

Satisfactions
failure

of

FAITH

Satisfactions failure

For most of us when we are satisfied we are contented and pleased; the job is done, and now it's time to rest.

However faith comes from God, for the Glory of God, and faith is satisfied with nothing less than to see God glorified. We have received faith to glorify God and not to rest from our labour until Jesus Christ comes again.

Many saints, being satisfied with their personal inadequate haphazard biblical training, (not being disciplined under a reliable teacher who will disturb the comfortable) prove their inadequacy because they are unable to clearly communicate what they think they know by being able to put it to paper to verify their supposed great knowledge. The real test that determines if we have indeed learnt what we claim is to be able to write it down so that someone else who has undertaken disciplined training can assess our thoughts accurately. This is why real examinations require written answers to difficult questions in order to determine the level of knowledge gained or forfeited. If reading and writing is a problem then at least we should be able to explain the truth of God correctly in a way that makes sense and glorifies God.

And as a result of the desire for personal satisfaction, many have ceased to put in the due diligence required to know more about the knowledge of God so they can be the best servants of God possible, and instead of growing in knowledge they have made themselves judges of the truth with little understanding, setting themselves up as persons who settle disputes on what the truth is, behaving as those who have ultimate authority in what teaching they hear, which assessment is based entirely on their own inadequate grasp of Theology.

There are many who are critical of theological teachers without even having the qualifications of an adequate student themselves. And since this sort of assessment is based on ignorance of what they don't know, they will find much worthwhile teaching to disagree with. This cannot be in any way how the Spirit of God leads us into all righteousness, for His training never ceases because He is always looking to take us beyond the comfortable life we would choose according to the flesh, so that we can gain the mind of Christ. He alone appoints real teachers.

“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

“He will teach you all things”

What the Spirit has to teach us through scripture, however, cannot be received by the "natural" person, because "they are things spiritually discerned." (1 Cor 2:14) What this means for the Christian is the more we live in the natural with an eye on the world, the less we will be teachable in the way of the spiritual and we will miss the grace of learning the will of God. We need to ask: *‘That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.’*

Eph 1:17

When we come to Christ we are no longer living for ourselves. *‘For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.’*

2 Cor 5:14-15

The Holy Spirit exercises control over the lives of the chosen children of God. *‘Because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.’*

Rom 5:5

Charles Haddon Spurgeon May 13, 1860: “The Holy Ghost is the great Teacher of the Father's children. The Father begets us by His own will through the word of truth. Jesus Christ takes us into union with Himself, so that we become in a second sense the children of God. Then God the Holy Spirit breathes into us the "spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." Having given us that spirit of adoption, He trains us, becomes our great Educator, cleanses away our ignorance, and reveals one truth after another, until at last we comprehend with all saints what are the heights, and depths, and lengths, and breadths, and know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, and then the Spirit introduces the educated ones to the general assembly and church of the firstborn whose names are written in heaven.”

In order to be amongst the firstborn we must have died to the life we inherited from Adam. *‘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

We have died to the old life once lived according to the flesh that seeks self satisfaction so that we can gain everything pertaining to the holiness of our Father who seeks His satisfaction.

'His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to 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, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.'

2 Pet 1:3-4 ESV

The divine nature of God we have received in Christ is not only to make us alive to God it is for the purpose of serving God as our Lord serves according to the eternal will of God.

Therefore since we are living for the express purpose of representing Christ as we witness to Him in word and deed, the idea of resting on our own understanding is not an option that would please God. It is hardly the attitude of humility required to follow Christ in proving what is acceptable and perfect. *'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 12:2

The renewal undertaken by God for our complete holiness never ceases, it is always rubbing against our fleshly thinking we retain from our life of death. His rubbing us up His way is intended to make us feel uncomfortable, and it takes us where we have never been before according to the mind of Christ. The Father knows we don't know what we don't know, but the Spirit is in us so we can know what the Father desires for all His children. If our knowledge of God is lacking according to His plan, our witness will be lacking in service to Christ, and our fruitfulness for the kingdom will be much less than it could be. When we rely on ourselves to get by in our self satisfied ways we rob God of His due, and we become a drain on our fellow workers in Christ who have to make up for our laziness.

