

GENTLE SHEPHERD MINISTRIES

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH ~ MAKING DISCIPLES ~ EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR MINISTRY

PO Box 3572 * Oldtown, ID 83822 * www.gentleshepherd.com * April 2015

The Reality of God

Part Seven

By Rayola Kelley

Last month, I made reference to the significance of Jesus being "Lord." In cultures where there is somewhat of a cast system established, where those of lesser status (this status could be based on family, beliefs, or material wealth), serve those who are considered superior and elite in societies where the idea of servitude and slavery is accepted and understood. However, in America, slavery was legally done away with after the Civil War; therefore, it is not openly practiced. Granted, there is a cast system set up in every culture, but for America it secretly exists in the minds and hearts of people in the form of prejudice and bias.

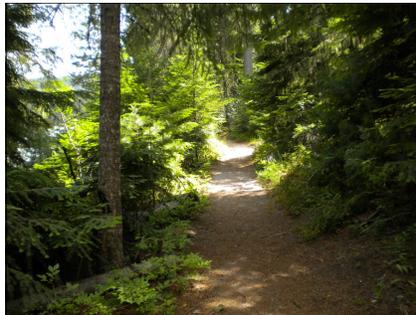
The truth is we are all servants to something. Countless Americans serve the "American Dream," which has been exalted as the secret of possessing happiness. However, many who have bought this presentation have found it to be deceptive, producing grave disappointment and disillusionment. The reason "the American Dream" is found to be wanting is because it does not address the spiritual. It is based on the ideas of the world, which have no real moral basis to them and can offer nothing but that which ultimately proves to be vain as far as purpose, unfulfilling as far as pursuit, and often ignominious as to the fruits it produces (*Colossians 2:8*).

Even though there can be found among many Americans those who serve tyrannical masters such as the sins of the flesh (lusts, addictions, obsessions, pride, and various other abominations), they think themselves too politically correct, too intellectually savvy, and too ahead of their time to be slaves to inferior masters. How wrong these individuals are in their thinking! Such people are more enslaved than those who realize that

they have been born in a position of servitude and properly recognize that they can only define their life by choosing who they will serve. This is the only wise way in which to prevent the character of their life from being defined by a tyrannical master.

In America, it is obvious that those who swing in the deceptive heights of their arrogance see God as nothing more than a figment of the imagination, Jesus as a myth, religion as a broken down crutch, and the Bible as metaphoric at best, and obsolete and ridiculous at worst. Such people's god is clearly the god of this age (Satan), their master is sin, and their ways that of death (*Matthew 7:13, 14; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Romans 6:12-13, 16, 23*).

It is for this reason that we must know who we serve. We are honoring some type of god and lord in our hearts, we are serving some type of master in our minds and lifestyle, and



we are walking down the path of life or death. We need to discern what God we are worshipping, what master we are serving, and what path we are being lead down. The Apostle Paul said it best when he instructed the Corinthians to follow him as he followed Christ (*1 Corinthians 11:1*).

This brings us to the concept of "Lord" in relationship to Jesus Christ. Consider what *Acts 15:11* states, "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." *Romans 10:13* says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Let us now go back a few Scriptures to

Romans 10:9-10, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him for the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

What is the common ground to these Scriptures? We can all agree they have something to do with salvation, but salvation is attached to a particular name. The name that is used many times in Scripture is the *Lord Jesus Christ*. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only one who can save us, but these three nouns are more than the name of someone. These three nouns identify someone who has all of heaven's authority, power, and glory behind Him.

We know that Jesus' name was inspired by heaven itself, but who used these three names in relationship to acknowledgement and worship as to the identity of the one who bears this name? The first one to make reference to the Redeemer being Lord was Eve. According to 1923 Bible Scholar, Katharine C. Bushnell who knew both Hebrew and Greek and studied Hebrew and Greek manuscripts, stated that according to the original translation that *Genesis 4:1* should read, "I have gotten a man, even 'The Coming One.'" The Coming One points to "Jehovah" or "Lord." If this is true, Eve no doubt named her first son, Cain, in light of the promise of *Genesis 3:15*.

It was Hannah in her prayer in *1 Samuel 2:10* who declared that the LORD (Jehovah) would give strength unto the king, and exalt the horn of his anointed. "Anointed" means the Christ (Greek) or Messiah (Hebrew). And, finally we have the angel instructing Mary in *Luke 1:31* about the name of the Son she would miraculously conceive, "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS."

