God's purpose for man?

God's purpose for man is *to have dominion*. Adam and Eve were to have dominion over the earth (**Genesis 1:26-28**), however, they fell into sin and forfeited their right to rulership. This allowed Satan and his fallen angels to continue in their present ruling positions. However, God's purpose for man will not fail. God executed a plan of redemption for man by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem man and take away sin once and for all. Presently, God is acquiring a bride for His Son for the purpose of ruling and reigning together during the Messianic Era, a thousand year period of restoration. The bride of Christ will be chosen from the Church according to their faithful obedience to God. In order to qualify, one must put away sin and produce holy works according to the Spirit for the duration of their life. The word "sin" is the Greek translation "hamartano" (Strong's #G264) meaning to "miss the mark (and so not share in the prize)." Sin simply means to go against God's commandments; to offend, trespass, our faults. God has called us to live holy lives in order to fulfill the purpose for which we were originally created — *to rule and reign*.

Question #2:

What are the three major components of man and how does each play a role in salvation?

Man was created in the image and likeness of God (**Genesis 1:26**). Therefore, since God is a Tripartite, man is also a tripartite. Man is composed of *a spirit, a soul, and a body*. The Greek word "spirit" is translated "*pneuma*" meaning "wind, breath, or a state of mind." God breathed His Spirit into man's spirit to give life. Due to the fall of man, man's spirit died. But thanks be to God that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins and redeem our spirits once again. The minute one believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, his spirit is made alive

by the Holy Spirit. He now has the ability to commune with God and to be spiritually discerned. The spirit is the part of man that links him directly with God. This aspect of salvation, the salvation of the spirit, is based on Christ's finished work at Calvary, therefore it is a past, completed work. Spirit salvation is a free gift from God and secures a believer's eternal salvation. It is now up to the believer to choose to allow the indwelling Holy Spirit to impart spiritual truth into and control his life through his own spirit for the salvation of his soul.

The Greek word "soul" is translated *psyche* meaning "life." In **Leviticus 17:11**, we find that the soul or life is in the blood; therefore the soul is that which gives life to our physical entity. The soul, being in the blood, is seen to be the animating principle of the body of flesh. It houses our desires, experiences, emotions, likes and dislikes. If a man is dominated by his soul, he will allow his desires and emotions to take control. Scripture always distinguishes between the soul and the spirit, never using the words interchangeably, as seen in **1 Thessalonians 5:23** and **Hebrews 4:12**. Therefore, the salvation of the soul should never be associated with the past aspect of salvation of the spirit. The salvation of the soul is always dealt with in a present tense with a future realization, as seen in **1 Peter 1:9**. Our present works will be judged in the future to determine the salvation of our soul-life for the Messianic Era.

The Christian's body of flesh houses an unredeemed soul and a redeemed spirit. The body is presently in a continuous state of deterioration, as it grows old and weakens with time. And it will remain in this present dying state until a future time. Scripture places the salvation of the body entirely in the future, as seen in **Romans 8:23**. Since the soul and the body presently remain unredeemed, it cannot be compatible with a redeemed spirit, as seen in **John 6:63** and **Galatians 5:17**. Scripture commands believers to put to death the lusts of the flesh and soul; and instead, walk in the Spirit. One must walk according to the Spirit now in order to acquire a redeemed body and soul in the future. Past, present and future aspects of salvation have to do with man occupying *regal positions* in the Messianic Era, when he is brought into a realization of his complete sanctification: his whole spirit, soul and body redeemed at the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Another facet of man's tripartite existence can be seen with the word translated "God" in the Hebrew text, which is *Elohim*. In complete keeping with Scripture, this word includes all three members of the

