



# The Sharon Star

## Thy Kingdom Come

By P. Berg

"Thy Kingdom Come!!" This is a part of the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. We read this in Matthew 6:9 -Then in verse 14 and 15 we read some very important advice from Jesus. Matthew 6: 14 "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: V.15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

I believe we must have a forgiving heart or spirit before the Kingdom will come in its fullness. There are a few things I'd like to say about the Kingdom as I go along with this writing. We have talked a lot about the Kingdom, but I wonder what it really consists of. I really don't know finally what it is going to be all about but we'll have to look at the Scriptures to see what it says about it.

First of all it says in Luke 17:21 the kingdom of God is within you. Then in Romans 14:17 - the kingdom is not made up of carnal things or people. It will not be made up of a government like we have today with a prime minister or cabinet of a number of men to rule our country. **It** will be made up of people who have this attitude as mentioned in the scripture - people who have righteousness and peace and joy in their hearts and lives. This is what the kingdom is really made up of, not in carnal ideas but ruled by the Holy Spirit in all things.

There will be no wars, no suffer

ing, no famine or disease but it will be joy and peace in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the only one that can give us peace and joy. There will be no hatred or bitterness among us. We will be at peace with one another, not trying to outdo each other as we find so often, in the world of business, especially.

Our judgment will be by the Holy Spirit. No carnal judgment or favouritism in any way. It will always be right and fair.

There is coming a wonderful time as it says in Daniel 7:14-18, 22, 27. Read also Matthew 6:33, 13:43, and Luke 17:21. These scriptures tell us that there will be a time of ruling by the saints with Christ the Head.

The kingdom that is to be will be a glorious time when all things and judgments will be 100 per cent right - not run by the mind of men, but by the Holy Spirit through Christ and His anointed people who have fulfilled the scripture - Romans 14:17. This must first happen in us before we are eligible to rule in the kingdom, because in the kingdom everything has to be done right and by the Holy Spirit.

God's people are looking for this wonderful time. Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God. Philippians 2:10- 11. It will be a wonderful day when that happens.

Now in our time people curse God and Jesus with their tongues and it

seems that they get away with it, they do for the time being but the day of judgment is coming and all that do such things will be judged accordingly by the Great Judge of all time, Jesus Christ Himself and all they who are true followers of Him. By that I mean those who give themselves wholly to Him in every way, those who have the kingdom established in their own hearts and being.

I don't want to leave you with the impression that there is no kingdom on the earth but only in the hearts and lives of men. There will be a kingdom established in the earth that will judge all deeds and actions of men. The judgment will be right and just for everything. That is when men shall cry for the rocks and hills to fall on them because the judgment will be so great that they would rather die under an avalanche than face the consequences of their deeds and actions.

This kingdom is something we are all looking for and Jesus taught the disciples to pray for it. "Thy kingdom come!!" Daniel 2:44 "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." Daniel 4:17, 25, 32 "This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that

the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the lowest of men." God set Nebuchadnezzar aside as we see in verse 25 to show that he is in control of the Kingdom. V.25 "That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. V.32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the

kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will."

Matthew 25:34. "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Mark 11:10 "Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest." Luke 12:32 "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 22:29 "And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me." Colossians 1:13 "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." Hebrews 12:28 "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace,

whereby we may serve God acceptably with reference and godly fear." James 2:5 "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?" II Peter 1:11 "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We do not understand very, much about the kingdom but whatever it is, all will be a wonderful time, especially for those who dare to walk wholly with God and His Christ.

God help us all to measure up so that we can enjoy this time. If the kingdom is within us, let us meet the challenge so the kingdom will come. God help us to enter in.

# Another Spirit

By N. Swaan

God has given the Church many wonderful promises. He has given us a commission to go unto the world with the Gospel of the Kingdom, and his Spirit to accomplish the work for us. Our human mind can serve as a fertile ground for the doubts and fears that face us each day in our walk with God. Many times our spirits fail us. We feel that our lives as Christians are enough challenge from day to day without considering the greater challenge of seeking the Kingdom of God. In this day there is a battle going on in our minds to believe God and take hold of his promises. This battle is not new for it has happened within the minds of every one of God's people, who have committed to walk with him. God's word declares if we will seek first his Kingdom, he will provide for all of our day-to-day needs. His promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us, strengthen, and renew us, has provided for victory in our lives. We must experience a deep humility, a sacred offering of ourselves to God in love. There must be a holy repentance from self, that takes place in our lives, for the Holy Spirit to find a gentle dwelling place within us. We must stand upon God's word, submit ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ and let the Holy Spirit do his work within us to bring the victory, Hebrews 4:9-11, Philippians 2:13, Titus 3:4, 2 Timothy

1:6-9.

