A dirt path with stone steps leading up a grassy hill under a blue sky with clouds. The path is made of dirt and large, flat stones, winding up a hillside covered in green grass and some small yellow flowers. The sky is bright blue with a few white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and suggests a journey or a path of faith.

**The informed believer  
walks with God**

## *The informed believer walks with God*

There are a lot of disturbed Christians, who, while being faithful according to their understanding, nevertheless suffer from a sense of personal isolation because of the troubles of the world.

The evidence is that many suffer a sense of defeat, anxiety, depression, worry and inability to cope with daily pressures.

While this is taken to be the normal experience for many believers it is consistent with the word of God. This inability to overcome is a bad reflection on the promises of God to uphold all those whom He has chosen.

If we begin to feel we battle alone in the world, it would make a big difference to us to know that while the Lord Jesus is on His throne in heaven with the Father as our great high priest, to refute the accusations of Satan, He is at the same time dwelling in us, with the Father and the Spirit, to comfort, encourage, teach and strengthen us in all holiness while they transform us into Christ's image and likeness, to the glory of God through our humble obedience while on earth.

If we don't know the promises of God to be actually true, we walk in the dark world as if we are alone.

However, there is no doubt that whoever has died with Christ to sinful flesh now lives together with Christ. *'Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.'*

Rom 6:4-5

Since we have been raised up with Him, it is very important we keep ourselves holy and blameless, because we, who are washed in the blood of the Lamb, are the temple of God where God lives. *'Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?'*

1 Cor 3:16

For our faith to be effective in living with Christ, our indwelling Lord needs to be more real to us than all the pleasures and comforts of the world.

He needs to be more real to us than all the trials and disagreeable discomforts of the world. We need to abide in Christ and Christ must live in us. *'Christ in you, the hope of glory.'* Col 1: 27

When we have faith that believes God's word, and we obey God's word, we should also be convinced of the promise of His indwelling presence at all times, and in every situation; in the pleasant and the painful; then we can always experience His love which is beyond understanding and be filled up to the fullness of God. Eph 3:16-19

### **God is the Sovereign Lord of Providence**

God's providence means God is the unseen hand behind all things. *"I am the Lord, and there is no other, The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these."* Isaiah 45:6-7

God's sovereignty means that He is absolute in authority and unrestricted in His supremacy in all things. So everything that happens is the result of God's permissive will. *'And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.'* Rom 8:28

As our Sovereign Lord, His plan will not fail. In His plan for our good, He uses the consequences of sin to bring judgement on the world; and while His judgment is worked out, He uses all things that naturally occur in this process for the greatest good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose, as He teaches His people to trust Him.

God's greatest good for us is that we be like Christ, (Rom 8:29) so God uses what Satan plans for bad, to bring ultimate goodness into the lives of His people, who are being trained to walk by the Spirit and live by faith so they can share in the inheritance of Christ. Col 1:12

Because He is sovereign and knows all things, God knows we have tribulation in the darkness of the world because of man's sin.

Therefore He requires we live by faith, and look to Him and rely on His grace. *'You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.'*

Isa 26:3

Whenever God acts, he acts in a way that pleases Him, and it pleases God to give man responsibility over his own life, but he must have the Lord's direction to succeed in pleasing Him. The prophet said: *"I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps."*

Jer 10:23

We should be comforted to know that God has good intentions for our life, and that good is that we are transformed into the image of His Son so we can share in His glory.

Any problems in our life are from the devil who is the prince of the world; or as a result of our own doing; or it may be just the results of life on a fallen world that is under Adam's curse. Even then, God works everything for our heavenly benefit.

To achieve His goal, God walks with His chosen children in Christ as He works out His plan for us in the world, a world which is still under the curse of Satan who is doing his best to rob God of His desires for many holy children.

God is sovereign in the sense that there is no one higher in authority or power, everything that was made was His doing, even Satan is a created creature who is judged by God. But God does not use His power to make us robots; He does not exercise His power by controlling everything in our lives. God has given us the freedom to choose to obey or disobey. Faith is the correct use of our choice.