Godhead — God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Since Elohim is a trinity, for man to be created in the *image* and *likeness* of God, he too must be a trinity. Jesus is Elohim manifested in the flesh; and having been made in the likeness of man (but apart from sin) He must also be a trinity. This tripartite nature of Christ was clearly revealed at the time of His death. At this time Jesus yielded up *His spirit*, which went back into the presence of His Father in heaven (**Luke 23:46**); *His soul* went into Hades or *Paradise*, the place of the dead (**Acts 2:27**), and *His body* was placed in the tomb (**Matthew 27:57-61**). This threefold separation remained until the soul and spirit re-entered the body at the time Christ was raised from the dead. And the same threefold separation occurs when a believer dies. His spirit goes to be with the Father. His soul goes to Hades or Paradise and his body to the grave or cremation. At the end of the age, all three parts of man will be joined together and be resurrected to the Judgment seat of Christ in heaven. All Christians will be judged according to their works, whether good or bad. This will determine where they will spend the thousand year reign of Christ — either in the kingdom or outside of the kingdom of heaven. Christians who enter the kingdom (overcomers) will possess a glorified body animated by the Spirit, and a saved soul. However, non-overcomers will suffer loss, be separated from Christ, and will not possess a glorified body or be permitted to enter the kingdom for one thousand years. When the Eternal Ages begin, then all Christians will be allowed to enter the kingdom of heaven with spiritual, glorified bodies of flesh.

Question #3:

What is the Christian's role and purpose in *this* life?

The Word of God reveals that a Christian's role and purpose in this life is comprised of a requirement, a work, to be completed until the end and is that which foreshadows a future goal that was originally willed by God when He created man. God revealed this work in the beginning of **Genesis** and is laid out within His six days of restorative work followed by a seventh day of rest. Realizing that to God, "one day is as a thousand years" (**2 Peter 3:8**), we can know that after six thousand years of work from the creation of man, we can look forward to a seventh one-thousand year of Rest in the Millennial Kingdom. God commands His children [Christians] to walk in "good works" as representatives of Christ.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

These “good works” in which Christians are commanded to walk do not emanate from Christians themselves, as “human good works” are unacceptable to God, but rather, they are *divine good works* that were originated by God before the foundation of the world. Human good works, or works of the flesh, are those works that emanate from any source other than God’s Word. Divine good works emanate strictly from God through Christians who are under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Once a believer has received the indwelling Spirit, he is a new creation, and through the act of baptism, he commits to transforming into the very image of Christ. This is the act of being “*born again*” or “*brought forth from God*.”

As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord [by faith], so walk in Him. (Colossians 2:6)

All three expressions, “walk in Christ,” “walk in the Light,” and be “filled with the Spirit,” carry the same meaning. These expressions define the Christian’s role and purpose in *this* life. Our purpose in this life is to be prepared for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with divine good works, holy and without blemish. And the key to doing this requires one to exercise faith in all that God says. He must practice to be a hearer of the Word and then a doer of the Word. This is faithful obedience to the Word of God. The Christian must grow in the knowledge of God’s Word and then abide in it throughout the duration of his life.

To properly understand this principle of faithful obedience, one needs to look no further than the example left by Christ Himself.

...But when you do good [good works/walk in Christ] and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps. (1 Peter 2:20b, 21)

Christ’s entire earthly ministry was administered not by the human aspect of His character, but by the divine. He openly admitted that it was not His human will He came to reveal, but it was to administer the will of His

Father. Furthermore, it was by allowing His Father to do the work through Him that this was accomplished. The manner in which He executed His Father's will and work is best expressed in **John 14:10b**:

“The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.”

Christ did not live His life by His own power, but rather, allowed the Father to live and work through Him; and likewise, Christians, in order to accomplish their purpose in this life, must deny all self-efforts and allow God through the Holy Spirit to live and work through them. Scripture clearly reveals that this life is a test of our faith, to work out our own salvation. This is not the time for us to rest. The Word of God states that Christians who run the race of faith in the appropriate manner will be subjected to trials or testing in this life. We are to prepare ourselves, suffer and work *now*, so that we can reap its rewards and rest *then*.

A properly prepared Christian can enter the conflict and consistently win battle after battle. Victory is achieved through engaging the conflict, the trial, and the enemy by heeding the Lord's instructions. As previously mentioned, the present requirement or work associated with the Christian's purpose in this life has a direct correlation with a future goal. This future goal is the original purpose for which man was created — to have *dominion* over the earth. This will be realized during the future Messianic Era. When a Christian has successfully executed divine good works in this age, he can be assured of his future position as ruler in the next.

QUESTION #4:

What is promised for the *next* age?