Numbers, chapters 13 and 14 tell us about the children of Israel receiving the report of the promise land and failing to enter it. This portion of scripture also records God's disappointment with Israel and the judgment he gave to them. Numbers 14:28 "Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the Lord, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun."

One could look at this situation from a psychological perspective and say that God was not fair in dealing with Israel. They had just come from Egypt where they had known nothing but slavery and cruelty. This very generation that God brought out of bondage had grown up only knowing this way of life. Badly abused in Egypt, they developed a victim mentality and were unable to summon the emotional strength to grasp hold of God's promise. We see in Numbers 14:1 that when the people heard about the giants in the land they "lifted up their voice, and

cried; and the people wept that night."

I believe that the people of Israel were having a battle in their minds. They could not believe that anything good could possibly happen to them. Most of Israel lost this mental battle before they even entered into the physical battle for the promise land. Only two men from the older generation, Caleb and Joshua, entered into the promise. The experiences of the people of Israel in Egypt were the same. I believe these men were not stronger than the rest of Israel. There was a difference though. Numbers 14:24 "But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it." Caleb and Joshua were not trusting in their own strength or spirit. There was another spirit with them, and with all of Israel. Israel disappointed God because they did not recognize his sovereignty over the affairs of the earth. They would not surrender to the spirit of belief and victory that he had given them, and enter into

the land of promise. Caleb and Joshua used God's Spirit for their strength and followed him fully.

Hebrews 12:28 "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with rever

ence and godly fear." This verb "receiving," in Hebrews, uses the Greek verb "paralambano," meaning: drawing near to take hold of. This verb implies that what we are receiving is already ours by ownership, by promise. Christians today have "a kingdom which cannot be moved" as Israel had a promised land. We also may have come from similar backgrounds of cruelty and abuse. We may be dealing with disease and loss of loved ones, family problems, or a tragic and drawn out struggle of some type. Does the Kingdom of God appear so far away? Do we long only for strength to get through today? Everyone of us will face these times in life. I Corinthians 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Though these hardships are a common happening in this world, those who believe in God have a way of escape through Jesus Christ.

Every man has the struggle described in Romans 7:18 "For I know that in me that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." No man can, in his own strength, do the will of God. The same spirit that was WITH Caleb and Joshua is IN every Christian that believes. Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." You have the power from God to live as a victorious son of God. God does not want you to struggle from day to day through your strength, seeing and hearing through natural eyes and ears. You will only see the injustice, and inequity of this world system, only experiencing the cruelty of the "Prince of this world."

We are in a spiritual battle, Ephesians 6:12, the same battle Israel faced. The battle is not to take the promised land, but is the battle of the natural mind to believe the truth of God and to experience his promises here and now. We will be victorious by letting go of our

natural minds that are enmity against God, taking his armour, and surrendering to his Spirit. Then that spirit of victory will take hold of even our natural lives. Romans 8:10 "And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

We will be no good to God unless we win the battle of our minds through the Holy Spirit. We cannot believe for the deliverance of the world if we cannot believe for our own deliverance. The Kingdom of God is ours through the Spirit of Christ and if we will let go of our own spirit and our own thinking, we will receive his spirit, his victory, and his mind. I Corinthians 2:12 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

We, as the Church must stop grovelling in the dirt, scraping by on our own meagre resources. We must begin to appropriate the treasures of heaven, and experience the victory and power that is ours through Jesus Christ, Isaiah 52:1-3. The time has come for us to get on our knees and repent of our sin and disrespect of God and the wonderful gifts he has given. We must surrender our sin, unbelief, and self-righteousness and cry out to be clothed and filled with the wondrous Spirit of Jesus Christ.

John 14:12 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." The Church that is today is not the Church God wants. Does God want his Church "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof?" God never in

tended us, as his Church, to go into all the world and preach the gospel in our own strength. He intended that the Church would humble themselves, and believe, and wait upon him for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The scripture shows that God did not give the Spirit as some power for the Church not to use. We see the New Testament Church in submission to the Holy Spirit. They relied on the Spirit to guide them into truth, to give them direction in decision making, Acts 13:2,15:28,16:6, 20:28. We have not yet seen the power and glory of a Church in complete submission to the Spirit of Christ. God will bring our surrender to him. He will have a people, a Church, which will be empty of self and filled with God. He will have a Church of godliness and of power that will take the land of promise in the name of Jesus Christ.

