

We are what we believe

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&

Behaviour reveals beliefs

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‘Above all else, guard your heart,
for everything you do flows from it.’

Proverbs 4:23

Compiled by Robert C May

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cometotheriver@optusnet.com.au

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At the time of Jesus' birth, the Jewish longing for the Messiah reflected the biblical tradition of a Davidic descendent, who would physically reign over Israel forever. (2 Sam. 7:13; 22:51; Ps. 89:4). The Jewish community expected the Messiah to enter the city, defeat the Roman military and re-establish David's throne in all its glory. This longing for the arrival of their Messiah, the anointed king of Israel, prompted crowds to gather along the road to Jerusalem to announce Jesus' entrance to the city.

The disciples of Jesus shared these preconceived ideas and assumptions about what the messiah would do. As it turned out, they had an incomplete picture about what life with the messiah to come would be like, and when His earthly reign would begin.

This false concept of the messiah made the disciple's and others blind and deaf to

anything that did not fit their picture of how things would be. So they only saw what was written in the Old Testament according to what they had already decided how it was supposed to be. Regardless of what was actually written, or what the Lord Jesus said to the contrary, they were stuck in a blindness of their own creation due to fleshly ignorance. And this was even truer for the Pharisees and the Sadducees who taught such things and had their own particular unbelief to follow.

While the disciples were blinded by their expectations, at least eleven of them had their heart in the right place, while the Pharisees and the Sadducees were also blind, but their hearts were never in the right place.

This blindness and unbelief was evidenced by the number of times the Lord had to say to the disciples, “you of little faith” or “how long have I to put up with you.” Thirteen times in the gospels the Lord Jesus spoke of His death on the cross, and they didn’t get it, not even once. Peter even rebuked the Lord for suggesting such an idea would come about.

“God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You.” (Matt 16:21-22) It’s obvious that Peter didn’t really understand what he had said a little earlier when he said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matt 16:16) Later we see Peter’s three refusals about knowing the Lord before His crucifixion, even to the extent of swearing profanities. Talk about natural man being blinded by personal assumptions and values. Look at the expectations of the mother of James and John, when she said to the Lord, “Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left.”

Matt 20:21

The blindness of the disciples to Christ’ divinity was abundantly evident when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, when the Jews came to get Him. ‘Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of

angels? How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?" At that time Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as you would against a robber? Every day I used to sit in the temple teaching and you did not seize Me. But all this has taken place to fulfil the Scriptures of the prophets." Then all the disciples left Him and fled.' (Matt 26:52-56) And when Jesus was condemned to death, Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!" John 19:5

Then we see the cross of human sacrifice and the shedding of the blood of the Lamb, and the disciple's hopes for a kingdom come amongst them died. Then the darkness came over the land, and the burial of the dead. Then the fear of reprisal from the Jews came upon the disciples. To the disciples, the man Jesus was dead, dead, dead. Their Lord Jesus did not overthrow the Roman Empire and re-establish David's throne over Israel in the manner they hoped would happen.

But when all was lost, they had to give up all their ideas about how God was going to bring His kingdom into being before they could live in God's kingdom according to God's plan and purpose. They had to die to their life in the world of their own desires, if they were going to live a new life with God. Their plan had to lie in ruins if they were to see another way. They would have to be devastated; they would have to lose everything they had placed their hopes in if they were to live in conformity with God's plan and expectations. Indeed, they would have to take up their own cross if they wanted to live in the kingdom of God.

A dead man was found to be walking

But then the most unexpected thing happened; Jesus had risen from the dead. Out of the blue, something so dramatic and life changing happened to blow away their preconceived ideas about what God was doing in regard to His kingdom. When they were at their worst, when they were hiding in fear; when all their hopes were lost, when they were dissatisfied

enough with themselves to leave their own thinking behind, the Lord God revealed Himself to them. They even touched Him. No; He was no ghost or figment of their imagination. He ate with them. He stayed with them for forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3

The Lord had already told them before He was crucified that He had to return to the Father. But He had also told them He would come to them. (John 14:18) He told them the Holy Spirit would come as their comforter to teach them, (John 14:26) and guide them into all righteousness. He had already commanded them to go and make disciples. (Matt 28:19) He now told them, “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) Even so, He had already said He would be with them, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matt 28:20