To the overcomers or faithfully obedient Christians, rewards are promised in the coming Kingdom age. These rewards will be based upon decisions and determinations at the Judgment seat of Christ. In **Revelation** chapters **one** through **three**, Christ reveals the events of His Judgment seat which will occur immediately after the removal of the Church and before the Tribulation on earth. For those Christians who are found worthy during this time, after their works have been tried by fire, they will be awarded crowns and be chosen as the bride of Christ. They will hold regal positions, sharing the throne with Christ from the kingdom of the heavens

for one thousand years.

Christians will be given a “just recompense” at the Judgment seat of Christ. This means there will be some Christians who will occupy higher positions in the kingdom than other Christians. Christians will be shown to be either qualified or disqualified to occupy positions of power and authority with Christ in the kingdom. For those Christians whose works failed the test of fire, they will suffer loss and will not occupy positions of rulership in the age to come. These Christians will be found unfaithful and not prepared with divine good works during the present age. They will be cast out of the kingdom, occupying various degrees of punishment and positions of shame and disgrace for one thousand years.

A Christian having been justified by works will appear in Christ’s presence properly clothed. He will possess a white wedding garment; in addition, he will be in a position to participate in the wedding festivities as the bride of Christ. Having denied himself, taken up his cross, and followed Christ in this age, he will realize the salvation of his soul and will be among those who will occupy positions as joint-heirs with Christ in the kingdom of the heavens.

But a Christian having failed to be justified by works will appear in Christ’s presence improperly clothed. He will not possess a white wedding garment but will be found naked and ashamed. Lacking a white wedding garment, he will be in no position to participate in the wedding festivities. During the present age, he had lived for self and for the world rather than having lost his soul-life for Christ’s sake. He would have lived a life of unfaithfulness and therefore will not be among those who will occupy positions as co-heirs with Christ in the kingdom.

A white and clean wedding garment represents faithfulness to one’s calling, the righteous acts of the saints, and leads to the salvation of the soul at the Judgment seat of Christ. For those Christians who were faithful to the end, the rewards promised will result in the most amazing, superlative and unimaginable position. Nothing can be compared to it on earth. There are seven overcomer’s promises revealed in **Revelation** chapters **two** through **three** listed below and will be awarded to the believer who presently perseveres in faithful obedience and is victorious in the face of trials:

- 1) *“To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which*

is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” (Revelation 2:7)

- 2) *“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life...He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.*

(Revelation 2:10b, 11)

- 3) *“To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”*

(Revelation 2:17)

- 4) *“And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—*

‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’— as I also have received from My Father, and I will give him the morning star” (Revelation 2:26-28)

- 5) *“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.” (Revelation 3:5)*

- 6) *“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.” (Revelation 3:12)*

- 7) *“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.” (Revelation 3:21)*

Christ’s overcoming is associated with His sufferings during the time of His shame, rejection and rebuke. Christians are to follow the example that Christ has left, knowing that overcoming the present sufferings is with a view to the throne. All of the things contained and the conditions placed in the seven overcomer’s promises must be realized in the lives of Christians in order to be properly equipped to occupy the throne and fulfill the functions of the office that they are to hold. Christians occupying their proper place in Christ’s rejection, shame and rebuke today will result in these same Christians occupying their proper place in Christ’s acceptance, glory and reward yet future.

QUESTION #5: Why Study Prophecy?

Throughout the entire Word of God, the central Person and focus is the Lord Jesus Christ, revealed through prophecy. Through the study of prophecy from the beginning of **Genesis**, God's purpose for man is revealed — to rule and reign with Christ in the kingdom of the heavens. Prophecy is the Light which the Lord has given as a guide in this time of darkness, a guide to knowing His future plan and purpose for us. The study of prophecy inspires “the hope” in things surrounding the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Only through the study of Prophecy can we know the approximate time period of our Lord's return and watch for His appearing.

How can we know our purpose or what's up ahead in the age to come if we do not study prophecy? The answer is we can't. Only through the study of prophecy can we know what our purpose is and how to prepare for it. In this way, we are able to enter into the full realization of the things that the Lord has prepared for those Christians who love Him and long for His return.

If prophecy was of no importance, then God would not have given it to us. Everything was planned by God since eternity past. All the things that happened in the Old Testament became our examples. The events that transpired in the Old Testament were written for our admonition. He did this in order that we could understand and successfully make the journey to the kingdom. The day will come when the redemption of man and the earth *will* be fulfilled.

