

The Covenant Breaker

Unconditional Love's Sinister Plan

Volume 1

To Turn Them from Darkness to Light

Prepared by
Elder Dwight Burford
www.hisworkmanship.net
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To Turn Them from Darkness to Light

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At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

*And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet; for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, **to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.***

Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision; but showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. (Acts 26:13-20)

The People Which Sat in Darkness

John, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, wrote *God is love*.¹ Have you ever wondered why it is, then, that so many people do not know God is love and that He loves them? Or why others who have heard *God is love* need to be convinced or continually reassured that He loves them? Based on John's declaration that God is love, would it not be appropriate to expect *love* to be the characteristic of God's nature and expression most clearly evident to mankind, to those God created in His own image?²

The scriptures bear record of how God very capably brought all of creation into existence and how He readily maintains His creation moment by moment in all its great expansiveness and exquisitely fine detail and complexity. So why, then, has God not made His love known to His creation with the same apparent capability and effectiveness or clarity? Or has He?

According to John, God has openly revealed His love in the person and ministry of His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ.³ However, as John also wrote, the world has failed to com-

prehend or perceive the revelation of God's love bestowed upon us in the gift of His Son.⁴ Why? The answer in a word is *darkness*, specifically the *darkness* from which Jesus Christ came to free and save us so that we may know God and abide in His love.⁵

*And Jesus departed into Galilee,
And leaving Nazareth, in Zebulun, he came and dwelt in Capernaum,
which is upon the seacoast, in the borders of Nephthalim,
That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet,⁶ saying,
The land of Zebulun, and the land of Nephthalim,
in the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;
**The people which sat in darkness saw a great light,
and unto them that sat in the region and shadow of death,
light is sprung up.**
From that time, Jesus began to preach, and to say,
Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

Matthew 4:12-16 [4:13-17 KJV]

The *prince*⁷ of this *darkness* is a fallen angel called Satan, the devil, who is the father of all lies.⁸ The *darkness* he casts blankets the world, blinding the eyes and covering the hearts of the inhabitants of this world to *separate* them from the light of their Creator.⁹

*Therefore, seeing we have this ministry,
as we have received mercy, we faint not;
But have **renounced the hidden things of dishonesty,**
not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully;
But, by manifestation of the truth,
commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
**But if our gospel be hid,
it is hid to them that are lost;
in whom the god of this world
hath blinded the minds of them which believe not,
lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ,
who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**
For we preach not ourselves,
but Christ Jesus the Lord;
and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.
**For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness,
hath shined in our hearts,
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**
But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the excellency of the power may be of God,
and not of us.*

II Corinthians 4:1-7

To Open Their Eyes and to Turn Them

Paul, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, spoke of this *darkness* when testifying before King Agrippa. He told the king how he had been rescued from *darkness* by a *light from heaven*, meaning Jesus Christ,¹⁰ to be a *minister* and *witness* of what he was shown for a specific purpose: to *turn others from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God*.

*At midday, O king, I saw in the way a **light from heaven**,
above the brightness of the sun,
shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.
And when we were all fallen to the earth,
I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue,
Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?
It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.
And I said, Who art thou, Lord?
And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.
But rise, and stand upon thy feet;
For I have appeared unto thee for this purpose,
to make thee a minister and a witness
both of these things which thou hast seen,
and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;
Delivering thee from the people,
and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,
To open their eyes,
and to turn them from darkness to light,
and from the power of Satan unto God,
That they may receive forgiveness of sins,
and inheritance among them
which are sanctified by faith that is in me.
Whereupon, O king Agrippa,
I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision;
But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem,
and throughout all the coasts of Judea,
and then to the Gentiles,
That they should repent and turn to God,
and do works meet for repentance.*

Acts 26:13-20

Condemned Already...And This is the Condemnation

Jesus Christ spoke plainly of this same *darkness* to a religious leader who met with Him by night. Jesus began by assuring this man, Nicodemus, of God's love and the provisions God has made for our salvation according to His love for us, saying:

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,¹¹

even so **must** the Son of Man be lifted up;
That whosoever believeth on him should not perish,
but have eternal life.
For God so loved the world,
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth on him should not **perish**;
but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world **through him might be saved.**

John 3:14-17

Jesus then explained to Nicodemus why it is that the peoples of this world will *perish* if they do not believe on Him – and more particularly, upon His name¹² – as the revelation of God's light and love which He revealed for our salvation.

He who **believeth** on him [God's Only Begotten Son] is **not condemned**;
But he who **believeth not is condemned already**,
because he hath **not believed on the name**
of the Only Begotten Son of God,
which before was preached by the mouth of the holy prophets;
for they testified of me.

John 3:18

Did you catch Jesus' statement about being *condemned already*? Those who do not *believe* on Him are *condemned already*. Not with just any condemnation, however. Jesus continued by identifying the specific condemnation the world is under *already* as the condemnation which comes of **loving darkness rather than light**.¹³

And **this is the condemnation**,
that light is come into the world,
and **men love darkness rather than light**,
because their deeds are evil.
For every one who doeth evil hateth the light,
neither cometh to the light,
lest his deeds should be reproved.
But he who **loveth** truth, cometh to the light,
that his deeds may be made manifest.

John 3:19-21

Love Not the World

Consistent with Jesus' words, John would later admonish the members of the church to **love not the world** neither the things that are of the world, otherwise they will remain under condemnation and darkness (and eventually in *outer darkness*), separate from our heavenly Father's love.

*Love not the world,
neither the things that are of the world.
**If any man love the world,
the love of the Father is not in him.**
For all in the world that is of the lusts of the flesh,
and the lust of the eyes,
and the pride of life,
is not of the Father,
but is of the world.
And the world passeth away,
and the lust thereof;
**But he that doeth the will of God
abideth forever.***

I John 2:15-17

Please note that by admonishing us to *love not the world, neither the things that are of the world*, John is not contradicting Jesus' message of God's love which He demonstrated in the giving of His Only Begotten Son for the world.¹⁴ Rather, John is agreeing with our Lord's witness that the *world* is *already* under condemnation. Therefore, he is calling us away from loving *darkness* so that we may receive and abide in God's light and love.

