



The Sharon Star

Life after Life

By Andy Snoke

What happens when a person dies?

Various world religions and cultures have held different views at different times on this subject. Some border on the bazaar.

For this lesson, we are only interested in what the Word of God declares. And even as we look into the Bible, we must depend upon the Spirit to shine light upon the truth contained within scriptures. There are many things not yet revealed, for which we will simply leave alone.

What happens when a person dies? First, at death, there is a vast difference in experience between a believer and a nonbeliever. The difference is as vast as heaven and hell itself.

When a believer dies, the Bible seems to state that the spirit of the believer is swiftly carried into the presence of the Lord.

“For we know that if the tent (author’s note :our body) that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent (body), we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

*So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. **Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.** So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please*

him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil” (2 Cor. 5:5-10, ESV).

When the “thief on the cross” demonstrated a repentant heart at the end of his life, he was promised that **on that very day**, he would be with Jesus in Paradise. It was not promised for some event far into the future, but that very day.

*One of the criminals who was hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, **today you will be with me in Paradise**” (Luke 23:39-43, ESV).*

Jesus recited a story (it may have been an actual event and not a parable as this is the only parable in the Bible that uses the personal name of a man) about a man named Lazarus and the rich man. This is a classic example of the believer (Lazarus) receiving an immediate heavenly reward, and at the same time the non-believing “rich man” receiving a great penalty for his sins.

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“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. **The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side**” (Luke 16:19-23, ESV).

You will notice that Lazarus was immediately carried away at his death into the bosom of Abraham. Now Abraham had been dead for many years, yet there Abraham stood, standing alive and known in heaven. The scriptures also declare that:

“I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living” (Matt 22:32, KJV).

In this profound scripture, (Matt 22:32) Jesus declares that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, though dead to the world, were alive and known in the heavens.

Paul goes on to offer words of encouragement to the church in Thessalonica, regarding those among them that had died. By the Spirit he chose to use the word “sleep” to represent the death experience.

I love the way 1 Thes 4:13 reads: “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow **as others who have no hope**” NKJV.

Isn’t that a wonderful statement, “lest you sorrow as others who have no hope”? In other words, for the believer there is great hope but for the non believer, there was no hope. What a contrast. Paul desired to encourage the believers to not sorrow as those who have no hope.

“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thes 4:13-18, KJV).

When Christ returns, He will appear WITH His saints to do a great work in the earth during His 1,000 year reign on earth. Those who have preceded the living, by

way of death, will already be there with Christ. What is the “catching away” experience that Paul speaks of? It simply has not been made clear. God must give further revelation into this subject. But nevertheless, the Bible does speak of a great gathering of the saints at his “return,” just preceding the 1,000 year millennial reign on the earth. Jesus returns with the saints of old, the saints of the present, and the saints “caught away.”

I believe that Jesus gave a visible example of this future glorious gathering in Matthew 17 on the mount of transfiguration. In this example, Moses may have represented the “dead in Christ,” Elijah may have represented those “caught up to God,” and Peter, James and John may have represented the saints alive on earth at the time of His Great Coming.

“And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁵ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” ⁸ And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only” (Matthew 17:1-7, ESV).

The prophet Daniel was promised that he would have a part in the work on earth, as part of his resurrection to life.

“But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days” (Daniel 12: 13, NKJV).

*“It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “**Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones,** ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” ¹⁶ These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage”* (Jude 14-16, ESV).

Jesus made it clear to His disciples, that he had prepared a place in heaven for them, and that He himself would come and receive them, and all believers in Christ. “I will come again and will take you to myself” is a promise of comfort made throughout all generations.

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:1-6, ESV).

According to the Bible, the only road to heaven and into the presence of the Lord is through Jesus Christ and the work of the cross. It is not true that all religions lead to heaven. The Holy Scriptures is something that we must either believe that to be the Word of God, or we simply don’t believe it. We take it all, or we take none of it. There is no “picking and choosing” as to what we choose to believe within its sacred pages.

“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Rev 22:18-19, NKJV).