It is amazing to think that the correlation of events that occurred in the past was chosen by God before man was ever created. These correlated events were documented in Scripture for a stated purpose -- to point to that coming 7th Day, the seventh one-thousandth year Messianic period. Within creation week in the Book of **Genesis**, the entire divine arrangement of the world is recorded. God created for six days and on the seventh day He rested. This is the foundation God laid surrounding the redemption of the earth and man. As the Word reveals that one day to the Lord is as a thousand years, we can then see that the redemption of man and the earth, patterned after creation week, will last a period of six thousand years. At the end of six thousand years, God will consummate His works for the redemption of man and the earth. Then, on the seventh

one-thousandth year, He will rest from all of His work ushering in the joyful Sabbath of a thousand years when Christ and His saints will reign upon the earth.

Furthermore, God reveals within each day of creation in **Genesis 1:3-2:3** the overall scope of man's salvation. Through the study of prophecy, we have all that we need to be prepared for Christ's coming. Without attempting to set exact dates, God reveals to us that this age is approaching its six thousandth year. The Lord Jesus Christ is coming back very soon, therefore it is to our advantage to be ready every day.

Question #6)

What part does Israel (Jews) and the Church (Christians) have in the future Kingdom?

The Jews, the Gentiles and the Church are all separate and special creative acts of God. After the fall of man, God chose Abraham to be the one in whom a special people would form and would be favored with blessings. In turn, they were to be a blessing to all mankind. First, they would be the channel through which our Lord Jesus Christ would come (**2 Samuel 7:12, 13**). Second, they would be given the Word of God (**Romans 3:1, 2**). Third, they were to be God's witnesses to the ends of the earth (**Isaiah 43:9**).

Through Jacob, who became Israel, God created the existence of this special group known as the Jews. This special people are God's firstborn sons (**Exodus 4:22**). And despite the Jews continual disobedience towards God, they will always remain God's firstborn sons. After the creation of Israel, the Gentiles came into existence, who would make up mankind from those who failed God before the call of Abraham. After the call of Abraham, they were considered "[spiritually] *dead in trespasses and sin*," and were pagans, worshipping idols and false gods. Therefore, Israel was chosen by God to be His own special people and to witness to the Gentiles.

However, because of Israel's disobedience and unbelief, they failed in being God's witness to the Gentiles. For this reason God temporarily set aside the nation of Israel and created a third group known as the Church. This group is neither Jew nor Gentile but is composed of individuals from

both Jew and Gentile, making them “*one new man in Christ,*” in the spiritual realm (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). These three groups have been and will be separated throughout the rest of the ages. Once a Jew becomes a Christian, he is no longer a Jew. Once a Gentile becomes a Christian, he is no longer a Gentile. Do not be deceived by man’s philosophy, for in the Word of God there is no such thing as a Hebrew Christian, Messianic Jew or a Gentile Christian. One is either a Jew or a Gentile or a Christian. The things having to do with their former creation “pass away” and they become a “new creation,” part of the “one new man” in Christ.

From Pentecost until present, God is visiting the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name (**Acts 15:14**) along with the Jews to form the Church or the Body of Christ. God is presently seeking from among the Church a bride for His Son, Jesus Christ. At the end of the age, Christ will judge Israel and the Church. Judgment for Israel will be for the purpose of bringing them to a place of repentance and judgment for the Church will be to determine those who qualify to rule in the kingdom. These two groups are and will be God’s firstborn sons. On that Day, the whole house of Israel will be restored and those chosen from among the Church will represent the bride of Christ.

The Church is a heavenly people with a heavenly calling (**Ephesians 1:3**). But Israel and the Gentiles are earthly people with earthly promises and earthly blessings. Therefore, the Church will possess spiritual bodies and Israel will have natural bodies. In that coming Day when Christ and His bride rule and reign over the earth from the heavens, Israel will have been reestablished back into their land at the head of the nations. Man, in that Day, will rule from both the heavens and the earth.

The bride of Christ will be established as the ruling nation *in the heavens* with glorified, spiritual bodies; and, Israel will be established as the ruling nation *on earth*, with Christ reigning from David’s throne in the midst of the nations. Therefore, the kingdom will have two spheres, one from above and one from below, through the seed of Abraham — Christ, Israel, and the Church. At this time, God’s purpose will be fulfilled, as Israel will be God’s witnesses to the Gentiles and the Gentile nations will, in turn, be blessed through the seed of Abraham.