This Then is The Message

In his introduction to First John, the Apostle of Jesus Christ calls us to forsake the world by doing *the will of God* for a specific purpose: that we might abide with Him forever. In so doing, John is showing us the way we may be saved (rescued) from the *condemnation* the world is *already* under for a purpose: that we may not *perish*, but have everlasting life according to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Hence, John's invitation in the opening chapter of First John is to enter into a life-changing *fellowship* with God by walking in *the light* as He is in *the light*:

*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you,
that ye also may have fellowship with us;
and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.
And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.
**This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you,
that God is light,
and in Him is no darkness at all.**
If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness,
we lie, and do not the truth.
**But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light,
we have fellowship one with another,
and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

I John 1:3-7

To remain in *darkness* (outside of the truth, in hate and bitterness) is to remain separate from God and His love. Stated another way, no one should expect to abide in God's love except they are also willing and committed to abide with Him in His light (by forsaking lies and vanity).

*For with thee is the fountain of life;
in thy light shall we see light.*

Psalm 36:9

As such, it is a very cruel thing to tell people about the love of God without first telling them, as John has done, about the light of God.¹⁵ For as long as a person or a people choose to remain in *darkness*, they will remain outside of God's fellowship and thus outside His love.

By remembering that John wrote *God is light* before he wrote *God is love*, we are able to keep John's message that *God is love* in its proper perspective and balance. Without holding the declaration that *God is light* equal in significance and proportion to the declaration that *God is love*, we will soon be out of step with Jesus Christ¹⁶ – by failing to observe the proper order for entering into and continuing in God's fellowship. We will have an unbalanced understanding and view of God and the *covenant* relationship (*fellowship*) He calls us into with Himself and with each other. We will overlook or dismiss His warning that those who love darkness over light will inherit the object of their love, *darkness in outer darkness*,¹⁷ as opposed to inheriting the love of God in the light of God (in His kingdom).

Thou Hatest All Workers of Iniquity

At the heart of the darkness covering this world is a cold, unmotivated, non-transformative love. It is a love designed by Satan to allow people to believe they are loved while remaining in darkness (to pacify our need for love without actually meeting that need). According to this love, no one has a need to concern themselves with *doing the will of God to abide forever*,¹⁸ nor do they have a need to heed the divine commission given to Paul to call others to *turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God*.¹⁹

This worldly love falsely claims that, no matter what, each of us will remain in the center of God's love for us. It assures us that we can intentionally or unintentionally break God's covenants and commandments and still believe that God will act towards us as if He were indifferent to our indifference to Him and His ways.

This sinister love, called *unconditional love*, is a covenant breaking²⁰ love that was designed by the evil one to not simply act as a substitute for God's love, but to supplant God and His love.

“God is love. Satan, therefore, wanting to ascend above God's throne,²¹ aspired to become a god with a love that would be even greater than God's love. Satan would become unconditional love.

“This once glorious angel, originally named Lucifer,²² planned to redeem all people. None would be lost, he said. All would be brought back into the kingdom of heaven and,

in return, he would receive God's honor.

"With Satan, everyone would experience total acceptance in the kingdom independent of any and all things. His love would be broad and boundless, without restrictions or regulations, without terms or conditions. This meant that mankind would be saved irrespective of each one's individual disposition or choice.

"Would not all people love a god who loved them so completely, without reservation or limitations – or at least with a love that appeared to be so noble?"²³

Unconditional love makes all things optional and ultimately irrelevant, including God's covenants and commandments. With unconditional love, anyone and everyone can feel loved without feeling convicted for loving darkness rather than light. They can continue pursuing their evil deeds while living under the delusion that they are loved completely, irrespective of any and all things they may wish to think, do, or say.

In the company of unconditional love, a person or a people can avoid, even dismiss Jesus Christ as the Light of the world.

It simply does not matter what its recipients do, unconditional love gives people a false sense (feeling) of being loved while not requiring them (or calling them) to repent and walk humbly in *the light* with God according to His righteousness, His words, and His will.

Unconditional love contradicts the Holy Scriptures in which it is written that God *hates* certain things and certain people.²⁴ Consider for example:

*My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord;
in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.
**For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness;
neither shall evil dwell with thee.**
The foolish shall not stand in thy sight;
thou hatest all workers of iniquity.
Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing;
the Lord will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.
But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy;
and in thy fear will I worship toward **thy holy temple.***
Psalm 5:3-7

*For the Lord, **when he shall come into his holy temple,**²⁵
sitting upon God's throne in heaven,
His eyes shall pierce the wicked.
Behold his eyelids shall try the children of men,
and he shall redeem the righteous,
and they shall be tried.²⁶
**The Lord loveth the righteous,
but the wicked, and him that loveth violence,²⁷ his soul hateth.***
Psalm 11:4,5

*As it is written,²⁸ Jacob have I loved,
but Esau have I hated.
What shall we say then?*

*Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.
For he saith to Moses,
I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.
So then it is not of him that willeth,
nor of him that runneth,
but of God that showeth mercy.*

...
*Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy,
and whom he will he hardeneth.*

Romans 9:13-16,18

*But I have a few things against thee,
because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam,
who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel,
to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.
So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans,
which thing I hate.
Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly,
and will **fight against** them with the sword of my mouth.*

Revelation 2:14-16

*In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
In his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.
**But they rebelled, and vexed his Holy Spirit;
therefore he was turned to be their enemy,
and he fought against them.**²⁹*

Isaiah 63:9,10

As Many as I Love

Paul's words recorded in Romans 9:18, "*Therefore hath he [God] mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth,*"³⁰ help us understand the following quotes regarding whom the Lord loves:

*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten;
Be zealous therefore, and repent.*

Revelation 3:19

*And ye have forgotten the exhortation
which speaketh unto you as unto children,³¹
My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord,
nor faint when thou art rebuked of him;*