Jesus came that we might have eternal life. He is the payment for our sins through the work of the cross.

Our hope for eternal life comes only through following the only begotten Son of God that loved us and died in our place on the cross. He is the ONLY way, the truth, and the life.

If, as a reader of this article, you have been unsure of your standing with God, I encourage you to make a life decision this very moment to be a follower of Christ. One should not face eternity, without the assurance of eternal life. There is no decision during our mortal years as important as accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, ESV). The Word of God says, “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom 10:9-10, NKJV).

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9, NKJV).

“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery” (Hebrews 2:14-16, ESV).

Angels and Headcoverings

By Markus Hansen

Before Jesus began His public ministry He went into the wilderness to fast and pray. After 40 days Satan appeared and tempted Jesus saying:

“If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone’” Mathew 4:5-6.

This scripture indicates that God had given angels a charge to watch over Jesus. There are many other references to angels in the Bible. There are even instances when angels were sent by God to individuals and the angels were visible with the natural eye. The writer of the Book of Hebrews has this to say about angels:

“But to which of the angels has He ever said: ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool’? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?” Hebrews 1:13-14.

Angels are therefore heavenly beings sent by God to minister and help God’s people. We don’t worship angels, we worship Jesus. However, in our morning prayers, my wife and I will often ask God to send His angels to watch over our children and grandchildren and guard them from danger.

When Jesus was talking about neither offending nor despising children He said: *“Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven” Mathew 18:10.*

This confirms that God has assigned angels to watch over those that are His. Be assured in your heart that God has assigned angels to watch over you and your family members. Angels behold the face of God and can communicate to God on your behalf if you need help. It is a wonderful privilege to be able to ask God to send His angels to protect us and our loved ones. Glory to God.

Another scripture that makes note of angels is found in I Corinthians chapter 11. Let's begin reading at verse 2: *"Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you. But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonours his head. But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonours her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved. For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. For man is not from woman, but woman from man. Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man. For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels"* (NKJV).

In this scripture the Apostle Paul is admonishing women to wear a covering over their head when they pray or prophesy to show that they respect and honour God's order for the home and the church. In our local church meetings women ought to wear a headcovering meaning a hat, scarf, veil or cloth covering as a sign of her submission to God.

Wearing a headcovering in the local church service is a public sign that a woman is in subjection to her head. It is an emblem of a woman's submission to her head. If a woman is living at home her head is her father. If a woman has left the home of her father, then her head is the local elders. When a woman marries, then her husband becomes her head. A sister wearing a headcovering is witnessing that she is not seeking to take the place of the head in the home or the church. She accepts that man is her head, just as Christ is the head of man.

Note in I Corinthians 11:10 that when a young lady/woman wears a headcovering to church her angels observe this act of obedience. (Matthew 18:10 says *"in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven."*). Since angels are watchers and agents for God, their attention is especially drawn to the headcovering as a spiritual exercise. Yes, a spiritual exercise as much as it is a physical emblem of showing respect to the authority that God has ordained. And indeed it is a privilege to wear a headcovering because God has chosen the sisters in the church to show what Satan was unable to do. It was Satan's desire to be head over God that caused him to fall from God's grace and covering. Wearing a headcovering by a woman in church therefore indicates that she recognizes the authority of her head over her and her obedience to this command

is well pleasing to God. Because of her obedience she can pray with authority and power knowing that she is under the covering of her head. She can approach the throne of God with boldness and without reserve, knowing that there is nothing standing between herself and God because she is physically showing that she recognizes God's order for her place in the home and the church. This is a beautiful promise. When you are crying out to God on behalf of a sick child another member of the body of Christ, or someone God has placed on your heart, and as a woman you have been wearing a headcovering when attending church, then your angels will tell your heavenly Father that you are an obedient servant. Your angels will then make your request known to God and petition Him to grant your request. Glory to God.