God has a plan for our glorification. He seeks to reveal that plan to us and urges us to move in that direction according to His will, but we must choose to work out what His is working in us. He doesn't make our choices for us, He shows us His will and He lets us work out the consequences of our choices.

Our sovereign God's will was to send His eternal Son into this dark world, to suffer and die for us so that we can share in His life in the light.

As a result of true repentance, and our spiritual birth in the image of Christ means we no longer live according to the darkness of the world.

But it is God's will that we remain in the dark world to suffer with Christ in order to be His light pointing to God just as Christ was and is the Light of the world.

### **God upholds His people**

The Lord God, the King of glory is the answer to all our problems, but only when we live in total dependence on Him as He lives in us to make us like Christ.

Therefore God's sovereign presence in us gives us confidence in the face of all evil. *'Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.'*  
Psalms 23:4

God living in us gives us strength and vitality. *'He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.'*  
Isa 40:29-31

God's fellowship with us gives us comfort in times of trouble. *"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."*  
John 16:33

Whatever the Lord allows in our life through the exercise of His heavenly wisdom, we can do, because He strengthens us to be able to do His will. *'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.'*  
Phil 4:13

Paul's "all things" that he endured are allowed by God according to His will and perfect plan, sometimes He allows it for us as well. Five times Paul was beaten with thirty-nine lashes; he was beaten with rods, once he was stoned, three times he was in ship wrecks, he spent a day in the ocean, he faced danger from rivers, from robbers, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, and danger from false brethren. He had

often been in labour and hardship, had sleepless nights, he was hungry and thirsty, without food and suffered cold and exposure to the elements. 2 Cor 11:24-27

And not a whisper of grumbling as God gave him ability to endure.

God gives strength to those in whom He lives by the Spirit. *"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."* (John 14:18) *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."* Acts 1:8

### **Do we have effective faith?**

If we cannot believe we have been given the ability to walk with God, we won't live in peace, and our claim to faith may be skin deep, it may have not resulted in a change of heart. We may not have actually denied ourselves to follow the example of Christ in order to receive His life. To have His life we must have given Him our death.

*'Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.'*  
Rom 6:4-6

Faith means we accept Jesus' conditions of knowing His love and the power to overcome. *And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it."* Luke 9:23-24

Faith means we follow the example of Him who denied Himself for our benefit. *"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."* Phil 2:5-8

Faith means we trust in God in all things and can be confident He will not fail us. *"Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. "I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."* Isa 41:10

Obedient faith isn't the same as having our own ideas of what we need to have of Christ; we have to be obedient to what Jesus said is necessary for eternal life; we have to obey all He has commanded.

Matt 28:18-20

*'let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.'*

Heb 12:1-2

### **Doubts make faith uncertain**

*'The one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.'*

James 1:6-8

If we are afraid and concerned for our safety, we may not be able to agree with scripture that says: *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."*

Gal 2:20

If we are worried about where life is going we have not trusted God who controls all things. *"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren."*

Rom 8:28-29

If we have doubts about our future prosperity, we have not understood the promise of God. *'In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.'*

Eph 1:11

When we pick and choose what we like from God's word, and when we take God's word out of context, we put words in His mouth He never said. And we make God our servant and we put ourselves in His place. As a result we are deceived into thinking we have a ticket to heaven, but there are no busses for ticket holders.

### **God promises He will walk with us**

While we walk in the world we have God in Christ. *'The mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.'*  
Col 1:26-27

God will not fail the repentant person who desires Christ more than life in the world, and has turned his back on the world. Jesus said: *"He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal."*  
John 12:25

In the work of making us holy, God does not go back on His word. *'Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'*  
1 Thess 5:23

Jesus will not fail to keep those who give Him all their life, so they can share His life. *Jesus said to them, "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out."*  
John 6:35-37

God never intended we remain ignorant of His provision for us. When we humbly read the scriptures, we are able to read God's word with the Spirit of Christ who enlightens our mind from the inside. *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."*  
John 14:26