***For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth,
and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.***
*If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons;
for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?
But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers,
then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

Hebrews 12:5-8

Specifically, the phrases, “*As many as I love*” and “*For whom the Lord loveth,*” convey the message that God does not necessarily love everyone.³² In fact, as the scriptures cited above show, God is capable of both love and hate.³³ According to His word, He is able to express love to those who fear Him and repent at His correction, and hate towards those who do not depart from evil but pursue and perpetuate it in opposition to His will once the light is revealed to them.³⁴

*Oh fear the Lord, ye his saints;
for there is no want to them that fear him.
The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger;
but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.
Come, ye children, hearken unto me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
What man is he that desireth life,
and loveth many days, that he may see good.
Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.
Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.
The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,
and his ears are open unto their cry.
***The face of the Lord is against them that do evil,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.***
*The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth,
and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
***The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart;
and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*****

Psalm 34:11-18

Thus, those who confuse unconditional love for God’s love will be confused, if not disillusioned, by the full message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. They will not *comprehend* or *perceive* why it is that whosoever does not believe *on* Jesus Christ and His name will *perish* and remain in darkness (outside of everlasting life with God) – for all who die in their sins, in darkness, will *perish*.³⁵ They will not understand how God, who *is* love, can also *hate* those who choose to remain in wickedness and unrighteousness after His goodness is revealed to them.³⁶ Neither will they comprehend the darkness that surrounds them in this world nor the *condemnation* which rests upon those who love darkness rather than light.³⁷

*For what man knoweth the things of a man,
save the spirit of the man which is in him?*

*Even so the things of God knoweth no man,
except he has the Spirit of God.*

I Corinthians 2:11

*Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive,
because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him;
But ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

John 14:17

For the Wrath of God is Revealed from Heaven

A significant point of confusion or concern to those who confuse unconditional love with God's love will be the *wrath of God* which Paul wrote about in the opening chapter of the book of *Romans* when declaring his confidence in the gospel of Christ.

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ;
for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone **that believeth**;
to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
For therein is the righteousness of God revealed **through faith on his name**;
As it is written, *The just shall live by faith.*
For **the wrath of God** is revealed from heaven
against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men;
who love not the truth, but remain in unrighteousness,³⁸
after that which may be known of God is manifest to them.
For God hath revealed unto them the invisible things of him,
from the creation of the world, which are clearly seen;
things which are not seen being understood by the things that are made,
through his eternal power and Godhead;
so that they are without excuse.*

Romans 1:16-20

Why would Paul write about *wrath* immediately following stating his confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ, especially if the message of the gospel is simply that God is love? To answer this question, one must also ask, Could the gospel hold any true significance without explaining its importance in light of the judgment of God against sin?

Plainly stated, the gospel is meaningless if it does not provide a clear and comprehensive answer and resolution to the dilemma of sin and its consequences.

To Give the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ

To have a balanced understanding between the wrath of God and the love of God, we must come to understand why God sent His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world in the first place. As testified by Paul, God sent His Son into this darkness (and thus into this confusion) to dispel the darkness so that all who are willing to receive *the love of the*

truth and to serve Him in righteousness³⁹ may have mercy and receive *the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

*Therefore, seeing we have this ministry,
as we have received mercy, we faint not;
But have **renounced the hidden things** of dishonesty,
not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully;
But, by manifestation of the truth,
commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
But if our gospel be hid,
it is hid to them that are lost;
in whom the god of this world
hath blinded the minds of them which believe not,
lest **the light of the glorious gospel of Christ,**
who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
For we preach not ourselves,
but Christ Jesus the Lord;
and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.
**For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness,
hath shined in our hearts,
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**
But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the excellency of the power may be of God,
and not of us.*

II Corinthians 4:1-7

Just how may we receive this light from heaven, *the light of the glorious gospel of Christ?* Jesus declared that He is *the way, the truth, and the life,*⁴⁰ of the world, saying further that:

***If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another Comforter,
that he may abide with you forever;
Even the Spirit of truth;
whom the world cannot receive,
because it seeth him not,
neither knoweth him;
But ye know him;
for he dwelleth with you,
and shall be in you.
I will not leave you comfortless;
I will come to you.***

John 14:15-18

***But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost,
whom the Father will send in my name,***

*He shall teach you all things,
and bring all things to your remembrance,
whatsoever I have said unto you.*

John 14:26

Why is it important that we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost?

*...because **the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts
by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.***

Romans 5:5

In other words, to abide in the love of God we must receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, who is the Spirit of truth, meaning the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

If Ye Keep My Commandments, Ye Shall Abide in My Love

Therefore, in order for us to abide with God in His light and love, we must keep Jesus Christ's words and His commandments which reveal the will of God for us. In fact, Jesus plainly stated that this is how He abides in His Father's love, by keeping His Father's commandments.⁴¹

*As the Father hath loved me,
so have I loved you;
Continue ye in my love.
**If ye keep my commandments,
ye shall abide in my love;
even as I have kept my Father's commandments,
and abide in his love.***

John 15:9,10

***Therefore doth my Father love me,
because I lay down my life,
that I might take it again.
No man taketh it from me,
but I lay it down of myself.
I have power to lay it down,
and I have power to take it again.
This commandment have I received of my Father.***

John 10:17,18

*For I have not spoken of myself;
But the Father which sent me,
**he gave me a commandment,
what I should say, and what I should speak.
And I know that his commandment is life everlasting;***

*Whatsoever I speak therefore,
even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.*
John 12:49,50

It is in this same way and according to this same pattern (by our keeping His commandments) that we may know we love God and that we love each other.