Christ will have a dual reign at this time — both from His Own throne in the heavens and from David’s throne on the earth. The roles that Israel and the Church will possess will be quite different. Israel will be placed at

the head of the nations on the earth, and the bride of Christ will rule the nations and Israel from the heavens.

During the Messianic Era, Christ and His bride will wear crowns in the stead of angels. The transfer of the government of the earth will take place from the hands of angels to the hands of man. Before Christ and His bride begin their rule over the earth and take the scepter, Christ will have taken the crown worn by Satan by force. In **Revelation 4:10**, we see the twenty-four elders (the angels who did not fall with Satan) relinquishing their crowns before God's throne, as they will be worn by the bride of Christ during the Messianic Era.

Then Israel, during the Messianic Era, will be positioned as head of the nations and will be God's witnesses to the Gentiles. They will be a blessed people back in their restored land, a land flowing with milk and honey forever.

Question #7)

What is "Spiritual Warfare?"

A Christian's real battle is not with flesh and blood directly, but with Satan, his angels and his evil spirits working through flesh and blood. (**Ephesians 6:12**). Scripture reveals that the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one (**1 John 5:19**). Satan is the master deceiver; a tempter and a liar, going to and fro the earth, attempting to keep Christians from successfully accomplishing their spiritual journey. Scripture therefore provides many warnings to Christians to be on guard; always prepared for battle. If one is not strong in the Lord, he will lose the battle against Satan and his demons. If a Christian is not abiding in the Spirit, these evil spirits can gain access and control him through the flesh.

From the beginning, Satan was successful in deceiving the woman by saying, "*You will not surely die.*" (**Genesis 3:4**) Since Adam, Satan's goal has been to destroy the Seed of the Woman in order to keep man from ascending the throne in his place. In **Genesis 6:2**, we see that the "sons of God," referring to the fallen angels, came down in the form of men and took wives with the "daughters of men." Throughout numerous examples in the Old and New Testament, we see that Satan was successful in causing many to fall away from the Lord and their inheritance. Through the flesh, Satan tempts believers to succumb to evil and to bring about

their downfall. During the beginning of Jesus ministry on the earth, Satan tempted Jesus as well. Today, Satan continues to roam the earth deceiving man. Jesus warned Christians of Satan's deceitfulness in the parable of the wheat and the tares (**Matthew 13:39**). This parable concerns "*the word of the kingdom*" and how Satan placed tares in the Church to distort this message until it was completely leavened. Today, we find the Church in this leavened condition, a condition referred to in **Revelation 3:17** as *wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked*.

Knowing this, we must realize that Satan is a very real enemy to each and every Christian and his evil powers should not be underestimated. Given free rein, he is able to bring about one's downfall. The only way that one can stand against him is through the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. One must *be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might* (**Ephesians 6:10**). He must *put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil* (**Ephesians 6:11**).

The whole armor of God consists of the *belt of truth* (understanding the battle that we are presently engaged in) and the *breastplate of righteousness* (performing righteous acts). It consists of being fully mature, with the preparation of the gospel of peace (ministers of the peace of God), and having the *shield of faith* at all times, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one (**Ephesians 6:16**). Furthermore, we must take the *helmet of salvation*, which is the "blessed hope" of His return and of our future salvation in the Millennial kingdom. Last, we must take our weapon, the *sword of the Spirit*, which is the Word of God [abiding in the super knowledge (*epignosis*) of His Word] to cause Satan and his evil spirits to flee from us. With this armor of God, constant prayer in the Spirit, and perseverance, we will be able to withstand in this evil day against *spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places*.

QUESTION #8)

What must Christians do to receive the salvation of their soul?

God's will for His children (Christians) is that they will choose to make their heavenly calling and election sure — the salvation of their soul — for the purpose of ruling and reigning with Christ in the kingdom of the heavens. And because of this, God has given us all that we need in His

Word to attain this most incredible, *so great a salvation*. To put it simply, the salvation of our soul requires our *faithful obedience* until death or rapture. It requires our belief in everything that God says in His Word and then abiding accordingly. When we practice faithful obedience, we are producing good works in the Spirit. One must choose to make a complete transformation from the “old man” to “the new man” in Christ. This does not come overnight, but is a life-long process. It is a day to day work of dying to flesh (doing away with our own selfish will, desires, and thoughts) and living for Christ (being mindful of the things of God).