Paul goes on to say that if a woman does not wear a headcovering she dishonours her head (shows disrespect to her father, elders or husband, whichever applies) and it would be better if her hair was shaved off. That indicates how seriously God treats this commandment! *"If a woman does not wear a veil, let her hair be cut, but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaven, then let her wear a veil"* I Corinthians 11:6 (Berkley Translation).

During this century the practice of women wearing a head covering in many denominational churches has disappeared. Today, many believers falsely hold that a woman's hair represents her covering. This does not seem to be the Apostle's meaning. At the time of Paul's writing to the church at Corinth it was a disgrace or dishonour for a woman to cut her hair off, or even cut her hair short and Paul specifically says that if she does not wear a headcovering it is better that her hair is shorn or cut off. In a historical context, cloth head coverings and veils were the norm at the time of Paul's writing. Even before the time of Paul there is reference to women wearing a veil to show respect. Rebekah put on her veil when she saw Isaac approaching (Genesis 24:63-65). Therefore Paul's command cannot be considered merely cultural. Considering that not wearing a head covering became the tendency at the same time that the "women's liberation" movement began, along with the wearing of slacks to church, we should pause to reflect and realize that Satan is using this disobedience to Paul's command as another method of breaking down the structure of the home and the church.

Paul's conclusion to this subject is: *"But if anyone wants to argue about this, all I can say is that we never teach anything else than this—that a woman should wear a covering when prophesying or praying publicly in the church, and all the churches feel the same way about it"* I Corinthians 11:16 (Living Translation).

Since the beginning of this present move of the

Holy Spirit, the apostolic travelling elders taught and continue to advocate that young ladies and women should wear a headcovering when attending a church service. This is not a decision that the traveling brethren of this move of the Spirit have made but rather it is the mind of God for women to do so as made clear in the Scripture. God's instruction through the apostle Paul may to some seem antiquated and unnecessary and even hard to understand. However, there is a blessing

in being obedient to God, especially when we do not understand. There are many things in the realm of the Spirit we do not fully understand yet. Even the apostle Paul felt this way. *"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known"* (1 Cor. 13:12 KJV). Our faith is not based on our full understanding of every scripture but rather in the character of the One who breathed it onto the page.

This Is A New Day – Are You Ready?

By Eldon Olson

The following are a few thoughts and a brief outline of concerns that have been stirring in my heart recently.

This is a new day! Yesterday has passed away! Tomorrow is yet to come. Are you ready? And you say ready for what? You have heard this expression before, "Today is the first day of the rest of your life." So it may be, but today could be the last day of that earthly life and the beginning of eternal life. Are you ready? If the Lord called you home today, are you ready to depart this world for the next?

The preparation to leave this world is not always a lengthy procedure. The rapid development of cancer, an accident, a stroke, a heart attack, a debilitating tumor, a varied problems can "suddenly" come upon you. Are you ready?

Youth, by the way, do not have priority over the length of days, although the young sometimes feel invulnerable and invincible! We all know that. For you are either young now or you once were.

In the preparation for your departure from terra firma to eternal life, it first requires that you have ACCEPTED Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. You need to welcome Him into your heart and desire to live a life according to His blessings. In Luke 23:39, The criminal being crucified next to Jesus didn't have much time to do that. But he did. He recognized Jesus for who he was, innocence Himself. The one malefactor said, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us." But the other rebuked his fellow malefactor and said "Dost thou not fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss." And then he said unto Jesus, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." He recognized that Jesus' kingdom was not of this world but of the world to come. Eternal life! Life, where sickness, sorrow, heartache, disease, pain, and all manner of discontent's are done away with. Where the joy of our salvation shall be joined with our praises to the Almighty God, the author and finisher of our faith. Take time now. Tomorrow could be too late.

We must prepare now. So that when the time comes (and no man knows the day or the hour) we can say, "Yes, I am Ready"! And "Yes, the timing is okay"!

Now, it is your intention to live on. So, in addition to being saved,

BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT:

It has been said that once you have been saved that you do not need to be filled with the Spirit. Jesus was baptized by John and was filled with the Spirit. Why was this? So that he could do the will of the Father that sent him. The scripture says that He was filled with the Holy Ghost and then He went out into the wilderness and fasted for forty days.