What is in a name? We know that the name “Jesus” clearly points to both His humanity and His mission. Jesus is the Greek name for the Hebrew name Joshua. “Joshua” means Jehovah saves or Jehovah is our salvation. Jesus’ mission was to save, but He had to take on a body before He could become the Lamb of God who would be offered on the altar of the cross to take away our sin (*John 1:29, 36*). *Hebrews 2:16, 17* puts it this way, “*For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*”

When we consider the “Christ”, we are reminded that He was sent by the Father and anointed by the Holy Spirit to carry out His mission in the authority of heaven and in the power of the Spirit (*John 4:34; Luke 4:18,19*). This part of Jesus’ name clearly pointed to His earthy mission in light of heavenly credentials and calling.

Now we come to “Lord.” As stated in the previous article in this series, the presentation of “Lord” in relationship to Jesus is “Adonai.” We clearly have His humanity and earthy mission represented in His name Jesus and we have His heavenly credentials and call defined in the term “Christ,” but when it comes to “Lord,” His deity and position is being clarified and confirmed.

We know that Jesus is God who allowed Himself to take on the disposition of a servant as He allowed Himself to be fashioned as a man in the womb of a virgin. The Apostle Paul clearly brings this out in *Philippians 2:5-8*.

We cannot begin to imagine the depth to which Jesus descended when He gave up His sovereignty (rule) as God to be made lower than the angels (His creation) to become identified with rebellious, lost man. He gave up the glories of heaven to be born in a manger. He gave up being served in order to serve. He tasted the futility of the labors of man in preparation to open up an eternal kingdom to mankind. He lived in the

obscurity of humility in order to become an example to those who followed Him. He walked in the barren wilderness of the world and in the dusty paths of humanity, while setting His face towards Jerusalem in order to fulfill His mission.

When *1 Corinthians 12:3* declared that no one can call Jesus the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost, it was in reference to Jesus being Adonai. Note the word “the,” it points to one who stands distinct in His position. The Apostle Paul declared there was only one Lord Jesus Christ in *1 Corinthians 8:6* who made all things.

The demons recognized Jesus for who He is, the Holy One of God (*Mark 1:23, 24*). In His presence they trembled in torment and asked Jesus of Nazareth if He came to destroy them. *James 2:19* tells us that the demons believe there is one God and they tremble. If you follow how demons addressed Jesus, there is one term they never used, “Lord.” They understood that as Lord, Jesus, God and Creator, had sovereign authority over them. In my experience when the demonic world comes up against Jesus as Adonai, all they can do is manifest in bazaar and unpleasant ways.

Jeannette and I actually encountered this when a woman came to us seeking deliverance from all of her demons. It is the natural response of most Christians to want to classify such claims as being crazy, ignore them, or flee. However, this woman did have demons, in fact she was possessed. She later admitted that she had married Satan and liked her companions (demons) because at times they entertained her. She also liked the power they gave her. She later confessed after a couple of sessions with her that the reason she came to us is that when her demons were not entertaining her and empowering her, they were tormenting her. She wanted to control them in order to prevent them from tormenting her.

It took five hours of intense confrontation of using the Word of God in the authority of Jesus Christ against the lies and arrogant declarations of the demons to finally reach the person. To be honest, there was not much left of the person whose very personality was being consumed and taken over by the demonic forces. Clearly, she had sold her soul to Satan and he had

made inroads to claim her will, intellect, and emotions. When we finally did reach her, I decided to lead her in a prayer of salvation.

It is important to point out that at times I wondered if the woman’s reaction was not an act, but when a person contorts in an unnatural way and their eye color and voice changes, you must conclude that it is not some bazaar act where a person is trying to get attention. As I led the woman through the prayer, her voice was monotone. Such a voice can be demonic. My prayer went from salvation to acknowledging why Jesus is able to save for He is the Savior, the Son of God, the Messiah, the Way, the Truth, the Life, the Lord, the Bread of Life, and so forth. The demons were able to repeat each of these titles, including Lord, without skipping a beat. However, I decided to throw the ultimate wrench into their religious game and the next declaration I made was, “Jesus is God Incarnate.” As the voice went to repeat what I said, before it could declare that Jesus was God Incarnate, all hell broke loose in our office. The demons manifested in a vehement way and it took several minutes to quiet them by using the authority of the Lord’s name and God’s Sword, His Word.

As most of you know, I have been saved out of a cult. What distinguishes 99% of the cults is that they do not believe, will not declare, and if they make any attempts to address the aspect of Jesus being the God/Man, they literally spew it out of their mouth. They can use the various titles of Jesus, but there is an erroneous understanding as to what the titles mean, and as a result the titles lack authority. The reason there is no teeth behind the titles is because these individuals do not believe that Jesus is who He said He is—that He is God in the flesh. The fact that Jesus is God in the flesh changes the dynamics of the many titles that people use when referring to Him.