***By this we know that we love the children of God,
when we love God, and keep his commandments.
For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments;
and his commandments are not grievous.***
I John 5:2,3

Obedience, then, is foundational to our understanding and realizing in our lives the full intent of the gospel of Jesus Christ and, thus, the love of God. For it is written:

*And being made perfect,
he [Jesus] became the author of eternal salvation
unto all them that obey him.*
Hebrews 5:9

***And why call ye me Lord, Lord,
and do not the things which I say?
Whosoever cometh to me,
and heareth my sayings **and doeth them,**
I will show you to whom he is like.
He is like a man who built a house,
and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock,
And when the flood arose,
the stream beat vehemently upon that house,
and could not shake it;
for it was founded upon a rock.
But he who heareth **and doeth not,**
is like a man that without a foundation built a house upon the earth;
against which the stream did beat vehemently,
and immediately it fell;
and the ruin of that house was great.***
Luke 6:46-49

In This was Manifested the Love of God Toward Us

One may ask, if we must keep all of God's commandments to abide in His love, can anyone expect to abide in His love given that the scriptures have concluded *all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God* and that *all are under sin*?⁴² The answer to this question is at the very heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

According to His gospel, God has provided, is providing, and will provide for us completely and thoroughly *through* Jesus Christ.

*Beloved, let us love one another;
for love is of God;
and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
He that loveth not, knoweth not God;
for God is love.*

***In this was manifested the love of God toward us,
because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world,
that we might live through him.***

I John 4:7-9

Because *all* power in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus Christ,⁴³ He is *able* to keep us from falling.

*Wherefore **he is able** also to save them to the uttermost
that come unto God by him,
Seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

Hebrews 7:24 [7:25 KJV]

*Now **unto him that is able** to keep you from falling,
and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,
To the only wise God our Savior,
be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.
Amen.*

Jude 1:24,25

*Now **unto Him that is able** to do exceeding abundantly
above all that we ask or think,
according to the **power** that worketh in us,⁴⁴
Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus
throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20,21

Stated another way, through His ability Jesus Christ saves those who love Him *unto obeying Him* by giving to them, and sustaining in them, the strength and power to keep His words.⁴⁵ Specifically, our Lord grants His Holy Ghost, the Spirit of truth,⁴⁶ to those who love Him and His word of truth (as opposed to *darkness*) so they may live according to *the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus* unto the glory of God.⁴⁷

*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.**
 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh;
 but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*

...

*For if ye live after the flesh, unto sin,
 ye shall die;
 But if ye **through** the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body,
 ye shall live **unto** Christ.
 For as many as are **led by** the Spirit of God,
 they are the sons of God.
 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear;
**but ye have received the Spirit of adoption;
 whereby we cry, Abba, Father.**
 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit,
that we are the children of God;
 And if children,
 then heirs; heirs of God,
 and joint heirs with Christ;
 if so be that we suffer with him,
 that we may be also glorified together.*

Romans 8:1-5,13-17

*And because ye are sons,
 God hath sent forth the Spirit of his son into your hearts,
crying, Abba, Father.*

Galatians 4:6

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ! This is the good news! God grants to those who love *and* serve (obey) Him by faith – and those *who seek so to do*⁴⁸ – the power to become His children.⁴⁹

*He came unto his own,
 and his own received him not.
**But as many as received him,
 to them gave he power to become the sons of God;
 only to them who believe on his name.***

John 1:11,12

*For ye are all the children of God **by faith in Jesus Christ.**
 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ
 have put on Christ.*

Galatians 3:26,27

Specifically, God has sent the Spirit of His Son, *the Spirit of truth*, into the world so *that we might live **through** Him* according to the *power* He gives (imparts) to those who receive Him and believe on His name.

*In this was manifested the love of God toward us,
because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world,
that we might live **through** him.*

I John 4:9

Therefore if Any Man Live in Christ, He is a New Creature

The power God grants to us through Jesus Christ causes us to become new creatures. It strengthens us so that there is no need for us to live by our own means or according to our own *devices*,⁵⁰ but rather by the means and methods provided by God in and through His Son.

*I can do all things through Christ
which strengtheneth me.*

Philippians 4:13

*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

*Therefore if any man live **in** Christ,
he is a new creature;
old things are passed away;
behold, all things are become new,
and receiveth all the things of God,
who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ,
and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;
To wit, that God is in Christ,
reconciling the world unto himself,
not imputing their trespasses unto them;
and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

II Corinthians 5:17-19

According to the Riches of His Glory

In His living and abiding Word, Jesus Christ,⁵¹ God gives us the *strength* and *liberty* to live in His kingdom under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and according to His ***perfect law of liberty***.⁵²

Wherefore lay aside all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness,
And receive with meekness, the engrafted word,
which is able to save your souls.

But be ye doers of the word,
and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

...

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty,
and continueth therein,
he being not a forgetful hearer,
but a doer of the work,
This man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 1:21,22,25

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory,
to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;
that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
May be able to comprehend with all saints
what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;
And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge,
that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14-19

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God,
that he may exalt you in due time.

Casting all your care upon him;
for he careth for you.

Be sober, be vigilant;
because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion,
walketh about, seeking whom he may devour;
whom resist steadfast in the faith,
knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren
that are in the world.

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.

To him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

I Peter 5:6-11

...If ye continue in my word,
then are ye my disciples indeed;
And ye shall know the truth,

and the truth shall make you free.

...
*If the Son [The Word]⁵³ therefore shall make you free,
ye shall be free indeed.*

John 8:31,32,36

*Now the Lord is that Spirit;
and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

II Corinthians 3:17

**For Our Gospel Came Not unto You in Word Only,
But Also in Power**

In keeping with this testimony – that God provides strength and power through the person and command of Jesus Christ – Jesus sent His disciples into *all the world to teach* and to *do whatsoever He commanded them*.⁵⁴

*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying,
All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;
Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you;
and lo, I am with you always, unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Matthew 28:17-19 (28:18-20 KJV)

He sent them to baptize the peoples of the earth so they too might receive the Holy Ghost and thereby receive **power** to live according to God's word.