When we are hard pressed by the world, we will suffer with Christ as we walk as He walked. *'The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.'*  
Rom 8:16-17

When we see the glory of God in all things, we see Christ in us to the glory of God. *'For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.'*  
2 Cor 4:6

When we are persecuted for the kingdom sake, we share in Christ's life on Earth. *"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me."*

Matt 5:11

But we don't suffer alone. *"lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Matt 28:20

When the world scoffs at our faith and denies our place in God's plan of salvation, we can: *'Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.'*

James 1:2-4

### **In Christ we have received all we need to walk with God**

*'His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature.'*

2 Peter 1:3-4

If we are ignorant of the promises of God, and the availability of His power to work in us as we walk with Him, we will not stand when troubles overtake us.

Only those who have surrendered their independence to decide for themselves, and have become absolutely dependant on God's will on a daily basis, always showing a willingness to obey Him in all things, only they can have any part of eternal life in Christ, and the peace which is beyond understanding.

All those who have been united with Christ and His cross can be assured of His love. *'Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, " For Your sake we are being put to death*

*all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered .” For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.’*

Rom 8:35-36, 38-39

### **There is a need for caution**

These promises are for those who are in Christ. So there is a need to examine ourselves to see if we truly have saving faith with a new heart from God.

Extreme care must be taken so that we don't fail to reach our spiritual potential, for the proof of faith is only finally proved when the Lord returns. He warns us Himself. *“Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.”*

Matt 24:12-13

Many people came to the church but didn't remain; they left to go their own way. *‘They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.’*

1 John 2:19

Consequently, true saving faith means we follow the way of Christ without ceasing, in fellowship with the indwelling Lord. This means we follow His example as He lives in us. We do that by denying ourselves and taking up our cross, always doing the will of God, even under extreme testing. When we suffer we may even say with Christ: *“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”*

Matt 26:39

It is important we need to remember that all who had professed faith in Christ's day were not born of God. The Parable of the Sower shows us that hearing, and tasting the goodness of God is does not always result in perseverance. We may gain some helpful information, our conscience may be unsettled, and our emotions can be stirred up, and yet there can be no root to give life.

Those who remain in fellowship and show growth in the Lord are fed by the word of God and are true disciples of Christ. *‘So Jesus was*

saying to those Jews who had believed Him, **“If** you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.”

John 8:31

Hebrews 3:14 says: *“we have become partakers of Christ, **if** we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.”* Failing to hold fast to the word of God proves that we never were a partaker of Christ. And holding fast means that there will be increasing fruit of Christ’s life in the believer because God would *“equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ.”*

Heb 13:21

God is working in us by His Spirit all that is pleasing in his sight. *‘However, 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

God is at work in the faithful believer, so the believer can grow in Christ. His seed is planted in us so that we produce His fruit. John 15:5 While God is at work in us, we too are to be at work in putting into practice what He is working in us.

Phil 2:12-13

If there is nothing to show by our service we are pleasing in God’s sight, and obeying all the commandments of Christ, we need to re-assess our position, for we may be mistaken about our eternal future. Later the writer of Hebrews states that God is the one who makes our heavenly future certain. *“by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.”* (Heb 10:14) But this is only **if** we are sanctified by the Spirit.

Since the ultimate proof of our faith is our perseverance until the end, we must take care, and examine ourselves to see if our faith is real. *‘Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble.’* (2 Pet 1:10) *‘Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.’*

1

Cor 10-12

*“Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name*

*perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’* Matt 7:22-23

If we want to be among those who will be perfected for all times, we must first come to Christ on His terms. *"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."* John 3:36

A failure to live the Christ life after repentance may be due to our neglect, or poor discipleship, with the result that there is no growth and the person remains as a spiritual baby, with no desire to reach their potential, still wanting milk instead of solid food.

But it may also be because the belief was only skin deep, and didn't result in true repentance and a new birth of the Spirit. This means any thoughts of safety and a future life in heaven are only the devil's deception. The devil offers holiday resorts in heaven to anyone who will listen to him because they have no ears to hear God.