If you are having concerns about this, ask the elders to pray with you and for you, so that the Holy Spirit will come and make His dwelling IN you.

This infilling will enable you to deal with the many problems that will come across your path. In the Scriptures we do not find where we will be able to get "around" our problems but we are assured that Jesus will see us through them. It seems that Satan will forever be right in your face. Attempting to discourage you and lead you astray. Telling you RIGHT is WRONG and that WRONG is RIGHT. Sometimes letting the educated of this world interfere with the wisdom that comes from above. The wisdom that comes from the Holy Scripture, The Bible. The Inspired Word of God. In Luke chapter 4. It starts out by saying, "And Jesus being filled of the Holy Ghost returned from the Jordan and was lead by the Spirit into the wilderness, being forty days tempted of the devil and in those days he did eat nothing.....". Satan was right on Him, trying to convince Jesus that his (Satan's way) was the right way and that he (the devil) could give Jesus anything that he wanted in this world, and so he could. He taunted Jesus because Jesus was hungry and said, "If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. Jesus answered his saying, "It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." Then the devil took him up into an high

mountain and in a moment of time showed him all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said to Him, “all this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me: and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.” And Jesus answered and said unto him, “Get thee behind me, Satan, for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” The devil continued, he brought Jesus to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple and said unto Jesus, “If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone”. Jesus answered him, “It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God”. Jesus resisted all the temptations and Satan departed from him for a season.

Now then, when we are tempted, as we will be, how do we handle temptation? We call upon JESUS and the Holy Spirit to help resist whatever has been presented. We have a choice. We will know. His Spirit that now indwells you, will let you know when you are being lead astray or tempted. Sometimes it’s called a conscience. Sometimes it is called intuition. But, it is the Holy Spirit that does not want you to do wrong in His sight. Ask yourself, how does, what I am tempted to do, fit in with the 10 commandments? You cannot skirt around the 10 commandments in order to accomplish anything. Jesus said in Matthew 5: 17-18 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. Verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled”. Also, it would be good to review 1 Corinthians Chapter 2 where Paul says “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. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” What the Scripture indicated in the beginning, is every bit as good today in the year 2013. Don’t be fooled. The BIBLE is the word of God.

Tithe:

Are you trying to skirt around that? Are you tempted to think, well it’s only me and it’s only a small amount. Malachi 3: Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. If you are looking for God’s blessing on you and your household, you should tithe. This is God’s portion, he owns everything, we are stewards only. He is only asking for 10 percent. Your GIVING has not yet begun. The temptation to spend this tithe on other things comes in as many ways as there are stars in the sky. The Holy Spirit will help you overcome any negligent

feeling towards tithing. Start now. Don’t wait.

Speak in tongues:

This is the evidence that you have been filled with the Spirit. Speak to God in the unknown tongue. Go to your closet and pour out your heart in the unknown tongue. You are not speaking to man but to God. He hears and sees your innermost thoughts and feelings. Your communication with Him does not require excellence of speech. He wants to listen to your heart as you pour it out to him. Thank Him for accepting you as you are. All your flaws you can readily admit to Him, for he loves you beyond measure. You cannot comprehend His love for you. Speaking in tongues is the recognition that Jesus Christ is now the Lord and Master of your temple. He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. There is no other one who will help you like Him. They that speak in the unknown tongue edifieth themselves.

Be BAPTIZED in water:

Jesus was baptized in water by John the Baptist. Read Mark 1:10-11. “And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: and there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”. The baptism in water signified the burial and resurrection of JESUS. We are buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Now is the time to be baptized. If you have never been immersed in water before, now is the time. Let this take place with an open heart and spirit. Talk to your elders, your spiritual fathers, they can help this take place in your life. Don’t put it off. It is another gift of God.

Take COMMUNION:

The Bread and wine that is taken weekly in the services is a vital part of recognizing Jesus Christ. Of becoming a part of Him.

John chapter 6, “Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever”.