*For though he [Jesus] was crucified through weakness,
yet he lived by the power of God.
For we also are weak in him,
but **we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.***

II Corinthians 13:4

***But ye shall receive power,
after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you;**
And ye shall be witnesses unto me
both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria,
and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

Acts 1:8

*For our gospel came not unto you in word only,
but also **in power,**
and in the Holy Ghost,
and in much assurance;*

*As ye know what manner of men we were among you
for your sake.*

I Thessalonians 1:5

*For the kingdom of God is not in word,
but **in power**.*

I Corinthians 4:20

*For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink;
but righteousness, and peace, and joy **in the Holy Ghost**.*

Romans 14:17

So Then Faith Cometh by Hearing, and Hearing by the Word of God

Do you believe the Word of God that our Lord's commands come with the *power* and all means necessary to fulfill them?⁵⁵ If not, consider the blind whom Jesus Christ commanded to see, the lame whom He commanded to walk, and the oppressed from whom He cast unclean spirits by the word of His command.⁵⁶ None of these had the inherent power resident within themselves to overcome their infirmities. Yet, by the words of Jesus Christ, all received strength to be made *whole*.

*And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said,
Wherefore is it that ye think evil in your hearts?
For is it not easier to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee,
than to say, Arise and walk?
But I said this that ye may know
that the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins.
Then Jesus said unto the sick of the palsy,
Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thy house.
And he immediately arose,
and departed to his house.*

***But when the multitude saw it,
they marveled and glorified God,
who had given such power unto men.***

Mark 9:4-9 [9:4-8 KJV]

Jesus imparted this same miraculous power to His disciples.

*And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all these regions,
he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.
And there he found a certain man named Aeneas,
which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.
And Peter said unto him,
Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole;*

*Arise, and make thy bed.
And he arose immediately.*

Acts 9:32-34

*And there sat a certain man at Lystra,
impotent in his feet,
being a cripple from his mother's womb,
who never had walked;
The same heard Paul speak;
who steadfastly beholding him,
and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,
said with a loud voice,
Stand upright on thy feet.
And he leaped and walked.*

Acts 14:8-10

Those who were healed, either directly through Jesus Christ's own words or through those of His disciples, were made whole 1) by the power our Lord gives to men, and 2) by the faith which comes of *believing and obeying* His words.⁵⁷

*For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness
to everyone that believeth.
For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law,
That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.
But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise,
Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven?
(that is to bring Christ down from above;)
Or, Who shall descend into the deep?
(that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)
**But what saith it? The word is nigh thee,
even in thy mouth, and in thy heart;
that is, the word of faith, which we preach;**
That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,
and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead,
thou shalt be saved.
For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness;
and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
For the scripture saith,
Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.
For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek;
for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.
For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord
shall be saved.
How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?
And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?
And how shall they hear without a preacher?*

*And how shall they preach, except they be sent?
As it is written,
How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings of good things!
**So then faith cometh by hearing,
and hearing by the word of God.***

Romans 10:4-16

Consider further how the winds and the sea obeyed Jesus Christ.⁵⁸ His words came with power not just to the elements of nature, however. They came with power to the sea of humanity as well. For, as it is written:

*And they were astonished at his doctrine;
for his words were with power.*

Luke 4:32

Recall further how it is written that our God *upholds all things by the word of His Power, which is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword:*

*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners
spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,
whom he hath appointed heir of all things,
by whom also he made the worlds;
Who being the brightness of his 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 on the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

Hebrews 1:1-3

***For the word of God is quick, and powerful,**
and sharper than any two-edged sword,
Piercing even to the dividing asunder of body and spirit,
and of the joints and marrow,
and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Hebrews 4:12

Be Ye Holy; for I Am Holy

This brings us to the Lord's command for us to be holy even as our Lord is holy. In the words of the Apostles of Jesus Christ, we are to be *obedient* children who do not fashion ourselves according to *the former lust* (according to the love of darkness) *in our ignorance* (in the darkness of our minds).

*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind,
be sober, and hope to the end for the grace
that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

As obedient children,

*not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance;
But as he which hath called you is holy,
so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.***

I Peter 1:13-16

*This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord,
that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk
in the vanity of their mind,
Having the understanding darkened,
being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them,
because of the blindness of their heart;
Who being past feeling
have given themselves over unto lasciviousness,
to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

Ephesians 4:17-19

How is it possible for us to be holy? How can we be *obedient children* unto keeping this particular command? As with all His commands, God has provided the way and power for us to be holy. In the case of holiness, God sent His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to baptize us with the Holy Ghost and fire.

*John answered, saying unto all,
I indeed baptize you with water,
but there cometh one mightier than I,
the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose,
he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire;
Whose fan is in his hand,
and he will thoroughly purge his floor,
and will gather the wheat into his garner;
but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.*

Luke 3:23,24 [3:16,17]

*And John bare record, saying;
When he was baptized of me,
I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove,
and it abode upon him.
And I knew him;
for he who sent me to baptize with water,
the same said unto me;
Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending,
and remaining on him,*

the same is he who baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.
And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.
John 1:31-33 [1:32-34]

Therefore, if we choose not to harden our hearts against the Lord and His provisions for us, He will impart (we will receive) His Holy Spirit to the hallowing of our souls.

*Then Peter said unto them,
Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ
for the remission of sins,
and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*
Acts 2:38

*And the disciples were filled with joy,
and with the Holy Ghost.*
Acts 13:52

This is our Lord's work, a work He pursues *to present you holy and unblamable and unrep-
rovable in his sight.*

*And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies
in your mind by wicked works,
Yet now hath he reconciled, in the body of his flesh through death,
to present you **holy** and unblamable and unrep-
rovable in his sight;*
Colossians 1:21,22

*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved,
let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,
perfecting **holiness** in the fear of God.*
II Corinthians 7:1

*Put on therefore, as the elect of God, **holy** and beloved,
bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering;
Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another,
if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.
And above all these things put on charity,
which is the bond of perfectness.
And let the peace of God rule in your hearts,
to the which also ye are called in one body;
and be ye thankful.
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;
teaching and admonishing one another
in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
And whatsoever ye do in word or deed,
do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,*

giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Colossians 3:12-17

And He That Loveth Me Shall be Loved of My Father

When and where there are those who receive the Spirit of Jesus Christ and fulfill His commandments by the power He grants to us so we may abide in His light and love, darkness dissipates and confusion clears. No longer do people need to be convinced that God loves them. They will know His true and everlasting love in a way that is undeniably renewing and refreshing, in the most blessed of times as well as in the most difficult and trying of times. For God Himself will make His love known to them.