The Lord Jesus was alive, but the life of a disciple was not going to be decided by those who claimed Jesus as their saviour without a personal cost. Jesus had already laid out the ground rules for life in the kingdom. “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.” (Luke 14:26) “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” Luke 9:23

Jesus had previously taught the disciples that life with Him required absolute obedience to Him. “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” (John 14:15-18) Jesus said “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will

love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” (John 14:23) Isn't it said in Matthew's gospel that Jesus was to be called Immanuel, God with us? Matt 1:23

A new belief shows new behaviour

When the New Testament was finally written around sixty years later, the writers didn't hide from the fact that they missed the revelation of God in Christ before the crucifixion; that they had missed the truth that Jesus was indeed God with us. They had not seen Him as God made alive in the flesh then.

But in writing the gospels, they don't want us to miss the greatest truth ever made known to man. God became a man to die for our sins so that we could be born of God with a new nature and become like Him when we take up our cross to follow Him in word and deed.

Matthew wrote that Jesus told them, “All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses

to reveal him.” (Matt 11:27) Mark tells how God confirmed the fact. ‘And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” Mark 1:11

Luke shows us that the disciples came to understand who He was. ‘Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting his hands to heaven, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. So they worshiped him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy.’ (Luke 24:51-52) They worshiped Him with the worship reserved for God alone.

In John’s gospel the Lord Jesus was the God who created all things. ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.’ (John 1:1-4) John goes on to write that the Lord Jesus was the great I AM. This name “I AM” was the name of God given to Moses to tell

his people God had sent him. ‘Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” (Exod 3:13-14) Then John writes that Jesus says “I AM” eight times. I AM God. Believe it!! I AM the bread of life (John 6: 35, 48) I AM the light of the world (John 8: 12, 9:5) Before Abraham was, I AM (John 8: 58) I AM the door (John 10:9) I AM the good shepherd (John 10:11) I AM the resurrection and the life (John 11:25) I AM the way, I am the truth, and I am the life (John 14:6) I AM the true vine.

John 15:1

It is clear from His teaching that Jesus taught that to know Him is to Know God. “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.” (John 14:7) Jesus taught that to see Him is to see God. “He who has seen Me

has seen the Father.” (John 14:9) To Honour Jesus is to Honour God. “So that all will honour the Son even as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent Him.” (John 5:23) Jesus also declared “I and the Father are one.” John 10:30

The risen Lord in the letters to the Churches

Paul writes in Colossians ‘He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.’ Col 1:15-20

And in John's Revelation from Jesus "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice He judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on His head are many crowns. He has a name written on Him that no one knows but He Himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following Him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron sceptre.' He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

Rev 19:11-16

Paul wrote to Timothy 'that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time-- He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the

King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honour and eternal dominion! Amen.’ 1 Tim 6:14-16

What does our behaviour reveal about our belief?

The Lord Jesus died in that cross so we could be forgiven our sins after repentance in order that we could be born again of the Spirit into a new life in the presence of God.

However, all the people of God struggle with seeing things from a human perspective to the degree we fail to trust Him. We are hounded by the flesh to do the things of the flesh, to see things from a human point of view. So most of Paul’s writings challenge us to leave the flesh life behind so we can be faithful to what God has done in us. He challenges us to live the new life we have received, to be true to our new nature in Christ. We need to look to the Lord Jesus and see God. Because God’s expectation for believers who obey Him is for

them to walk with Him as Jesus walked. (1 John 2:6) And grow into the image of His Son. (Rom 8:29) They are to obediently go into the world to make disciples who will do the same in following their example.

Matt 28:19-20

If we believe all that Jesus has taught us, we must see that He has made it possible for us to be more than just men who have escaped the darkness of the world. He wants us to see He was indeed God man who makes it possible for us to be born of God. If we can see the God man when we look at Him, we can see ourselves as God's men and women. We will be able to see our born again life is a life from God according to the divine nature. We will know we are born to be children of God, children of the light and not the darkness. 'By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvellous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has

given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.'

2 Peter 1:3-4 NLT

If we don't see ourselves born of His divine nature so we can walk with Him as God's children, we may only see Jesus as a good man sent by God like the disciples did in the beginning. And then we may only see ourselves as men and women who are forgiven their sins just so they can have eternal life and go to heaven when we die. If we only see the Father and the Son Jesus as existing far away in heaven, we will not be able to accept that they are also personal and presently living in us.