God wants to restore all of creation to himself. God wants to come against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against the spiritual wickedness in high places, and completely destroy them. How does he want to do this? Ephesians 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God. He wants to do it through the Church. He wants to do it through you.

God wants to shake the universe through you. He wants to bring down the mountains of worldly power and break Satan's yoke off of people through you. God wants the Spirit of the Lord, His Spirit, to be upon you. He wants you to preach ANOINTED gospel to the poor. God wants you to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

Jesus Christ gave himself, died on the cross, for our sins. This death was a death of his physical flesh, but he died another death when "he was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." This death of the carnal, death of self, by complete submission to the Spirit and will of God, brought forth a beauty and purity of God's nature in Christ never seen on the earth before. This death of the carnal nature or flesh, by the submission and sacrificial love of Christ, destroyed any ground or foothold Satan could have to tempt him, John 14:30. Jesus Christ has rent the

veil. The offering of our self-life to God will permit us to walk through that veil, into his presence, and the full working power of his Spirit within us: We have been given his own spirit, his own strength, all of his power and resources, to overcome the enemy. We have the power to do God's will, in our lives and in the earth. As we kneel before our Father, in repentance of our natural ways and understanding, that same spirit of submission and sacrifice will begin its cleansing work within us. That same resurrection life that raised Jesus Christ from the dead will begin its life giving work in us.

The plan and purpose of God for us, is so great, so wonderful. I Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." We need to approach God in this attitude. We don't really know what he is going to do. We can't imagine it. It hasn't entered into our hearts. We don't know how he is going to do it. We don't know when he is going to do whatever he is going to do. We still, many times as Christians put out so much energy in doing, thinking, struggling, with so much disagreement amongst us, when we have so little knowledge of God's direction. We should be on our knees together as brethren, calling on God for his Holy Spirit and creation's deliverance.

Hebrews 5:5 "So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee. As he with also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." The Son of God was not striving for some position of authority and power in God. He was not crying in self pity because of all that he had suffered. He just wanted to do his Father's will because he loved him so much. He saw the deceitfulness of his flesh and cried out to his Father for deliverance from it. His Father brought him to where he

could say "the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." He gave himself not in duty, but in love. He loved his Father and took upon him the love of his Father, the Spirit of his Father.

God had called Israel as a kingdom of priests unto himself, Exodus 19:5,6. They would not lay aside the spirit and nature of man and take God's Spirit and nature. The requirements were both simple yet difficult. Hebrews 5:1 "For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron." There is a simpleness of just humbly surrendering to God's will and power. Then there is the difficulty of the deceptive and unyielding will of human nature. We see here the humility of one who would be a high priest. There is no room here for pride or self-righteousness. There is no room for murmuring self-pity, only the honest admission of infirmity and sin, and the repentance of sacrifice. That honesty, humility, and appreciation for God's love and mercy, brings compassion for the ignorant and those out of the way. What love God gave to a mere creation of his hands. What love that the Son of God gave when he laid aside all majesty and deity, and coming in the humble form of a man. What love he showed in allowing himself to be abused, humiliated, and sacrificed for us. He became our high priest "the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

The Church of Jesus Christ must follow his example and commandment. John 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 15:9 "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in

you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another."

God has not commanded us to have the right doctrine. God has not commanded us to prove ourselves right and others wrong. God has not commanded us to judge each other's Christian walk. God has not commanded us to have righteous indignation against what is going on around us. God has given us only ONE commandment through Jesus Christ or Lord. "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Paul confirms this ONE commandment in Romans 13:8 "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

Is there a Christian rule that we believe is essential for Christian living? Is there a weakness or sin we see in the life of one who claims to be Christian? Is there some principle that other Christians are overlooking? Are we rejecting some Christians or judging them because of their doctrinal stance? Do we believe some are not really Christian unless they are living the "true" gospel? Can we see each other's hearts before God? It is clear. God's word states "and if there be any other commandment (any rule for

Christian living), it is briefly comprehended in this saying. namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

How shall we judge? Are there not behavioural standards for Christians? Is it not reasonable for a Christian to judge the Christian life? Shouldn't there be doctrinal standards to measure Christian belief? Yes. there is judgment. Yes there is a judge. Romans 8:31 'What shall we then say to these things?' If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also ~ freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God, elect? It is God that justifieth. Who ~ is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again. who is even at the right hand of God. who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ ? shall tribulation. or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness. or peril, or sword? As it is written. For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