It is also true that there is power in Jesus’ name. There are people who, like Sceva’s sons in *Acts 19:13-17*, use the name of Jesus to push back some of Satan’s demons but that power will only go so far as it did in the case of those in *Acts 19*. Consider what the demonic spirit said to

Sceva's sons, "And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?" Clearly, the authority was missing from these men's lives, opening them up to be attacked by the unclean spirit. This authority is only present in the lives of those who know the Jesus of the Bible as Adonai, Who possesses all authority and power of heaven.

So many people see the struggle in the unseen realm as a power play. However, Satan's power is not limited because God is more powerful; it is limited because God's authority sets boundaries as to how far his power is able to reach. Unfeigned power is defined and limited by authority. It is because God is creator and Satan is a created being that clearly stipulates that ultimately this enemy of God must come into subjection to God's authority when He sets the limitation on his power, such as He did in the case of Job. Granted, God has all power to back up His authority, but the authority He has also declares His ability to carry out what He ordains. Authority and power walk hand in hand. For this reason, people who overstep their authority will begin to operate in abusive power that creates chaos and will eventually end in their destruction.

Consider what question Jesus was asked by religious leaders of His day in *Mark 11:28*, "And say unto him, By what authority doest thou these things? And who gave thee this authority to do these things?" They were asking Jesus by whose authority He was doing the works. Clearly, Jesus had power, but His credibility hinged on where His authority came from that was behind His power. Keep in mind, power is associated with the spirit in which someone is operating, while authority identifies a person to the source of his or her position, mission, and credentials.

Philippians 2:9-11 tells us, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." It is clear that even though many will not agree with

the Bible's presentation of Jesus being Adonai, in the end they will have to bow, a pose of worship, and confess that Jesus Christ is Adonai. Keep in mind, we are commanded to worship God alone. If Jesus was not Adonai, He would not deserve such worship.

In *Revelation 4:8-11* we see Jesus sitting on the throne of heaven being worshipped as Lord God Almighty (Adonai El Shaddai). The 24 elders fall down before Him, cast their crowns before His throne and declare, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Next month I will deal with what Jesus' authority as Adonai means for you and me. Meanwhile consider what your understanding is about Jesus being Lord. Has the authority of heaven unveiled this reality to your spirit, while His Word confirms it, and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in you enables you to walk in the authority that has been entrusted to you? †

RAYOLA'S Q & A CORNER

IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

Q: *I am confused about the difference between happiness and joy. I know as Christians we are to have joy at all times, but I am not happy about the world we live in and I cannot always rejoice about what is happening. This matter is causing me much distress, could you help me make sense out of my confusion.*

A: There are many people who confuse happiness with joy, but they are diversely different. First, joy is the state and happiness the byproduct. Joy comes from an abiding assurance, while happiness is a sense of well-being that is often dependent on the state or circumstances of a matter. Joy is lasting because it is founded on what is immovable, while happiness can prove to be temporary because it depends on the state of euphoria that often swings on the fickle branches of sentiment. Joy is the fruit of the Spirit, while much of the happiness that is being promoted today finds its source in fleshly ways and worldly attitudes (*Galatians 5:22-23*).

Jesus spoke of joy in relationship

to His teachings and promises (*John 15:11; 16:22; 1 John 1:4*). This shows us that we find our joy in who Jesus is, and in what He said, knowing He never lies and is able to bring a matter to fruition. When we rejoice in relationship to the kingdom of God, in essence we are rejoicing in whom our Lord is and in the blessings that come with having a relationship with Him. As we establish our joy in the Lord, we become anchored to Him as the Rock of ages and then our rejoicing in Him becomes our source of strength, never wavering from that abiding confidence and assurance that anchors us to His immovable character and His everlasting covenant.

The psalmist was the one who defined happiness in *Psalms 144:15*, "Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD." When happiness finds its source in real joy (the Lord), it manifests itself in satisfaction and contentment. Remember, happiness is having a sense of well-being and for Christians that means satisfaction and contentment regardless of what is going on around us. As the Apostle Paul stated, we must learn to be content in whatever state we may be, and this only will happen when we define happiness according to God's perspective and not the world's idea (*Philippians 4:11*).

We are living in precarious times, but we can rejoice that God still reigns. We need to be sober and vigilant as to the times we live in so we can stand in darkness, withstand deception, and continue to stand when the battle becomes intense, but we must not become stoic so that we end up becoming morbid about what is happening. I think the problem we see in some Christian circles is that in order to avoid becoming morbid they become unrealistic and silly, hiding behind a veneer of happiness, while those who are stoic appear to be void of joy as they take on a judgmental and critical spirit.