If we are not walking with the Lord God as those who are made new in His image, always submitted to His governance in our life, we need to change our belief. We need to die to wrong ideas about God and what He is doing if we are going to live a life according to the image of His Son.

Paul was aware that there will always be the potential for us to compromise our faith by hanging on to unbelief, or simply by disobeying what the Lord Jesus taught us. So He tells us to ‘put to death therefore what is earthly in you.’ (Col 3:5) This is the real spiritual warfare in which we are engaged in. (Eph 6:10-18) ‘We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.’

2 Cor 10:5

How do we understand what Jesus has done for us?

Many see the Christian life as if they are forgiven just so they can go to heaven when they die. But is this what the Lord Jesus meant when He said we must be born again? A new life means those who obediently follow Jesus Christ are to be cleansed of their sin by His death on the cross, a cross which they share in when they take up their own cross, so they can be born again with the divine life of God by the Spirit with God’s DNA. (2 Pet 1:3-4) At the

very same time they are baptised by the Spirit who lives in them as the power of God so they can be holy as He is holy. (1 Pet 1:16) This wonderful conversion was prophesied by Ezekiel. “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.” Ezek 36:25-27

As a consequence of the Spirit’s presence dwelling in us, we can live as the children of God in His Kingdom now, for we will be the brethren of Christ as He is the firstborn of many brethren. (Rom 8:29) And we will be known as those who are in Christ. We will walk with God. His divine nature has been birthed into us who believe so we may be like Him. (1 John 3:2) We have the divine life of God in us, in a similar way, (not quite the

same, for Christ was sinless) that Jesus had the life of God in Him. If we want to know what we should look like we need to look no further than to Jesus Christ Himself. As He is, we will be on day. Those who are in Christ are brothers and sisters with Him through their spiritual birth. The word Paul uses for brothers is a verb which has the basic meaning 'from the same womb.' Therefore Christians are those who are destined to be exalted to heavenly glory with Christ because they are like Him, from the same seed as offspring of God.

Rom 8:29

The Spirit's quality of life is the natural result of life for those who live in Christ; so they will be able to produce His life naturally. (Gal 5:22-23) The fruit on the tree follows the nature of the root. If our root is still in Adam, who was the father of disobedience and sin, our fruit will reflect his nature. But since our root is now in Christ as the true vine, our fruit will reflect His nature if we obey Him.

John 15:5

Indeed we should know by the way we live who we believe we really are, whether we are truly born again with a divine nature, or we just have a religious cover up. For those who live in the world, physical life is more important than a spiritual life, which they cannot see because of blindness to the things of God. ‘Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.’

2 Cor 4:4

When we value what the Lord Jesus has done for us, we will obey Him because we love Him. Those who follow Him and obey Him will know He has forgiven their sins and save them from the power of the devil. So we need to ask ourselves, are we born again through the sacrifice of Jesus? Or are we going another way? Jesus says to all who will listen, “Follow Me.” He calls us to follow Him because He is the way to God, the truth of

God and the life of God. It is this God man, Jesus, who made the heavens and the earth who has promised to come and live in us.

Does our behaviour show we believe what Jesus taught?

Does our character, conduct and conversation, show God walks with us and in us because we show His life as we live in the Spirit? Is His life being revealed in us so we can be real salt and real light in the world of darkness? Belief determines behaviour, and our actions speak louder than words, because actions reveal what we truly believe in our heart. Look back at the times the disciples were under pressure or in danger, did they show a faith that they knew the living God was with them and able to control all things in heaven and on earth? No. Did they act like the God of all creation was indeed with them in person? No. Did the Lord not say, “You of little faith.”

We often compare ourselves with Peter who rebuked Christ when He said He would die on the cross, who cut off the servant’s ear when

they came to arrest Jesus, who then denied the Lord three times. But if we see ourselves like Peter, what does that say about our belief, since we must believe something like Peter believed in error. We now have knowledge Peter didn't have when these things happened. We shouldn't behave like He did in the beginning. Peter changed his mind in a remarkable act of repentance when He saw Jesus risen from the dead, so do we need to change our mind if we don't know He lives in us, since we have a greater knowledge than he had at the time.