We have a responsibility to put to death that which is earthly in us, (Col 3:5) because this earthliness is the flesh that resists the training of

the Spirit of God. *'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 flesh that remains in us seeks comfort not sacrifice. But if we are in Christ we are committed to His cross of self denial and suffering for the glory of God. *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."* Luke 9:23

Those who are inadequately trained in discerning correctly the word of God because they prefer their own understanding, open themselves up to harbouring contradictions proposed to be true at the same time, this is like having two masters, and they are then susceptible to the errors of others who are instruments of another gospel that stands over against the absolute sovereignty of God in whom there is no contradiction. Inadequate Biblical training will open us up to accepting the word of God being abused by taking it out of its proper context, and this happens because we haven't learnt to discern what was intended by the writer in the first place by understanding the text in its chapter and the book in which it is located. When we add our "but" we challenge God's sovereign will as He has written for our obedience. The road less travelled is the narrow road to be walked by the faithful, which is constantly avoided by the self sufficient who are unwilling to put in the hard work required in order to be made complete in Christ. Col 1:28

Christian maturity requires a holy struggle with the flesh so that we cannot do what we desire according to the flesh. (Gal 5:17) Spiritual maturity requires an ongoing commitment to struggling against anything that is less than Christ made alive in us. The way of compromise is the easy road chosen by the self satisfied. Considering that birds of a feather flock together, it is very likely that we will find ourselves in a church that agrees with the level of our inadequacy, unless we are committed to due diligence in discerning the truth of God as it was intended. As much as we are devoted to hungering and thirsting after His righteousness so we can stand approved as those who refuses to compromise by taking the easy way, is to the degree we have given up resting on the laurels we gained in the kindergarten of our spiritual youth so we can walk in the holiness of true faith with our Father.

'For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.'

Heb 5:12-14

The undisciplined drip feed learning that accompanies taking the easy way has a very minimal effect on renewing the mind because it fails to challenge preconditioned prejudices and unfounded misconceptions which are opinions that are not based on the truth of God, but instead challenge His sovereignty.

Therefore the faithful disciple should never be satisfied with where they are, because the process of growing in the knowledge of God is tied to bring committed to putting on Christ daily, and putting on Christ requires putting to death the self of the unregenerate life once lived, and this will never be done to God's satisfaction until Christ comes to finish the work He has begun in us. If the love of Christ really does control us so that we no longer live for ourselves but for Him who died on our behalf, (2 Cor 5:14-15) then any hint of laziness in His service according to His will and purpose should be seen as denying Him who is our Lord and Master.

If we are securely grafted into the True Vine, then the Divine Energy of the Vine should be revealing His passion fruit in us who have no other life other than the life we have received in Christ. The True Vine of God is not without power to accomplish what He desires, but we should never forget that the singular work of God in our salvation is now married to our work in working out what He works in us so that we are partners in our own sanctification. If we cease to work the work of God, God also ceases to work effectually because He requires our willing participation, so then we will remain as infants on the battlefield between good and evil.

Everything Jesus taught His disciples should be our greatest personal desire to put into practice because His Spirit has taken up residence in us so that we can put on His Life. To expect anything less than the life of Christ from ourselves is to deny the One who gives His Divine life to the chosen children of God.

If daily Bible reading isn't done for the purpose of actually changing our minds to conform to the thinking of God, then we are wasting our time; and while reading without this intent may give us a sense of comfort, it is only as milk to a baby who hasn't understood spiritual life is a battle with the flesh that goes on between our ears and in our hearts. If we expect the Holy Spirit to teach us without us being willing to die to self daily as we work out our sanctification with fear and trembling in the presence of God who works in us, then we are not only desiring milk, we are sleeping on the job. We have mistakenly come to the conclusion that we know enough to get by; self satisfaction has become our goal. If we are not disturbed by the Spirit to reconsider our way of thinking, then we are going nowhere, we have put up the shutters, for there is much we have accumulated from wrong teaching and from the world that isn't fit to be taking up room in our lives that should only exist as those who are separated into the kingdoms holiness. There is much we don't know we don't know concerning the mind of Christ. If we are indeed walking in step with the Spirit, we will not be happy with anything less than being challenged to put off what is holding us back from full participation in the race set before us to participate in the fullness of the Glory of God.

'Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, 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

Therefore if we are faithful children, we will awaken the sleeper in us, and we will buffet our bodies and apply our minds to the work of being transformed daily into the image of Christ. If we don't submit ourselves daily to the difficult training of the Spirit in casting off self and the world, then we are to that degree of slothfulness living for ourselves in self indulgent idleness.

If we cannot explain clearly by writing down what we think, or explain clearly the truth we have learnt, we haven't learnt much more than parroting Biblical words and stories, and the full comprehension concerning the principles and the spiritual reality for the words and stories has escaped us, because they are to reveal the glory of God's

grace towards us so that we can put on Christ daily. If we can't clearly communicate what we think we have learnt, we cannot be the teacher of other disciples as commanded by our Lord, so that we can teach them to obey all Jesus Christ has commanded. We have not learnt fully what we are supposed to teach and why. The whole idea of our death to self so that we no longer live but Christ lives in us, it is not to be just the parroting of words that lack meaning, but our claim to be in Christ should be indicating a living reality of holiness. The Holy Spirit isn't governing a zoo where the only words spoken come from parrots. The Spirit of God is governing the holy training of the people of God in how to think and live as children of God, so that they can perfectly represent His character and purpose in the world.

Once again it is worth repeating: *'For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.'* *'Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.'*

2 Cor 5:14-15, 20

And we can only represent God as our Father when we understand Him in the life of Christ. Jesus reveals the Father to us so that we can represent Him as the God who saves us from the power of sin by giving us His Life. If we look at Christ we are to see our becoming through the work of the Spirit in the effectual power of God. We are to be the reflection of Christ as He revealed the Father. If this is not what we are seeking to employ in our daily sacrifice by the strenuous exercise of our wills, then we are still living for ourselves and we are resisting God who works in us to will and to do according to His purpose. *'For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.'*

Phil 2:13

Unfortunately in many ways, our concept of walking by the Spirit and putting on Christ has become nothing more than parroting words. As a result we are left with the teaching of Christ without the power of Divine transformation, because we still rely on our own understanding which continues to be anchored in the world and the flesh. If we were actually walking in step with the Spirit we would be constantly hearing His commands to change our step to mirror His walk with God. Being

in step with God means we would see daily change in our understanding as we are being correctly trained, so that our thinking is becoming even more consistent with the Sovereign will of God our Father. If we are actually walking with God, and we knew it in our innermost being, we would guard our behaviour much more diligently in fear of offending our Father and falling short of what He desires for us as His beloved holy children.

'Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.'

2 Pet 3:14-18

Satisfaction is a failure to submit to God's purpose

The problem with those who are not diligent in pursuing holiness would seem to be that they have little working knowledge of their new divine nature created in them according to the image of Christ. Jesus came that we might have knowledge of God in eternal life. (John 17:3) This knowledge of God is the same personal intimate knowledge Jesus has with the Father.

It would seem that we have some serious reconsidering to do if we are to be as devoted to the Lord as we claim we are. The purpose of God's grace being poured out upon us through the redemption achieved for us in Christ is that we should worship God and glorify Him forever as His beloved children who walk in His light and share in His glory.

This failure of faith is a failure to realise that God does not make mistakes or say things that aren't true, is evident in that they live as if being born again is no more than a nice theological idea to help them know they will go to heaven when they die. If we have any idea at all that our new birth means we are recipients of a life like God's in nature

because we are really His offspring's, His children, so that we can be holy as He is Holy, to know Him personally, then we would be fully motivated to gain the potential we have received to walk as Jesus walked.

But given the abundant evidence and the testimony of the word of God that salvation begins with a life like Jesus, it would seem that many have not believed God, and as a result remain convinced they are the same as before, but with Biblical words added that have no bearing on their nature or spiritual disposition. This means they will attempt to obey Jesus' commands but lack the power because they have not truly believed they are really a new creation according to His Divine nature because they have closeted the Holy Spirit in secret.

It would appear that there is a need to challenge that thinking concerning the way they live, which shows little resemblance to the passion Jesus has for His chosen people and His commitment to obedience and a willingness to suffer to promote the glory of God. For the chosen children share in the suffering of Christ willingly so that they can share in the glory of Christ. *'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 8:17

Unless there is a realisation of the truth of God concerning our new life in Christ, then there is little hope of living the life God requires for His children in walking as Jesus walked. Who: *'Put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.'*

Col 3:10

'So that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.'