As Christians we must walk a fine balance. The Bible is clear that we must walk in the Spirit in order to avoid the traps of the flesh, thereby, avoiding extremes in our lives.

I hope this answers your question about joy. †

WHO IS ASHAMED?

Part Two

By Jeannette Haley

In Part One we read about Ezra the Scribe, and his great anguish and shame over the sins of the Israelites who failed to separate themselves from the pagan people of the lands and their abominations. This included some in the Levitical priesthood. As you can imagine, Ezra's reaction was one that certainly caught the attention of the people. *"And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished"* Ezra 9:3. He records, *"I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice. And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God. And said, O my God. I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens"* Ezra 9:4b, 5. Notice that Ezra identified with the Israelites when he said "our iniquities." Righteous Daniel the Prophet likewise identified with the sins and iniquities of Israel. *"And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land"* Daniel 9:4-6.

Oh! That there would be such godly men (and women) in the sleeping churches today that would fall on their faces before God Almighty in the sight of the people and identify in such a way with the sins and iniquities of America! The mingling with paganism that the Israelites committed, as outlined in this article, is a picture of the very paganism that is swallowing up

the institutionalized, organized, man-centered churches, not only in this nation but in other westernized nations as well. Wherever the Head of the Church is replaced with man and his systems, outwardly the name of Jesus may be tacked on to give the impression that it is "Christian" but inwardly it is full of carnality, unbelief, idolatry, unscriptural beliefs and practices, uncleanness, unholy agreements, perversion, ungodly attitudes and associations, which result in God-denying attitudes and lifestyles at worst, and "casual Christianity" at best.

In Ezra 9, we read the names of the pagan peoples that the Israelite men had intermarried with. We begin with **Canaan**, which means "low." You may ask, *is there any such thing as a "low" Christian?* Consider those who are content to never rise above the nominal Christian life. Being yet carnal, they have no desire to separate themselves from casual, mundane "Christianity, and strive to come higher in Christ to follow Him into a life of service. They simply want to get by until they die, or hopefully "go to heaven" if Jesus returns in their lifetime. "Lowland" people are content to live in the dark and misty "lowlands" of life where they are not challenged to forsake their old way of thinking, doing, and being so as to follow Christ into a self-denying life of service to Him. "Lowland" people live in fear and superstition, such as the Gadarenes who were greatly afraid when they saw the man out of whom Jesus had cast the Legion of demons sitting clothed and in his right mind. Here was an opportunity for the people of Gadara to meet the Son of God, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and to be set free from their dark, pigpen lives. But instead of falling at Jesus' feet and worshipping Him, they rejected Him outright, and begged Him to depart from them. They preferred swine to the Lord of glory. (*Luke 8:26-37*).

The **Hittites** represent fear, or terror in Hebrew etymology. "Fearful" professing Christians are like the "wicked and slothful" servant who buried his talent in the ground instead of investing in the Lord's kingdom. (*Matthew 25:14-30*.) Concerning this wicked servant Herbert Lockyer writes, "What a solemn judgment fell upon the servant who buried his talent! As the

faithful are rewarded according to the intrinsic value of their service, so there is condemnation for the non-use of Christ's trust. At the Judgment Seat of Christ many will be commended, but others will be condemned. For those who have honored Him there is a *crown* (*2 Timothy 4:8*); a *throne* (*Revelation 3:21*): a *kingdom* (*Matthew 25:34*). Will ours be a full reward, or shall we be among those "saved yet so as by fire"? A saved soul, but a lost life and forfeited reward."

"How the true character of this third servant comes out in his reply, and in his lord's condemnation of his failure. First of all, he had a false estimate of his master which he used as an excuse for the failure of his trust. He had lied about his lord as being a hard man, reaping what he had not sown, and now repeats this lie to his master's face. Why was he afraid to face his master, while the other two servants were ready and jubilant over seeing him return? This in *defence* was an *offence*. To his idleness, he added injustice. His master said he had proved himself to be a *wicked* and *slothful* servant (note, he was still a servant), wicked because he thought his master was hard and unfair, and slothful because he had failed to use his talent." (*All The Parables of the Bible*, pg. 246)

The fearful are unwilling to separate themselves from the world, and pay the price to truly know God, believe Him, trust Him, and follow Him. Being fearful and faithless, they will be judged as wicked and unprofitable. After all, *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love"* 1 John 4:18.