Since spiritual birth always endeavours to give evidence of a new life under the motivation and leading of the Holy Spirit, if there is no change in holiness, there is no life. God's children are led by the Spirit. Rom 8:14

Because God withholds nothing from His children that will see His plan become a reality, any lack of spiritual growth is our problem not His, it is probably a failure to take up our cross and honour the Father by being His responsible representative on earth. For this reason, and to prevent a lack of growth, the Lord Jesus said that we are to make disciples and teach them to obey His commands. We disobey Him if we think we get people saved and then leave them to make their own way. We disobey Him if we neglect to learn what Jesus has commanded us to do. We can't teach what we don't know.

Any lack of growth in holiness in putting on the Christ life, is a good cause to fear the Lord's judgment, since a lack of spiritual life may be a warning sign of an impending eternity without God, with the result of eternal death instead of eternal life.

It is the Father's desire that Christ would be the first of many brethren; (Rom 8:29) He is our example, (John 13:15) so if the life of Christ is not steadily increasing in us as we grow under the power of God, then we may have nothing of Him.

We are either walking with God by the Spirit in all sincerity, or we are walking alone according to the flesh.

### **Walking as Jesus walked means we share in His suffering**

*'The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.'*

1 John 2:6

The cup from which Jesus drank was the wrath of God for a sinful world. In our identification with Jesus, who lives in us, our cup is suffering is sharing in the cup of God's wrath on a sinful world. We drink the cup with Christ. Paul said: *'Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.'* Col 1:24

Peter supports this idea: *'For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.'*

1 Peter 2:21-24

The promise of the presence of God is what gives us comfort and support, knowing He will keep us to the end. *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."*

John 10:27-29

The words of God to Isaiah are for us today as well as to Israel. *"Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God."*

Isaiah 41:10

## God's presence in us renews our minds

We need to examine ourselves to see if we walk according to the flesh of man, or according to the Spirit. *'For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.'* Rom 8:5-6

In the Bible, the mind refers to the heart and soul of man, his inner most being. The mind set refers to the general state of mind on a continual basis. It informs us about what is important to us and where we have placed our values and concerns.

God gives us clear instructions on how to set our minds. Our minds cannot exist in a state of emptiness, and unless we fill them with thoughts of the glorious Christ and His work, they will naturally fill with the thoughts of worldly things and the desires of the flesh.

Walking with God means setting our minds are fixed on what He is working to achieve in us and in the world. *'For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.'* Phil 2:13

God is working a miracle of spiritual regeneration in those who believe and obey His Son. So those who are in Christ by the mercy of God are to have the spiritual mind of Christ. *'We have the mind of Christ.'* 1 Cor 2:16

*'For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.'* Rom 8:6

The mind that is set on the Spirit has been reborn by the Spirit and will be led by the Spirit, and as a result we have life and peace; but the mind that is set on the flesh is death. These are the only two possibilities in this world.

If our minds are taken up with the things of the world continually, we couldn't say our minds are set on the Spirit as we walk with God. Having our minds set on the Spirit cannot be said to be done even if attending church on Sunday. Having a spiritual mind means meditating on the things of God on a daily basis.

*'Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.'*

Col 3:1-3

The things above include thinking on what Christ has already done for us and is still doing in us to the glory of God. Thinking of God's salvation includes walking in fellowship with God so that we bring all our concerns to Him. Having a mind for God means we can see there is nothing compared to His glory and what He has prepared for us.

Any ongoing disturbance means our minds are not with God. It means we are concerned with the things of men and not the things of God. We can't be said to be walking by the Spirit if our thoughts are continually reliving the experiences of our sinful past, or we keep looking back to what was once enjoyed.

The effect of God's indwelling means we are no longer our own to live according to the mind of natural men. If God is working in us, we should be working out what He is working in us.

If we have God living in us, surely we will have His concerns, so we will want what He wants, and we will do what He would do. If we aren't moved with Him, we neglect such a great salvation that allows us to share in the things of God. If we aren't moved to have our life conform to His life by His power working in us, we may not have His life.