Col 1:10

The witness of the Spirit that they are children of God will not free them from being attached to the world if they still see themselves as existing according to the flesh of natural man. Any failure to walk by the Spirit has no other option but to live according to the flesh.

Faith is the realisation of the spiritual truth that we have received a new life from God, so that we can believe in Christ who is our life, *'When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.'* (Col 3:4) but faith is also what we use when we believe

what Jesus Christ has said concerning our new birth. *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”* John 3:5-6

This truth believed enables us to be holy because we abide in Him so that we can live His life and produce the fruit of the kingdom of God. *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”* John 15:4-5

If we have a failure to believe what our Father has prepared for His chosen people, then we will struggle to practice what should be a natural inclination to holiness as those who abide in the holiness of Christ. And as a result we will give the appearance of living out a charade which is an absurd pretence intended to create a pleasant or respectable appearance of being a child of God, which may fool even ourselves and others but it will not fool God.

We can only live as our Father intended if we believe everything He has made known for our benefit concerning eternal life through His Son by the Spirit. Faith means believing, believing means obedience, obedience means holiness, and holiness is the production of the fruitful life of Christ in His disciples. This is why it can be said that the chosen children of God will produce the fruit of God.

If we are satisfied with life as before, but now with some biblical knowledge to help us put on a good show, we will never know the joy of Christ's abiding Spirit who enables us to be holy, and we will never know He is the one who makes up for everything that is lacking in us and our circumstances so that we can give thanks in all things, and always rejoice in our intimate closeness with God.

Satisfaction is a failure to submit to God's power

Satisfaction is the power of God transforming us into the image of Christ. Anything less than the intended will of our Father that we are transformed into the image of Christ is a failure of faith. What happens in the mind of the satisfied person when they read Gal 2:20 or Col 3:1-3 or 2 Pet 1:3-4 or John 3:3-8 or Rom 8:29? How is it possible to read about a radical change of identity into something supernaturally achieved by

God, and not be completely overcome with gratitude, with a passionate longing to experience the reality of our spiritual oneness with Christ right now?

Since belief determines behaviour, at what level is the belief that reads the words about being born of God in the image of Christ, but is not immediately struck with wonder and awe at the awesomeness of divine creation that places us firmly in the same divine genealogy of Christ? Is it possible to believe in forgiveness of sins but not believe in our deliverance into the heavenly family by right of birth and inheritance, so that we can actually walk with God now, even though our complete salvation and transformation awaits the coming of Christ?

The power of God that lives in the spiritual children who have His divine nature is unknown to those who don't believe God that they are indeed made new in His image. Faith believes and believing is living out the truth which we have received from God. Faith is hardly available or effective if we still cling to the idea that we are no more than skin and bones. If our satisfaction is sought in the world then we have not believed we are not of the world. Jesus Himself said: *"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."* John 17:16

If the Holy Spirit is witnessing to the believer that we are children of God, at what level is this understood that we can go on living as if it doesn't mean we have actually received a divine nature similar to Christ, so our intimacy with God is actually restored so that we are in God and God is now living in us? *"I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me."* John 17:23

If we really do believe we are one with God because we are like Him in Christ we will never again grumble and complain about what He allows to come into our lives, because we will know and be confident He has a greater purpose for these things than we at the moment do not understand. If I haven't believed God has done the greatest miracle possible to make me like Him, it will not be possible for me to believe we can actually walk as Jesus walked (1 John 2:6) according to His divine command that we should indeed follow the way He walked as He continues to walk with us.

Faith means believing God who gives light to our hearts that the promise of God will cause us to keep His statutes. Ezek 36:25-27

Believing God will give light to His word that tells us we are now one Spirit with Christ. 2 Pet 1:3-4

New birth from God means spiritual union with Christ in God so that nothing created can separate us from the love of God. (Rom 8:35:39) But if our belief is inadequate we will live with uncertainty in contradiction to the commands of the Lord that we are not to be fearful or anxious about our life on earth. If we don't believe our sovereign God will do as He says, we will believe those who say our salvation is uncertain because we can prevent what God says insists is impossible. If we don't believe all that God says about our new identity in Christ we will attempt to live as if we have one foot in heaven but still have one in the world, so we have two addresses, and divide our potential between heaven and earth. We will attempt to put some of our good eggs in one basket and some others in another basket. And then we are in danger of having two masters, for we are mastered by where our treasure is located. Even the unbelieving world knows this sort of fractured thinking will rob us of achieving our full potential.