Then there were the **Perizzites** who were known simply as the "villagers." Christian "villagers" are happy to group with others for mutual benefit. They are content with the status quo, and fit this quote from James Montgomery Boice, "The world's theology is easy to define. It is the view that human beings are basically good, that no one is really lost, that belief in Jesus Christ is not necessary for salvation." It's a "love and let live" philosophy. These "village" people aren't willing to sepa-

rate from their social standing in order to follow Christ and carry out the Great Commission to go into all the world and make disciples.

Concerning "village Christians," allow me to quote some apropos words of A. W. Tozer: "Jesus hated the devil and He hated those evil spirits that He challenged and drove out. We present-day Christians have been misled and brainwashed, at least in a general way, by a generation of soft, pussycat preachers. They would have us believe that to be good Christians we must be able to purr softly and accept everything that comes along with Christian tolerance and understanding. Such ministers never mention words like *zeal* and *conviction* and *commitment*. They avoid phrases like 'standing for the truth'....We are too nice! We are too tolerant! We are too anxious to be popular! We are too quick to make excuses for sin in its many forms!" (*Jesus, Our Man in Glory* by A. W. Tozer, pgs. 66, 67.)

Jebusites refers to "threshing floor." The threshing floor stands for the separation of the wheat, or grain, from the chaff. "Both the Old and New Testaments refer to the threshing floor as a symbol of judgment. Hosea prophesied that because Israel had repeatedly turned from God to false idols, His judgment upon them would scatter them to the winds as the chaff from the threshing floor. 'Therefore they will be like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears, like chaff swirling from a threshing floor, like smoke escaping through a window' (*Hosea 9:2*). Jeremiah pronounces a similar fate on the Babylonians who persecuted Israel, likening their fate to the trampled sheaves on the threshing floor (*Jeremiah 51:33*). John the Baptist uses the imagery of the threshing floor to describe the coming Messiah who would separate the true believers from the false. The true followers of Christ will be gathered into the kingdom of God just as grain is gathered into barns, while those who reject Christ will be burned up 'with unquenchable fire,' just as the worthless chaff is burned (*Matthew 3:12; Luke 3:17*). The wicked are often described as chaff which the wind drives away (*Psalms 1:4; Isaiah 17:13*). Similar imagery of the good grain being separated from the worthless

weeds appears in the parable of the wheat and the tares (*Matthew 13:36-43*)." (From www.gotquestions.org).

"In the Old Testament, personal relationship with God showed itself in separation, and this is symbolized in the life of Abraham by his separation from his country and from his kith and kin. Today the separation is more of a mental and moral separation from the way that those who are dearest to us look at things, that is, if they have not a personal relationship with God. Jesus Christ emphasized this (see *Luke 14:26*).

"Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One Who is leading. It is a life of *Faith*, not of intellect and reason, but a life of knowing Who makes us 'go.' The root of faith is the knowledge of a Person, and one of the biggest snares is the idea that God is sure to lead us to success.

"The final stage in the life of faith is attainment of character. There are many passing transfigurations of character; when we pray we feel the blessing of God enwrapping us and for the time being we are changed, then we get back to the ordinary days and ways and the glory vanishes. The life of faith is not a life of mounting up with wings, but a life of walking and not fainting. It is not a question of sanctification; but of something infinitely further on than sanctification, of faith that has been tried and proved and has stood the test. Abraham is not a type of sanctification, but a type of the life of faith, a tried faith built on a real God. 'Abraham believed God.'" (*My Utmost for His Highest*, by Oswald Chambers)

The Jebusites leave us a strong example of God's judgment on idolatry. Idolatry in the modern church today is when anything or anyone takes center stage and is the focal point of the church. People everywhere have a natural tendency to put their religious heroes on a pedestal. This can include pastors, prophets, priests, popes, church structure, denominational doctrines, certain music, and so forth. People fall into idolatry when they blindly adore and exalt false workers who lead people astray from the truth of God's Word through their cleverly worded best-selling books, prophecies, teachings, and movements. God says, "Wherefore come out from among

them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (*2 Corinthians 6:17, 18*).

Concerning idolatry in the churches, Tozer's wisdom remains true: "**The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him.** It begins in the mind and may be present where no overt act of worship has taken place. 'When they knew God,' wrote Paul, 'they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.'

"Perverted notions about God soon rot the religion in which they appear...**The heaviest obligation lying upon the Christian Church today is to purify and elevate her concept of God until it is once more worthy of Him** - and [the church]. In all her prayers and labors this should have first place.