*He that hath my commandments, **and keepeth them,**
he it is that loveth me;*

And he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father,
*and I will love him, and will **manifest** myself to him.*

...
If a man love me,
*he **will keep** my words;*
and my Father will love him,
and we will come unto him,
and make our abode with him.

John 14:21,23

*But as touching brotherly love
ye need not that I write unto you;
For ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.*

I Thessalonians 4:9

Unconditional love knows no such conditions such as found in John 14:21,23: "***If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.***" It presumes to love everyone whether or not they love God and keep His words. In fact, unconditional love knows no conditions or constraints whatsoever.

The Conditions of Repentance

Unlike the message put forth by *unconditional* love, at the heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ we find the *conditions of repentance*.⁵⁹

If my people which are called by my name,
shall humble themselves, and pray,
and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways;
Then will I hear from heaven,
and will forgive their sin,

and will heal their land.

II Chronicles 7:14

*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you,
that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

***If** we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness,
we lie, and do not the truth.*

*But **if** we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship one with another,
and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

***If** we say that we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

***If** we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

***If** we say that we have not sinned,
we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

I John 1:5-10

Consider, for an example, the response of the crowd to Peter, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, in reply to his preaching the gospel on the day of Pentecost; in particular, note those whose hearts were pricked by Peter's testimony of Jesus Christ.

*Now when they heard this, they were **pricked in their heart**,⁶⁰
and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles,
Men and brethren, **what shall we do?***

Then Peter said unto them,

***Repent, and be baptized every one of you
in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,
and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.***

*For **the promise** is unto you, and to your children,
and to all that are afar off,
even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*

Acts 2:37-39

Peter's instruction and promise of the Holy Ghost was in direct agreement with the words spoken by Jesus Christ to His disciples on the day He was raised from death and the grave.

*Then opened [Jesus] their understanding,
that they might understand the scriptures,
and said unto them,*

*Thus it is written,
and thus it behooved Christ to suffer,
and to rise from the dead the third day;*

***And that repentance and remission of sins
should be preached in his name among all nations,***

beginning at Jerusalem.

*And ye are witnesses of these things.
And, behold, I send **the promise** of my Father upon you;
But tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem,
until ye be endued with power from on high.*

Luke 24:44-48 [24:45-47 KJV]

Jesus sent His Apostles to preach and teach these core doctrines of His gospel to the whole world, namely *repentance and remission of sins*. Why? As quoted earlier, those who do not believe on Him and His name will *perish* because of the *condemnation* of loving darkness which *already* rests upon the world.⁶¹ However, it is not the will of our Lord that any should *perish*, but that all should come to *repentance* – because in repentance we find the mercy of God.

*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise and coming,
as some men count slackness;
But longsuffering toward us,
**not willing that any should perish,
but that all should come to repentance.***

II Peter 3:9

*But go ye and learn what this meaneth;
I will have mercy and not sacrifice;
For I am not come to call the righteous,
but sinners to repentance.*

Matthew 9:14 [9:13 KJV]

*And rend your heart, and not your garments,
and repent, and turn unto the Lord your God;
For he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and of great kindness,
and he will turn away the evil from you.*

Joel 2:13

*Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness;
according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies,
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my transgressions;
and my sin is ever before me.
Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight;
that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest,
and be clear when thou judgest.
Behold, I was shapen in iniquity;
and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

*Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts;
 and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.
 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
 wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
 Make me to hear joy and gladness;
 that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
 Hide thy face from my sins,
 and blot out all mine iniquities.
 Create in me a clean heart, O God;
 and renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from thy presence;
 and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
 and uphold me with thy free Spirit.
 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;
 and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation;
 and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.
 O Lord, open thou my lips;
 and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.
 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it;
 Thou delightest not in burnt offering.
 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
 a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

Psalm 51:1-17

Therefore, Jesus has caused the *conditions of repentance* to be preached among the peoples of the earth beginning with and during His earthly ministry.

*And he called unto him the twelve,
 and began to send them forth by two and two;
 and gave them power over unclean spirits;
 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey,
 save a staff only;
 no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:
 but be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.
 And he said unto them,
 In what place soever ye enter into an house,
 there abide till ye depart from that place.
 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you,
 when ye depart thence,
 shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them.
 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable
 for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment,
 than for that city.
And they went out, and preached that men should repent.*

*And they cast out many devils,
and anointed with oil many that were sick,
and healed them.*

Mark 6:9-13

Thus we see that the preaching of repentance and remission of sins is at the very heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Recall how God sent John, called *the Baptist*, to *prepare* the way before Jesus Christ by preaching *the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins*.⁶² When John's ministry had come to a close, Jesus Christ then began His ministry with the command to *repent and believe the gospel*.⁶³ Then Jesus commanded His disciples to preach this same gospel unto every creature, declaring unto His disciples that those who received the baptism He commanded would be saved. Those who did not believe, He said, would remain under condemnation and thus would perish, i.e. they *shall be damned*.

*And he said unto them,
Go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel to every creature.
He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved;
But he that believeth not, shall be damned.*

Mark 16:14,15 [16:15,16 KJV]

In summary, the gospel which Jesus Christ has presented to the world involves *conditions*, specifically *the conditions of repentance*.