In other words, the spiritual person will be spiritually minded as they walk daily by the Spirit. Spiritual mindedness is the best evidence we share in God's salvation. The person who is Spiritual minded does the work of God. Consequently the Holy Spirit living in us gives us the victory over the flesh. *'But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.'*

Gal 5:16

Having these promises is no reason to sit back and take it easy; there is no room for resting on our laurels. *'For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.'*

Gal 5:17

The devil doesn't sleep, so we need to be always vigilant, for only he who perseveres to the end will be saved. (Matt 24:13) Demas was a fellow worker with Paul, he was no stranger to the promises and the power of God, but Demas went back to the world. 2 Tim 4:10

The only way to stay on course for the whole journey is to walk by the Spirit. We have to learn to always resist the devil and he will flee from us. Even this resistance requires that we remain spiritually minded otherwise we will not be aware of the devils deception.

### **Walking with God is our greatest privileges and advantage**

How big is our God? How strong is our God? How wise is our God? How loving is our God? How blessed is He who has taken our weakness and given us all of His ability to enable us to walk with Him as we are transformed into the image of Christ. *'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.'* Eph 1:3

When we come to Christ and we were born again by the Spirit, we still live in the world, so we don't escape the calamity caused by sin, but we have God, we have the Christ of God, we have God the Spirit, so that with obedience we can have victory over the flesh and the world and live in peace.

What more could we possibly want, since our Lord and saviour has promised to never leave us who are in Him. His love is with us because He lives in us.

*'Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'* Rom 8:35-39

Nothing evil in this world can prevent us from walking with God.

## **Walking with God requires a new mind**

*'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.'*

Rom 12:1-2

Offering ourselves as a spiritual sacrifice means we are intentionally dying to sin with Christ. Being renewed in the spirit of our minds means we will continually seek to know the mind of Christ. 1 Cor 2:16

Otherwise we are still in need of a saviour. Do we believe we have been washed in the blood of Jesus? Have we believe we have been made new in the image of God? Are we truly a new creation?

If we live in the past, we live as if we don't believe, and God can't live in the old man, so we live alone.

Spiritual mindedness requires effort, is God worth the effort? He thought we were worth dying for. If all our efforts to please God are done thinking He is in heaven and we on earth, His yoke will not be easy.

## **Why does God command us to give thanks in all things?**

*'Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'*

1 Thess 5:16-18

Because Christ is our life so we can be revealed with Him in glory. (Col 3:4) We are told we can rejoice always regardless of our tribulations. *'Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'* 1 Thess 5:16-18

Because we have God with us in all things, and through all things, we can live in peace, knowing God's plan for us will not fail. God doesn't promise to just help us, He promises to stay with us in our troubles. And He promises us that we will share in His glory. *'For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.'*

Rom 8:18

When we abide in Christ He abides in us. He is closer to us than our own breath. *'Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.'*  
Heb 4:16

By God's grace and mercy alone we have salvation in Christ. Grace means we are born of God, to share in the life of God, Father, Son and Spirit, so that we can enjoy Him along with all the brethren of Jesus.

Therefore there is nothing we can lose in this world which is comparable to the glory we now know in Christ and are to receive in heaven.

But when our thinking is preoccupied with the world and things of the world, and we react to the sins of others, and complain about what is disagreeable in our lives, we are behaving as if we are uninformed of what God has done for us, to transform us into the image of Christ.

Worst of all we forget God is greater than the world because He made all things and He holds all things together according to His purpose.

This world is in darkness without the light of God, this is what it is, but now God lives in us, He fills us with His light while we serve Him in this darkness. He lives in us so we further His plan for the salvation of many as we make disciples. And while we serve Him faithfully, He is working at the same time to prepare us to enter into His glory.