When the disciples saw the Lord Jesus alive they changed their minds. When the Spirit came to abide in them they were truly born again, in the same way as we are born again of God to be children of God. If we don't see Jesus as God the way we should, we may think all we have to do to have eternal life is to believe in Him and sit back and enjoy the scenery.

But if we see the Lord Jesus as God man and bow down and worship Him in all obedience,

we will be born of the Spirit after repentance, and we will see ourselves as born of God and fighting to put off the flesh life in us. We will acknowledge His Majesty; we will bow down to His authority and Glory as the only path to victory. We will know we must surrender to His will as God, and obey Him if we want to live in His kingdom. Our surrender to His Majesty is necessary in order for us to receive the Holy Spirit and then not grieve the Spirit who will live in us and enable us to live as holy children of God under His governance.

Enjoying the scenery of the world is for the deceived. Jesus never promised us a rose garden. He never said we would travel first class. He never said we would be able to do whatever we liked in our retirement.

But He did say if we persevered in obeying Him without compromising what He taught, we would be persecuted for His name sake. He did say we would have to take up our cross each day to follow Him. He did say we must enter through the narrow gate. However, He also said He would come and live in us. He

did say we would have the Spirit of God abiding in us to comfort and teach us all things. He will not leave us to be alone. We are children of light and of the day. With His life in us by the Spirit, we are blessed to be a blessing.

Therefore, we need to ask ourselves, does our behaviour match what we say we believe, if we believe the truth? When we are under pressure, how does our behaviour reveal what we really believe? When we complain, where is the peace Jesus promised would be in us always? How do we cope with the darkness crowding in on us? Do we react to the darkness when Jesus told us not to? Do we forgive and love our enemies? Do we love our brother as ourselves? Do we love the Lord God with all our heart, mind and strength? Are we making disciples?

What does our behaviour say about our belief in Jesus Christ? Have we followed Him so we can be born again to walk with God as we grow to be like Him? Do we walk with Him in all humility as we witness to Him by being

salt and light in a dark world? Is our behaviour being changed daily as we grow in knowledge of Him? Do we take His command to go and make disciples seriously, so that we teach them to obey all He has commanded us? Do we have the peace which is beyond understanding when trials and tribulation come our way?

Phil 4:7

Or do we fall to pieces when the pressure is on? The answer for all our troubles is to believe what God has done, and is doing through Christ in us. Jesus has said, “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.”

John 14:1

All the promises of God are fulfilled in the Lord Jesus who tells us we must obey all His commandments. If we hold another belief, we have sold ourselves short of His blessings; and maybe even the kingdom itself, because we haven't really surrendered our life into His hands in the first place. If we haven't taken up our cross in order to follow Him as His disciple, we will not enter eternal life. If we haven't repented from doing our own thing,

and we haven't committed ourselves to enter by the narrow gate by obeying all He has taught, then we are on the wrong side of heaven.

For the believer who lives in Christ, who knows Christ lives in them, every day is a day of repentance and blessing. Every day we take up our cross in self denial so we can live with Christ. Every day we declare that His will be done as we persevere in overcoming the flesh that remains in us by obeying Him.

If we have found an easier way to enter the kingdom of God, we have lost our way and remain in darkness. He is the only way; we must listen to Him and live. If we are in Him we will love Him and we will pray at all times, (Eph 6:18) because He is at work in us.

Phil 2:13

Therefore we who are in Christ are not just the flesh of men, left to remain as we were before we knew Him. We have undergone a supernatural transformation; we are now literally spirit children of light born of God,

with the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us. As the Spirit of God raised Christ from the dead, we are to walk in the Spirit. (Gal 5:16) For He has raised us from the dead (that is the dead flesh) giving life to our mortal bodies through His Spirit who now dwells in us. Rom 8:10

Our behaviour indicates our belief

Everyone in the world thinks they are the best judge of what truth is, thinking they have worked out what life is all about while denying God his supremacy and our fragile sinful humanity. Even thinking we can work out what life is about without reference to God denies the sovereignty of God and our finite creatureliness. Many who seek after God may think they know something of the truth, even though they are probably missing something in their understanding which is very important.

So, in order to sort out the genuine from the mistaken; we may ask, does the character, conduct and conversation of a person support or deny their claims to know the truth which

Jesus said will set us free? (John 8:31-32) or have they taken on some alteration of what Jesus said which is in error and therefore opposes the will of God?