Bring Forth Therefore Fruits Worthy of Repentance

John the Baptist described *the conditions of repentance* this way. We are to bring forth fruits that are *worthy of repentance*, otherwise we will be *rooted up*¹ as when an axe is laid to the root of a tree which does not bear fruit.⁶⁴

***Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance,
And begin not to say within yourselves,
Abraham is our father; we have kept the commandments of God,
and none can inherit the promises but the children of Abraham;
For I say unto you, That God is able of these stones
to raise up children unto Abraham.
And now also, the axe is laid unto the root of the trees;
Every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit,
shall be hewn down, and cast into the fire.***

Luke 3:13,14 [3:8,9 KJV]

¹ Matthew 15:12 [15:13 KJV]

Jesus likened the *conditions of repentance* to denying ourselves of all unrighteousness and to taking up our cross and following Him.⁶⁵

The conditions of repentance, in a word, are to humbly accept and receive a change of mind, to be transformed in our thinking through the renewing of our minds such that we are turned away from our old ways and turned toward to the ways of God.

*If there be therefore any consolation in Christ,
if any comfort of love,
if any fellowship of the Spirit,
if any bowels and mercies,
Fulfill ye my joy,
that ye be **like-minded**,
having the **same love**,
being of one accord,
of one mind.
Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory;
but **in lowliness of mind**
let each esteem other better than themselves.
Look not every man on his own things,
but every man also on the things of others.
Let this mind be in you,
which was also in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 2:1-5

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

*For though we walk in the flesh,
we do not war after the flesh;
(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal,
but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;)
Casting down imaginations,
and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God,
and bringing into captivity every thought **to the obedience of Christ**;
And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience,
when your obedience is fulfilled.*

II Corinthians 10:3-6

*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit which is of God;
That we might know the things
that are freely given to us of God.*

...
For who hath known the mind of the Lord,

that he may instruct him?
But we have the mind of Christ.

I Corinthians 2:12,16

How Shall We Escape...?

If we were to *resist* receiving *the mind of Christ* by hardening our hearts against the Spirit of the Lord like those of old, by choosing not to hear Him or His servants, what then?

*Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears,
ye do always resist the Holy Ghost;
as your fathers did, so do ye.*

Acts 7:51

Will not God *resist* those who resist Him? For it is written, "*God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*"⁶⁶ Those who excuse themselves indefinitely because of *unbelief* will not find a savior in Jesus Christ.

*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief,
in departing from the living God.
But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today;
lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
For we are made partakers of Christ,
if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;
While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice,
harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.*

Hebrews 3:12-15

*We then, as workers together with Christ,
beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.
(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted,
and in the day of salvation have I succored thee;
behold, now is the day of salvation.)*

II Corinthians 6:1,2

*Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed
to the things which we have heard,
lest at any time we should let them slip.
For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast,
and every transgression and disobedience
received a just recompense of reward;
How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation;
which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord,
and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;
God also bearing them witness both with signs and wonders,*

*and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost,
according to his own will.*

Hebrews 2:1-4

**Now the God of Peace ... Make You Perfect
in Every Good Work to do His Will**

Walk humbly, then, in the true light of your faithful Redeemer, Jesus Christ, by taking up your cross and following Him unto the keeping of His commandments.⁶⁷ Listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd and abide in His words. Be filled with His reconciling, redeeming covenant love through the power and wisdom resident within His gift of the Holy Ghost.⁶⁸

*Therefore being justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;
by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand,
and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
And not only this,
but we glory in tribulations also;
knowing that tribulations worketh patience;
and patience, experience;
and experience, hope;
And hope maketh not ashamed;
**because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts
by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.***

Romans 5:1-5

*But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith,
praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God,
looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

Jude 1:20,21

Rely solely upon the atoning merits of the Lamb of God who came among us to take away the sin of the world, the One who came to destroy the works of darkness and to restore fellowship between God and mankind – which He has accomplished both justly and mercifully through obedience unto sacrifice.⁶⁹

Repent and come unto Jesus Christ, the Holy One of Israel, and receive His Holy Spirit of truth so that you may be filled with His pure and perfecting love.

Learn of His meek and lowly ways by entering into His New and Everlasting Covenant that was established through the shedding of His blood to atone for your sins and to reconcile you unto God.⁷⁰

Love the true Light that shines in this dark world. Love Jesus Christ with your whole being. For in doing so you will fulfill in one the two great commandments: to love your God with your whole being, and to love your neighbor as yourself. For He is at once the Son of God and the Son of man.

Now the God of peace,
that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great Shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
Make you **perfect in every good work to do his will**,
working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, **through Jesus Christ;**
to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20,21

For by grace are ye saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves;
but it is the gift of God;
Not of works, lest any man should boast.

For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus unto good works,
which God hath before ordained
that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse,
deceiving, and being deceived.
But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned
and hast been assured of,
knowing of whom thou hast learned them;
And that from a child thou hast known **the holy scriptures,**
which are able to make thee wise unto salvation
through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
And all scripture given by inspiration of God, is profitable
for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness;
That the man of God **may be perfect,**
thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

II Timothy 3:13-17

That ye may approve things that are excellent;
that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ;
Being filled with the fruits of righteousness,
which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:10,11

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,
being fruitful in every good work,
and increasing in the knowledge of God;
Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power,
unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness;
Giving thanks unto the Father,
which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light;

***Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,
and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son;
In whom we have redemption through his blood,
even the forgiveness of sins;
Who is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of every creature.***