It is God that justifieth. It is God and God alone who has the right to judge, to justify, or to condemn. He who has the right to condemn has sent his own son to pay the penalty for those under condemnation. God received his son's blood as payment for the sins of the world. He has raised him up to his own right hand to make intercession for the saints. Who is he that condemneth? Who is he that takes upon himself the right to condemn or judge? Who is he that even condemns himself? I John 3:20 "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." God knows that our hurt, deceive us and are desperately ~ irked. When we accept Jesus Christ, ~e are giving up ownership of ourselves to God. I Corinthians 6:19 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your

spirit, which are God's." We belong wholly try God. Have we surrendered ourselves wholly to God in every sense? Our struggles of self against self will always meet defeat. The first step in any 12-step program is for the participants to admit that they have a problem. Christians participate in the oldest, most life changing, success guaranteed. I-1 step program that has ever been. Many Christians, having given themselves to Christ, cannot see there still is a problem. Other Christians express discouragement that they do see a problem. The problem is the ongoing, working of sin in their lives. The Bible is clear that though Jesus Christ paid the payment for our sin the working of sin continues in our lives. There must be a continuous recognition and repentance front this sin. Our fellowship, acceptance, and intercessory prayer and support of each other brings the love of Christ, and cleansing power of the blood of Christ into our lives. I John 1:6 "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

Can we accept today that in us (that is in our flesh,) dwelleth no good thing? Can we examine ourselves and honestly say that the will to do good is present with us; but how to perform that which is good we find not? I know we can, and I know we will, as Christians. There was a man who did that. There was a man who refused to judge after the seeing of his eyes and the hearing of his ears. ("[t]he way we judge so often ). "there was a man who refused to speak his own words or do his own works. There was a man who relied upon the Holy Spirit moment by moment. There was a man who gave up all flesh, both of the nature, and of the physical. The sacrifice of that flesh was a sweetness; the spirit in which he gave that sacrifice was a sweetness unto God. Ephesians 5:2 "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a

sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour." Long has God sought for that sweetness. God has brought forth, guided, taught, tried, tested to find that sweetness and found it only in one. God is now looking for a bride for that one, a bride for his Son, Jesus Christ. God is working, preparing, and testing a people who will give up all of the flesh to allow all of his Spirit to dwell in them.

Read Deuteronomy 8:2-3, Jeremiah 17:9-10, I Peter 1:5-7, for I want to assure you that God will prove you, to know what is in your heart. He will test you in different areas of your experience to see your commitment and submission to him. He desires you to reverence him as the ruler and controller of every aspect of your life, the Sovereign God.

God's people will come to him in every situation, to rely only on his strength. They will abdicate all human understanding, abilities, and confidence. They will also leave behind their anxieties, fears, and expectations, praying and trusting only in God's mercy, love, and power in every situation of their lives. (II Chronicles 7:14, Isaiah 56:7) This experience of trusting and loving God will not only cause his people to understand the sacrificial nature of God and his Son Jesus Christ, but also will make them partakers and employers of this same spirit of love and power. Romans 8:35 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Only we can separate ourselves from our Saviour. Only we can deny his power and love for us and give up on him. He will never give up on us. Hebrews 13:5 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will

not fear what man shall do unto me." Will we leave and forsake our ways and our spirits to be one with him? Will we die to all of our self ways to rise in his resurrection life? II Timothy 2:11 "It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." Jesus Christ made an eternal, unchangeable commitment to us. There are no excuses. Can we forgive as he has forgiven us? None of our suffering could ever com

pare to his suffering. None of our righteousness can stand before his righteousness. Will we lay all we are and have on the altar for hire as he did for us? We cannot. We can however, humble ourselves, and ask that the same sweet overcoming Spirit that was in him, will come in us. We can ask that he bring in us that same spirit of surrender and sacrifice. Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to

this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." God will renew our minds and take away our carnal thinking. He will transform us if we are willing. We have the power to become sons of God. We have the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Father, the Spirit of the Son. Let us submit ourselves to our Father. Let us I daily take up our cross, offer ourselves in sacrificial love, by the Holy Spirit of Christ to be one with them.

# Has The Lord Tested You?

By Ben Wolf

There has been a scripture that I've often wondered about. Luke 14:25, 26, 27 states, "And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned and said unto them, if any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

When I read the above, I can't help but think of Genesis 22, 1-18. "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold here I am. And he said, "Take now thy son, throe only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which, I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship and come again to you. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, behold the fire and the

wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, my son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering; so they went both of them together. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him upon the altar upon his hand. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of the heaven, and said Abraham, Abraham: and he said Here am I. And he said, Lay not throe hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou has not withheld thy son, throe only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son."