"We do the greatest service to the next generation of Christians by passing on to them undimmed and undiminished that noble concept of God which we received from our Hebrew and Christian fathers of generations past. This will prove of greater value to them than anything that art or science can devise." (Taken from *The Knowledge of the Holy*, Aiden Wilson Tozer, (1897-1963)

Next we come to **Ammon** and **Moab**. Ammonite means "hidden." Moab means "Who's your daddy?" Both Ammon and Moab were the descendants of the incestuous relationship in a cave between Lot and his two daughters. Moab came from the eldest daughter, and Ammon from the younger. "Because, these nations were descendants of Lot, God protected them initially; Moses told Joshua not to destroy them. (Deuteronomy 2:9; 2:19). The Ammonites started to worship Molech and the Moabites started worshipping Chemosh. These Gods were very similar and required infant sacrifice and the giving over of children to prostitution which was forbidden by God (Leviticus 20:1-5) and denounced later by the Prophets (Isaiah 15:1-16:3, Jeremiah 48:1-49; 6). (From truthinlove.com)

Sins within the church are works

of darkness that never come to the light. Such sins can be abortion, adultery, fornication, pornography, addictions, uncleanness, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, envy, and dabbling in the occult (which means hidden knowledge), to name a few. Many churches have embraced “doctrines of devils” along with the practices of Eastern religions such as contemplative prayer, meditation techniques, yoga, mind science (positive thinking, positive confession) and so forth. Ammon, as well as Moab, represent wicked works, whereas God’s sheep are called to good works. *“This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men” Titus 3:8.* Again, God calls His people to come out and be separate. God’s people must separate themselves from dead works, works of darkness, and all that is devilish. *“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret” Ephesians 5:11, 12.* While man tries to hide his works of darkness and keep them hidden, Christians are to obey God in practical works of righteousness, keeping in mind this Scripture: *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”* Jesus said, *“For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known” Luke 12:2.*

When that great day comes when Jesus sits in judgment, no hidden works of darkness can remain hidden. *“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world....Then shall he*

say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” Matthew 25:31-34, 40, 41.

Finally, we read of the **Amorites**, whose name means “highlanders.” “Amorites” among God’s people can be those in high positions who lord it over the people. This is called Nicolaitanism in Scripture and God hates it. (Revelation 2:6, 2:15). The clergy is not to be “high and mighty” and control God’s people. The greatest in the Body of Christ is the servant of all, as our Lord both taught and demonstrated time and again as He served His own. Truly, “the servant is not above his master.” If our Lord humbled Himself and became a servant, then who dares to exalt him or herself into a position of superiority and heartless command? God’s sheep must separate themselves out from under any such dictatorship in the assembly. We have one Lord and one Master, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul warned against being “high-minded” in *Romans 12:16*, *“Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.”* Concerning being a respecter of persons, James warned *“But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convicted of the law as transgressors” James 2:9.* Andrew Murray puts it well, “Here is the path to the higher life: down, lower down! Just as water always seeks and fills the lowest place, so the moment God finds men abased and empty, His glory and power flow in to exalt and to bless.”

No wonder Ezra was in great shame and despair! How could the Jewish nation be restored when there was such a mixture of the holy with the profane? The same question can be asked of the church, for Jesus is returning for a sanctified and cleansed church, *“That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” Ephesians 5:27.* A. W. Tozer said, “I hope some of you will agree with me that it is of **far greater importance that we have better Christians than that we have more of them!** If we have any spiritual concerns, **our most pressing obligation is to do all in**

our power to obtain a revival that will result in a reformed, revitalized, purified church... followers of Christ must become personally and vitally involved in the death and resurrection of Christ. And **this requires repentance, prayer, watchfulness, self-denial, detachment from the world, humility, obedience and cross-carrying...**”

Ezra is an example we need to follow. He fell to his knees and made strong supplication to God. (See *Ezra 9:5-15*.) What happened then is what every Christian who prays for revival longs to see, for *“when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore” Ezra 10:1.* After mourning and fasting for the transgression of the people, Ezra stood up and said to all the men who had gathered and sat trembling before him, *“Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel. Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives” Ezra 10:10, 11.* Try to picture this scene for a moment, and imagine that you were a part of it. How would you react to the separation that had to take place between the men and their wives, and that also included children for some of them? These was surely a hard thing to experience, but remember that repentance means turning away from sin and the old life, to follow the Lord into a new life in Him. You cannot have it both ways; you *“cannot serve two masters.”* There is a price to pay in obeying and following the Lord.

How many of those who sit today in worldly churches that are ashamed of the Word, and Jesus—churches that are soft on sin, and take pride in being “tolerant”—will wake up, hear and obey the Word of the Lord concerning separation from that which is unclean (unholy) and profane, and quickly depart from it before Jesus comes?