Our actions, whether in word or deed, matter. And the reason for this is quite clear — as Christians, we are *representatives of Christ* (we are the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit) and therefore are to be like Him — holy, without blemish and set apart from the world. This, of course, is impossible to do through our own power. However, through the power of His might, all things are possible. When we begin to follow Christ and live according to the Spirit, this can be accomplished. The motivating factor to being faithfully obedient, obeying His commandments and persevering through trials, is a strong desire to be with Him in His future kingdom. When we anticipate His return, we earnestly work at preparing for that Day. The hope of our future salvation motivates us to produce fruit in order to be found worthy. The terror of the Lord also keeps us motivated. The daily reminder of us standing in the presence of the Lord, face to face, to be judged for our works, both good and bad, presents an extremely fearful picture. It helps us to press on and run the race of the faith with diligence.

Living holy lives is just one part of our transformation that leads to the salvation of our soul. Scripture says that we are *ambassadors for Christ*, meaning that we are His servants and managers of His message and of His household. And as managers, we are to make disciples of all, teaching them the “whole” counsel of God. God provides the seed (Christians) with water (Holy Spirit) to drink so that it may bear herbs (produce fruit, good works) useful for those by whom it is cultivated (to grow the Kingdom-**Hebrews 6:7**). We should do this boldly and without shame.

Another part of our life transformation will be our faithfulness during trials or testing. We must learn to put our trust in the Lord during these times of suffering, knowing that if we patiently endure, we will receive the end of our faith — the salvation of our souls. Last, during our day to day

experiences, trials and sufferings, we must never let the enemy of our soul (Satan) take control of us and take away the desire of our goal. Instead, we must continue to wear the whole armor of God to defend ourselves against him and his evil forces. Therefore, let us press on and not grow weary, for in due time we shall reap!

Question #9)

What is the greatest characteristic a Christian can possess for soul salvation and why?

In **1 Corinthians 13:13**, God reveals the three characteristics required for soul salvation — faith, hope and love. But the *greatest* of these characteristics is “love.” God’s greatest commandment given to man is this:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” (Deuteronomy 6:5)

The way we show our love for God is to abide in His commandments.

“He who has My commandments [hearers] and keeps them [doers], it is he who loves Me.” (John 14:21)

We can deceive ourselves into believing that we “love the Lord” but proving in our practice that we are more closely aligned with the enemy of our soul. How shocking it would be in that Day to find ourselves a son of the devil rather than a son of God.

God is love. If we are to be in His likeness, we must love. God’s second greatest commandment is this:

“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord” (Leviticus 19:18).

A believer must love other believers unconditionally. Jesus is our model for love.

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love...This is My commandment, that you love one another as I

have loved you.” (John 15:9, 12)

We must put into practice loving one another unconditionally, whether stranger or family, whether friend or foe. And we do this by putting our own feelings and thoughts aside, and doing it because Christ loves us. As believers obey His Word and abide in His love, they will come to experience and understand His love for them more and more. Intimacy with Him is the motive for loving as He loves.

Love is an amazing gift. It brings complete joy to all who share in it. And realize that *“love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8)*. Love keeps us far away from sin, but when we hate others we give birth to sin and everything that is evil. You can hate the sin, but not the sinner. Love others no matter what the circumstances and see the joy and victory that comes from doing it. Love never fails.

By continuing in this practice, we will have truly transformed into the very image of Christ. Even the lost person will recognize us as Jesus’ disciples by our love for one another, especially those of “the faith.” When we have been perfected in love, we will be prepared to meet Christ. In that Day, all things such as prophecy, knowledge, hope, and faith will end, but love will remain forever.

Question #10)

Will you choose this day to overcome your life?

In the beginning, God in His mercy and grace, and because of His great love for us, blessed us with every good thing and gave us the ability to choose. Let us hear what the Lord has to say concerning the choice of life or death in the age to come:

“For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the Word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.”

“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in

that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the Land which you go to possess. But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the Land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess.”

“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the Land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

(Deuteronomy 30:11-20)

My prayer for you today is that you will choose wisely. Choose life in the age to come!