Colossians 1:10-15

Endnotes

- 1 I John 4:8,16
- 2 Genesis 1:27
- 3 I John 4:9 with John 3:16, 8:12, etc.
- 4 John 1:5 with Isaiah 9:2,6,7
- 5 See Colossians 1:13, I Peter 2:9, I John 2:8 with John 17:1-3 & Ephesians 4:17-21
- 6 Isaiah 9:1,2
- 7 See John 14:30
- 8 Isaiah 14:9-17, Ezekiel 28:13-18, Revelation 12:10-12, with John 8:44 & I Timothy 3:6
- 9 II Corinthians 4:3,4 with Isaiah 25:7, Isaiah 60:2, Romans 1:21, Ephesians 4:17-19, etc.; see I Nephi 3:125, with Genesis 7:32 (D&C 36:5d)
- 10 Acts 9; cf. Revelation 22:16 with Revelation 1:12-15, Mark 9:1-3, Luke 17:24, II Thessalonians 2:8
- 11 See Numbers 21:5-9 with I Nephi 5:131-137 & II Nephi 11:34-39
- 12 The name *Jesus* means He shall save His people from their sins (Matthew 2:4 or 1:21 KJV). Therefore, to believe in the name of *Jesus Christ* is to believe you will be saved *from* your sins, not in your sins, by God's Anointed One.
- 13 cf. Romans 1:18, II Thessalonians 2:9-12
- 14 John 3:16
- 15 John wrote *God is light* in the first chapter of I John. He wrote *God is love* in the fourth chapter of I John. That is, John first wrote God is light. Then He wrote God is love.
- 16 cf. I Peter 2:21 with Matthew 16:25-31 (24-28 KJV)
- 17 Matthew 8:12, 22:13, 25:30,31; cf. Mosiah 11:191, Alma 17:16, Alma 19:75, Mormon 4:40 & Moroni 8:15
- 18 I John 2:15-17
- 19 Acts 26:13-18
- 20 By definition, unconditional love has no covenant terms and conditions, neither does it honor, recognize, or observe the terms and conditions of any covenant. Consider also Romans 1:31 with Romans 1:18-2:11.
- 21 cf. Isaiah 14:12-14 with Revelation 12:8-13 & D&C 22:8-15; see also I Timothy 3:6
- 22 Isaiah 14:12-14 & D&C 76:3i-m; cf. II Nephi 1:101-104
- 23 http://hisworkmanship.net/index_files/StudyLetters/CovenantBreakerSinisterPlan18Oct2012V2.pdf
- 24 See Deuteronomy 12:31, 16:22, Psalms 45:7, Proverbs 6:16-19, Isaiah 61:8, Amos 5:21, 6:8, Zechariah 8:17, Malachi 2:16, Hebrews 1:9, Revelation 2:14-16, etc. with Psalm 2.
- 25 See Malachi 3:1-3 with Revelation 22:12
- 26 cf. Hebrews 12:5-11 with Revelation 3:17-19
- 27 Satan promotes *games* on computers and other media which are violent in nature for this purpose, to bring those who play them (*love* them) under condemnation. He knows that those who *love violence* will be hated by God. Unfortunately, those who play these *games* either do not know that God hates those who love violence or they are past feeling (cf. Ephesians 4:17-19) and no longer care what God thinks of them or what they do. Cf. Genesis 8:17,18 [6:11-13]
- 28 Malachi 1:1-3 with Hebrews 12:16
- 29 cf. D&C 87:8 with D&C 95:3
- 30 cf. I Nephi 1:48 with I Nephi 4:1-13; see also II Nephi 7:28
- 31 Proverbs 3:11,12
- 32 cf. Psalm 73 with Matthew 25:42-47 [25:41-46]; see also Psalm 2
- 33 cf. Helaman 5:90,91
- 34 cf. Isaiah 1:14, Jeremiah 44:4, Hosea 9:15, Amos 5:21, Amos 6:8, Zechariah 8:17, Malachi 1:3, etc., with II Timothy 3:16,17
- 35 cf. Romans 6:16,23, James 1:15 with John 8:21,24
- 36 cf. Romans 1:18 with II Thessalonians 2:9-12
- 37 John 3:19-21
- 38 II Thessalonians 2:9-12
- 39 Specifically, those who hunger and thirst after righteousness (see Matthew 5)
- 40 John 14:6

41 cf. John 10:17 & John 12:49,50 with John 5
42 Romans 3:23 & Galatians 3:22 with Isaiah 53; see also James 2:10
43 Matthew 28:17-19 (28:18-20 KJV)
44 cf. Philippians 2:12,13
45 Colossians 2:6-10 with Genesis 22:10 [22:8]; cf. Luke 12:30 [12:28 KJV] with Revelation 19:8
46 See John 14:16,17,26
47 cf. Galatians 2:20 & Philippians 4:13 with II Corinthians 5:14-16; see also John 14:15-18
48 cf. D&C 46:4b
49 John 1:12
50 cf. Jeremiah 18:12 with Jeremiah 16:12
51 John 1:1-16
52 cf. James 1:25, 2:12; Colossians 1:13
53 I John 1:1, 5:7 with John 1:1-16
54 That is, that they may do the will of His Father.
55 cf. I Nephi 1:65
56 cf. Luke 4:36 with Matthew 9 & 11, Mark 1-9, etc.
57 Romans 10:16; cf. James 2:18,19
58 Matthew 8:27,28, Mark 4:31-33
59 Luke 15:10-32 with Romans 2:4, II Corinthians 7:10 and Ezekiel 33:10-20; cf. D&C 16:3c-4b, Helaman
2:71-75, Alma 19:94-97, Alma 19:105,106, Helaman 5:65-74, Alma 3:19-32, Alma 14:102-104, Alma
17:38,39
60 cf. John 16:7-11 with Acts 2:4,14 & II Nephi 15:1b
61 cf. John 3:14-22
62 Mark 1:1-11 [1:1-13 KJV] with John 1:6-8 & John 1:20-28 [1:19-28 KJV]
63 Mark 1:12,13 [1:14,15 KJV]
64 cf. Helaman 5:65-74 with Alma 19:66-71,93-106
65 Matthew 10:33 [10:38 KJV], Matthew 16:25 [16:24 KJV], Mark 8:36 [8:34 KJV]
66 James 4:5-10, I Peter 5:5
67 cf. Matthew 16 with I Peter 2:21 & Matthew 22:35-40
68 John 10, Romans 5:5, Moroni 7:53 with I John 3:1-3
69 Isaiah 53, John 10 & 12, I John 1:1-2:6,3:8 & Matthew 16:24-28 & John 1 with I Peter 2:25 & John 1:29
70 cf. Matthew 11:29,30 with Matthew 26, John 13-17; see also D&C 17:7, Mosiah 9:41, Acts 10