I don’t know about you, but I do not want to experience shame when I

stand before Him, nor do I want Him to be ashamed of me. Instead, I want to hear these words, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" Matthew 25:34b. Amen. †



COMMENTS

Read your newsletter [February] and it is amazing how you both write about the same things from different angles and as you shared do not talk to each other about what you are writing about. They are always intertwined by the same theme and thread inspired in one accord by the Holy Spirit.

What stood out to me is not just paying the price personally for greatness and mountaintop experiences, but to know God in greater ways. To know deep things about God, we must be brought into the deep places to gain a dependency that allows us to know Him and establish our inner being on the immovable rock of Jesus. And as Rayola explains in her article, we need to receive a greater revelation of our Savior, God and Lord for the Holy Spirit to enlighten His character, work and ways.

I loved the beautiful illustration that you gave Jeannette of the believer's life revealed in Ps 23. Our "mountaintop" experiences with God are very few and far in between, but it is in the valleys of obstacles, sorrow, drudgery, etc. we grow through obedience to His Word and where the Holy Spirit can give us that place of rest, peace and restoration.

Rayola's Q & A about God's Sovereignty cleared up some things for me as well. It is not that God just hardened Pharaoh's heart or that Judas just betrayed Jesus, but that it was the cultivating of these men's hearts. Pharaoh gave way to pride making him half-hearted and Judas had a worldly heart. Both of them as well as Esau became harder against truth. We have to continue to love the truth. - ID

LET ME NOT BE ASHAMED!

An excerpt from *Waiting On God* by Andrew Murray

Let us now, each one forgetting himself, think of the great company of God, and the saints throughout the world who are all waiting on Him. And, let us all join in the fervent prayer for each other: "Let none that wait on Thee be ashamed."

Just think for a moment of the many waiting ones who need that prayer, how many are sick and weary and alone, and feel as if their prayers are not answered. They sometimes begin to fear that their hope will be put to shame. And then, think of how many servants of God, ministers or missionaries, teachers or workers, of various name, whose hopes in their work have been disappointed, and whose longing for power and blessing remains unsatisfied. And then, too, think of how many who have heard of a life of rest and perfect peace, of abiding light and fellowship, of strength and victory, and who cannot find the path. With all these, it is only that they have not yet learned the secret of full waiting upon God. They just need what we all need, the living assurance that waiting on God can never be in vain. Let us remember, all who are in danger of fainting or being weary, and unite in the cry, "Let none that wait on Thee be ashamed!"

If this intercession for all who wait on God becomes part of our waiting on Him for ourselves, we will help to bear each other's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

There will be introduced into our waiting on God that element of unselfishness and love, which is the path to the highest blessing and the fullest communion with God. Love to the brethren and love to God are inseparably linked. In God, the love to His Son *and to us* are one: "That the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them." In Christ, the love of the Father to Him, and *His love to us*, are one: "As the Father loved Me, so have I loved you." In us, He asks that His love to us be *ours* to the brethren. And how can we, day by day, prove and cultivate this love except by praying daily for each other? Christ did not seek to enjoy the Father's love for Himself; He

passed it all on to us. All true seeking of God, and His love for ourselves, will be inseparably linked with the thought and the love of our brethren in prayer for them.

"Let none that wait on Thee be ashamed." Twice in the psalm David speaks of his waiting on God for himself; here he thinks of *all* who wait on Him. Let this be the message to all God's tried and weary ones, that there are more people praying for them than they know about. Let it stir them and us in our waiting to make a point of at times forgetting ourselves, and to enlarge our hearts and say to the Father: "*These all wait upon Thee*, and Thou givest them their meat in due season." Let it inspire us all with new courage—for who is there who is not at times ready to faint and be weary? "Let none that wait on Thee be ashamed" is a promise in a prayer. "They that wait on Thee shall not be ashamed!" From many a witness, the cry comes to everyone who needs help—brother, sister, tried one, "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that wait on the Lord."

Blessed Father, we humbly beseech You let none who wait on You be ashamed; no, not one. Some are weary, and the time of waiting appears long. And some are feeble and scarcely know how to wait. And some are so entangled in the effort of their prayers and their work, they think that they can find no time to wait continually. Father, teach us all how to wait! Teach us to think of each other, and pray for each other. Teach us to think of You, the God of all waiting ones. Father, let none that wait on You be ashamed! For Jesus' sake. Amen.

My soul, wait thou only upon God!

Andrew Murray (1828-1917): was an amazingly prolific Christian writer. He lived and ministered as both a pastor and author from the Cape of South Africa.