Is the quality of our life righteous in God's sight, in that it is coming from a life lived in Christ, or is it just a manifestation of human will coming from the seed of Adam? Does our life reveal the Christ life which is consistent with humility and holiness, or does it resemble the pride and prejudice of natural man? Is there stability in seeking first the kingdom of God daily by obeying all that Jesus has commanded, or just a desire for some religious experience which also allows us to pursue worldly experiences and values for the approval of men?

Right belief which is only found in Jesus Christ produces right behaviour approved by God according to His word; wrong belief produces behaviour for the approval of men, regardless of what God wrote in the Bible.

Therefore if we see Jesus as just a good man, we will miss the Divine Majesty of God who came to show us God made alive in the flesh to die on a cross for us who lived for the flesh; and then we will miss His call to take up the way of the cross (Matt 10:38) in denying our flesh so we can be born of the Spirit to live with God. (Rom 6:5-8) In the same way, if we see ourselves as just human beings who are forgiven our sins, we will miss the point that we are made in God's image to live as His holy spiritual children. (1 Pet 1:16, Rom 8:16) We will miss the possibility of the Spirit's life made alive in us (Rom 8:11) as we die to the self of the natural man.

If we have missed the truth, we may fail to live as the holy children of God who are always seeking the kingdom according to the will of God. (Matt 6:33) We may also fail to walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:16) while being filled with His life, (Eph 5:18) which produces the fruit of His life. (Gal 5:22) We will miss the blessing of praying in the spirit at all times. (Eph 6:18) And as a result we will not be able

to fulfil our calling to be a holy priesthood. (1 Pet 2:9) If we miss the truth of what Jesus has done for us we will only see what is condemned to pass away as just flesh.

When the Lord Jesus gave the command to go and make disciples, He was giving a command for all those who would be born of the Spirit with this new life He alone gives. If we miss this important understanding we won't be making disciples, because we will see ourselves as just weak people who have no victory over the flesh. We will see ourselves as just weak human beings, and not realise the power of God is at work in us.

This is the truth; the birth of spiritual life that Jesus made possible is what it means to be a new creation. (2 Cor 5:17) This new creation isn't to be found in someone who thinks they are just forgiven to have eternal life later when they die; because they will not be able to realise what they don't believe.

This new life in the Spirit is found in those who are surrendered enough to be taught by

the Spirit of God. 'Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.'

1 Cor 12:12-15

To have eternal life and walk with God in the Spirit we must live as spirit men and women made alive to live as holy priests under the Sovereign dominion of God. If this understanding is not obvious to us we may well see the material world as the only place of meaning, and as a result invest all our strength into hanging on to what will pass away into nothingness so we miss eternal Spiritual life with God in the present. Jesus is

the only way to become spirit men and women. ‘But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.’ (John 1:12-13) “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”

John 3:6-7

Because we are still learning to deny the flesh that remains in us so we can live in the spirit, the real obstacle we face in living our life in the spirit is not the temptations we will face, or the trials which come unannounced, or the persecution we may have to endure; the real problem we have to deal with is ourselves and our absolute dependence on God. We must not fall back on our old preconceived ideas about God we had when we were blind to the truth of God. We must hold fast to our commitment to remain faithful to Jesus Christ, or compromise our faith by choosing to give

in to the flesh and deny the Lordship of Christ through unbelief or outright disobedience.

Consequently we are to strive to live no longer according to the flesh of our former life; we are to steadfastly live according to the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us, Who is now our life. 'You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.' (Rom 8:9) The Scripture says 'Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.' The old life we had is no longer our reason for living. (2 Cor 5:17) To those who are born again of His Spirit, He gives His personal power (Acts 1:8) so we can live our new life in His presence without sin controlling us.

Rom 6:14

Therefore, because we have received His divine nature and His divine power to help us, our spiritual life must have priority over our fleshly human nature by the powerful working of God in us. (Phil 2:13) Therefore Let no

unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Eph 3:29-30) ‘Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.’

Prov 4:23

The Lord Jesus says “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

Rev 3:20

‘Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.’ (Prov 4:23) “You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!” (Isaiah 26:3) “The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace. “ Romans 8:6

‘Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.’

Proverbs 4:23

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Isaiah 26:3

The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8:6

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2

Abide in Jesus Christ