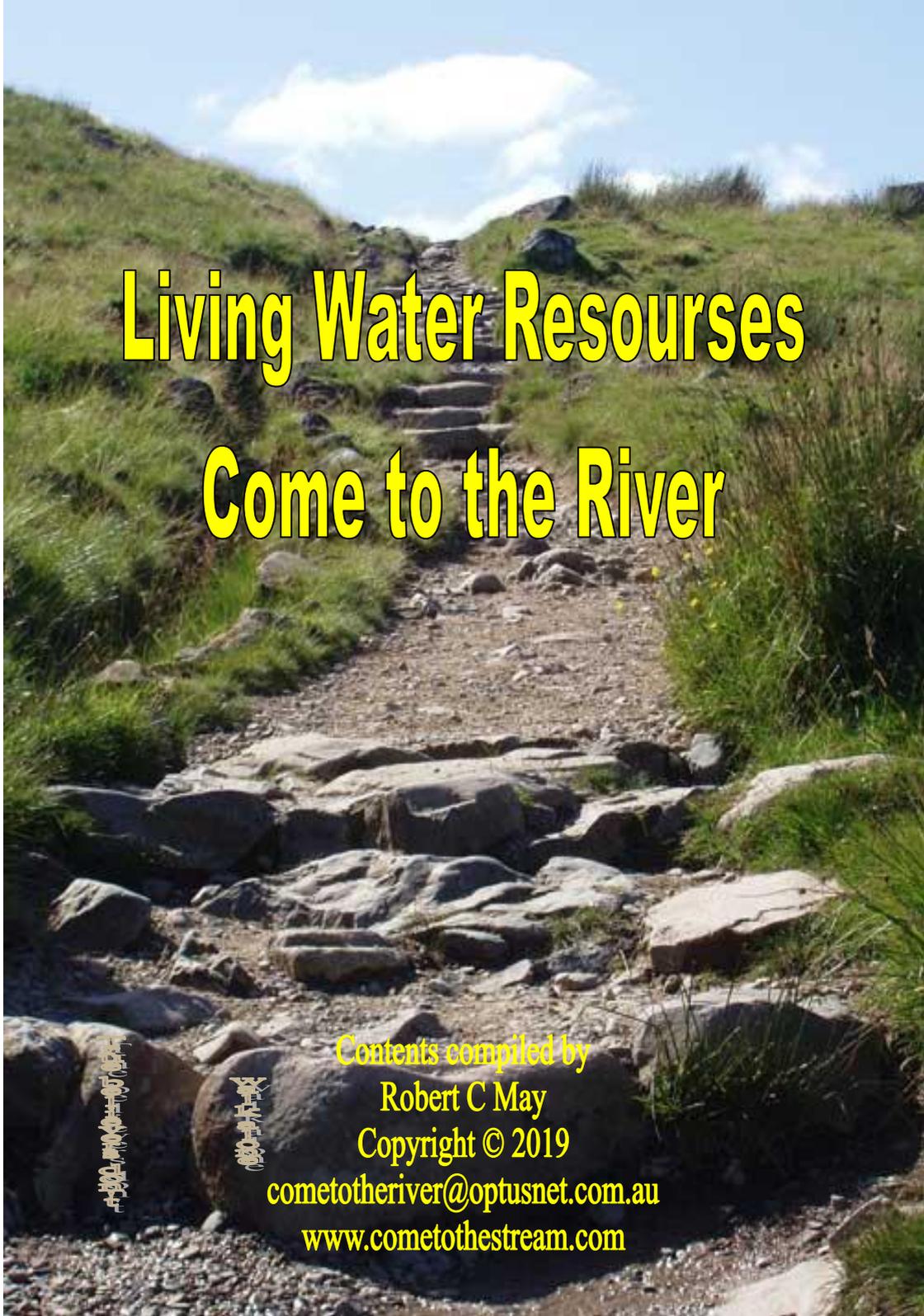
We may be taught many things, but the heart may not be informed. We are to be aware all that glitters is not god, and the devil is at work even to deceive the saints if he can. We will see evidence of his work.

*'For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these. For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.'*  
2 Tim 3:2-7

To the degree we remain in Him, and walk with Him, to walk as He walked, will be the degree we can rejoice in all things.

We need to walk humbly and obediently in Him in whom we live and have our being.

In Christ *"The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* Phil 4:7



**Living Water Resources**

**Come to the River**

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