If you read verses 15 to 18 of chapter 22, the blessings God gives for obedience are given to Abraham.

To be a disciple of the Lord's we must put Him first. He must be our first priority in everything.

Abraham had great confidence in the Lord. Isaac was the promised son that God had given Abraham and Sarah in their old age.

The Lord tested Abraham, to see if he was willing to surrender all that he had, or the most precious thing that He had given to Abraham.

What impresses me is that Abraham didn't even bat an eye, so to speak,

when the Lord spoke to him about giving up his only son. Remember he I did have Ishamel as a son also, but this 'I' was the son that was heir, he was the promised son that would be born from Abraham and Sarah. Abraham didn't wait around but was prompt in doing what the Lord asked of him. He didn't stop and argue with the Lord. He had full confidence in the Lord. When Isaac asked him, Where is the lamb? Abraham answered that God would provide a lamb.

I find in my own life that there are times when the Lord requires something of us, that we are apt to consider the circumstances and allow that to change the picture. I realize that what the Lord usually requires of us, is not as dramatic as that which He required of Abraham.

Abraham had learned that he could put his full trust and confidence in the Lord, regardless of the circumstances. If he wanted to make excuses for not going ahead with what the Lord asked or required of him, I could certainly think of a number, that he could have made.

Let us learn to lean on the Lord and not on the arm of flesh. In the past we have sung the song, with the words, the arm of flesh will fail you - ye dare not trust your own. When I say this, I put myself down as the number one candidate for this learning.

The chorus of another song says I'm learning to lean, learning to lean, learning to lean on Jesus,

Finding more power than I'd ever dreamed; I'm learning to lean on Jesus.

# Surrendered

Have you got your hands raised, In  
surrender to the Lord? Dying to  
your selfish nature, Living by His  
Holy Word?

Dying to yourself each day  
Is being surrendered to the Lord,  
Being born in His likeness, Living  
by His Holy Word!

Trusting Jesus, is the key  
To walking faithful, with the Lord,  
Not wanting our own way, But  
living daily by His Word!

God asks nothing of us,  
That He did not ask of Christ,  
Being obedient, Living a  
surrendered Life.

We are paid for our surrender,  
Living our life for Christ, The  
wages for sin is death, But God  
gives eternal life!

Weigh the two,  
Which would you rather have?  
Death because of sin or  
Eternal life for letting Christ in?

The choice is pretty clear,  
It all depends on your heart.  
Even though we suffer pain.  
Eternal life is what we gain.

Surrender my child,  
It's not really all that hard,  
Yielding to the Lord,  
Is simply living by His Word.

Christ became the living Word, So  
we must do the same. Live our  
lives as Jesus did, Declaring it in  
Jesus Name!

Our lives are a picture of our Lord,  
Are we showing it to be true? Are  
our lives showing Christ, Nothing left  
of you?

Walking with our Lord,  
Is a dying unto self,  
Doing as our Lord would do,  
Not sitting on the shelf,

Anyone can lie around,  
But it takes effort to arise,  
To come up higher in our Lord,  
Means to surrender all our lives!

It's not what we can  
Achieve in this world,  
But by yielding wholly in this life,  
Living only by His Word!

Will your life be wasted,  
Living for self,  
Will you be found in Him  
Surrendered of self?  
Be found faithful my child,  
Living for God, Surrendered  
to Him, Living by His Word.

Be not deceived  
By the glamour of this life,  
For the one who rules this natural life  
Brings nothing but pain and strife.

Come up higher my child,  
Surrender it all,  
Come up higher my child,  
Be released from the fall!  
The fall comes from being disobedient,  
So turn the table,

Let God rule your life,  
Be becoming Obedient!  
Will your life be fruitful,  
Living it for me; (God)  
Or will it have been desolate,  
Lived only unto thee?  
You decide which end you'll see,  
Will you die all alone, Or will your  
life Have been lived in me?

Rejoice my child,  
For your joy is great!  
Turn your life over to God,  
It is never too late.

Not surrendering  
Is the key to desolation,  
But surrendering,  
Is a whole new revelation.  
May God be seen in each life.  
So that He may be praised. Let  
our hearts be surrendered, So  
that we may be raised.

Into newness of life,  
With our wonderful Lord,  
Our elder brother, The  
LIVING WORD!!  
Given by the Spirit  
November 13, 1999  
Madalene Stanley