"O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause." - Psalm 25:2-3

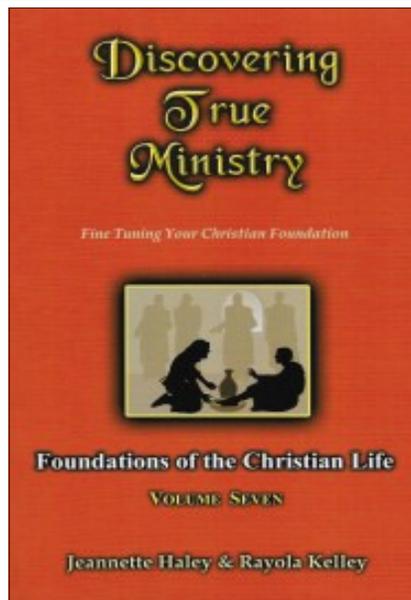
His Plan for Me

When I stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ
And He shows me His plan for me,
The plan of my life as it might have been,
Had He had His way; and I see
How I blocked Him here, and I checked Him there
And I would not yield my will,
Will there be grief in my Saviour's eyes,
Grief though He loves me still?
He would have me rich, and I stand here poor,
Stripped of all but His grace,
While memory runs like a hunted thing
Down the paths I cannot retrace.
Then my desolate heart will well nigh break
With tears that I cannot shed;
I shall cover my face with my empty hands;
I shall bow my uncrowned head.
Lord of the years that are left to me,
I give them to Thy hand;
Take me and break me, mold me to
The pattern Thou hast planned.

—Martha Snell Nicholson

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." - 2 Corinthians 5:10

DID YOU KNOW that the US now has a Muslim government? John Brennan, current head of the CIA converted to Islam while stationed in Saudi Arabia. Obama's top advisor, Valerie Jarrett, is a Muslim who was born in Iran where her parents still live. Hillary Clinton's top advisor, Huma Abedin is a Muslim, whose mother and brother are involved in the now outlawed Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. Assistant Secretary for Policy Development for Homeland Security, Arif Aikhan, is a Muslim. Homeland Security Advisor, Mohammed Elibary, is a Muslim. Obama advisor and founder of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, Salam al-Marayati, is a Muslim. Obama's Sharia Czar, Imam Mohamed Magid, of the Islamic Society of North America is a Muslim.



Discovering True Ministry by Rayola Kelley and Jeannette Haley

Discovering True Ministry is the final volume in the seven series of informational books prepared in compliance with the Gentle Shepherd Ministries Discipleship Course. This volume contains the combined talents of the two founders of the ministry, Jeannette Haley and Rayola Kelley.

The diversity of challenges that confront Jesus' followers and that tests their character and buffets any spiritual advancement are clearly brought out in this volume. The ministries of these two women represent 53 years of Christian service. As you will gather from this volume, their experiences concerning ministry and adversities are many, but the spiritual treasures they have gleaned from such challenges far outweigh the difficulties.

Jeannette's first book in this volume, ***Interview in Hell***, will challenge people's perspective about the real issues surrounding ministry.

Jeannette's second book, ***Interview on Earth***, finds the heavenly messenger, Maschil, who was introduced in the first book, given a special assignment on earth.

To Maschil's dismay, the assignment he has been entrusted with is not just a matter of ensuring the Gos-

pel's impact on those who are heirs to salvation, but he must also confront the great heretical darkness that is invading the professing Church.

In the third and final book by Jeannette in this volume, you will see the personal fiery preparation a servant of God may have to endure to come to a place where God is able to use him or her for His glory. ***Rose of Light, Thorn of Darkness*** highlights some of Jeannette's personal experiences in the fiery ovens of preparation, spiritual enlargement, and growth. Jeannette manages to paint a mosaic of her real-life challenges and afflictions that include intrigue, personal battles, and spiritual challenges through the life of the main character, Julie Danza.

Rayola's first book in this volume, ***From Prisons and Dots to Christianity***, presents a powerful insight into the process that must take place to bring a believer to perfection in Christ. By revealing the inner struggles that often take place in this process, it allows the reader to see into the author's heart, life, and mind.

In the final book, ***So You Want to be in Ministry***, Rayola gives insight into the real shaping and molding of God-ordained ministries. Often formed in travail and tested in the challenging harvest field of humanity, they show that true ministries of God do not just happen. Servant ministers must be prepared and personally shaped by the hands of the great Potter to be used for His glory and purpose.

Discovering True Ministry
Price: \$19.95 (plus s/h)

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QUOTABLE

"The biggest battle over the Word of God is not what is in it, but whether one is going to believe it is true. People must choose to believe that the Bible indeed answers all of these important questions concerning God, life, and death." - Rayola Kelley