Those who say they believe in Christ but don't get it that this means we can walk with God in holiness and truth, must have too much invested in the world. They remain ignorant of the fact that God does indeed walk with His children, knowing that nothing which is hidden from us today that will not one day be revealed. To enjoy walking with God we must own the reality of the testimony of scripture that says "*I no longer live*" this refers to the life that is lived as an individual doing our own thing; and "*Christ lives in me*" testifying to the reality of the new birth achieved by the Spirit of God.

Our new birth cannot be separated from our unity in Christ, so His life is not only our life, His purpose is our purpose, and His intimacy with God the Father is now our delight and joy. If we don't believe our hope is secured in heaven with Christ, we will be in danger of putting our eggs in the wrong basket and expect to be fulfilled in the world that remains under the judgement curse of God's. In ignorance our hopes will be too earthly grounded to be of any spiritual worth. Our expectations will be earthly instead of heavenly and we will suffer fear and anxiety because the world is passing away.

If we were even one tenth aware of the presence of the Almighty who we claim to know, we would be struck dumb rather than say the foolish things we utter about our life or the behaviour of others. If we actually knew God was in us we would never complain, we would never feel like we deserve more, we would never expect the world or the unregenerate to make us happy, we would never fear and be anxious, and we would make sure we have secured all our eggs in the basket of heaven. If we were true to the faith we claim we would never sit down and feel satisfied with ourselves as we are because we would know we are nowhere near the complete holy children our Father wants us to be. So we would disregard any other means of personal enjoyment in the world and consecrate ourselves daily to growing in the knowledge of God, and fulfilling His purpose for us so that He could be glorified and people in the darkness could see the light of the glory of God in Christ.

But we don't, we live as if we are free to do whatever we like as long as we don't break the law. We occupy ourselves as much as we can in the world that has the potential to give us pleasure, we use almost all of our resources on ourselves because we think we are entitled. We are not compelled to forsake all that we might gain more of Christ. We scarcely discipline ourselves to read the Bible consistently so that we harbour no contradictions and dangerous errors in order to be able to share with others what God has revealed to our hearts.

Instead of reading God's word so that we are changed permanently moment by moment, we read a little of God's word for self satisfaction; and we don't pray that we might be changed to be more suitable for the kingdom of God, but we pray a little, and mostly for our satisfaction; and we don't go to church to worship God in truth and obedience so that we are never the same having seen His holiness, because we don't live by the truth and obedience we claim when we are not at church, we attend church for our satisfaction; and we give a little from the abundance we have received from God for His purpose, so we can satisfy ourselves that we have met our obligations to love God and our neighbour; and so therefore we have entirely missed the point of being born of the Spirit of God to live for God alone. This is the failure of our satisfaction.

We do not always seek to dwell in the presence of God by being compelled by His love under the leading of the Spirit to live obediently

in His presence because His loving fellowship is all we desire. We would rather be comfortable with the little superficial knowledge we have scraped together for ourselves.

“Faith looks on the holiness required of us as that which is suited to God’s own holiness. It recognises that it is fitting for God to require this holiness because of His own nature and its infinite perfections. The rule is, *“Be holy, for I am holy.”* (1 Pet 1:16) In other words, God requires of us that which reflects His own holiness. Because He is holy, it is necessary that we should be holy. If we belong to Him in a special manner, then our holiness must fit that which His holiness requires.”

John Owen, evidence of faith. 1675

‘But examine everything, hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.’

1 Thess 5:21-22

Walking as Jesus walked is the walk of faith that will not go unrewarded, because walking as Jesus walked is a walk of loving devotion to God and in God.

Walking as Jesus walked means the job will never be done because Jesus is still working. Therefore it's not a time to take a rest from His holy labour.

Walking with God is the answer to becoming self satisfied, because walking with God is the answer to worldliness.

Walking with God can only happen when we die to self. Therefore walking with God is the best way to holiness and fruitfulness in Christ.

‘But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.’

Heb 6:9-12

Let us find our satisfaction in Christ who is our life.

Living Water Resources

Come to the River

'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. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.'

2 Cor 4:6-11

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