The elders pray GOD’S blessing on the Bread and Wine with the laying on of hands, on the bread, and on the cup, then we partake in unison. That His life might be imparted and by faith we may see His hand at work in our lives. This is a wonderful ordinance ,

communion. May the Lord open your spiritual eyes to see its glory and majesty. You are not just taking bread and wine but you are partaking of LIFE ITSELF. See the hand of the Lord work a work in your life that you have only dreamed of. Take communion believing and His will, will be done. Praise the Lord.

Prophecy:

Prophecy is another wonderful revelation that has been given to the church, the Body of Christ. The Move of the Spirit was founded by the glory of God through fasting and prayer, and with prophecy. "Take the shoes from off your feet, for this is Holy Ground". You are the temple of God. He has come to make His abode in you. He wants to speak through you to the church, the other members. He can unction you by the Spirit to prophecy to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that prophesieth edifieth the church, who you are. 1 Corinthians 14:31 – you may all prophecy.

Sing in the Spirit:

Sing that song to God that has never been sung before. Sing it to yourself or sing in the midst of the congregation. Sing to His glory, that He is loved and cherished by you. You do not have to be an opera singer nor a nightingale. God made the crow too, and He made plenty of them. He wants to hear from you. You are part of His creation. Does He care that you cannot carry a tune? I don't think so. Don't let that stop you. Sing, oh sing, that the birds will cock their heads to listen and maybe join in. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. Make those vocal cords vibrate like harp strings so that the angels too will stop and listen. Stir up the very being in your soul so that you will be like the man that was healed at the gate called Beautiful. He stood and walked, entered into the temple walking and leaping and praising God. Let your lips be touched by a hot coal from off the altar, set free to sing praises to the King of Kings.

Feast on the Scriptures. The Bible. The inspired word of God.

In Galatians chapter 5. See the works of the flesh. Then read of the glorious Fruit of the Spirit against such there is no law. Those attributes that make you alive in the Spirit. Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit.

The Psalm is a wonderful book to find out what is said ABOUT the Word of God. Thy word is pure. Thy word is true. The entrance of thy words giveth light. My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee. Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word. Strengthen thou me according to thy word.

This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word. These lines are but a few taken from the 119th chapter of Psalm, there are so very many more for your edification. Read for your pleasure, edification and reward.

Now that you have all this under your belt so to speak. Do you remember having aught against your brother or sister? FORGIVENESS is one of the greatest gifts you can give to another person. Some people, but of course not you, keep grudges against others all of their lives. They don't want to forgive and forget. What if that other person gets out of line again? I'll just remind them of the mistake they made concerning me. That will straighten them out. No, it won't. It never works like that. You hold a grudge and you will be holding it all by yourself and it will get heavier and heavier till it turns your smile into a frown. Matthew 6: 15 says, "but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your father forgive your trespasses". Jesus said that. The greatest teacher of holiness that has ever lived. He said that and because you are a Christian, and you believe on Him and that is the reason you are here or should be the reason you are here, you should forgive. How many times? Seven times? No, seventy times seven. What has been said prior to this, is the reason it was said. To come to the place in your life where you can forgive will do away with all kinds of problems and it will restore your inner self. You will have peace in the Lord.

If you are the offender. Seek God, through Jesus Christ, that you may not offend again, ask for forgiveness for what you have done. Not only of God but the person you have offended. Some times that will be hard because you do not think you have done anything wrong. But if they are hurting and you know it, you are wrong right there, never mind what you did by word or deed. We are a stubborn lot, we can't be wrong, it has to be the other person. If you ask forgiveness you will free the both of you because it is the Spirit of God that should be dwelling in you that does the work.

Ladies wear a head covering:

What appears to some as nonsense, is scriptural and we will give you the article on head covering. For example, do you think that giving your life over to Christ is some myth. It wasn't in the old testament, so was it wrong? They scoffed at the early apostles when they told the people that they had to accept Jesus Christ as your saviour, but the scoffers were dead wrong. There are those today that scoff as the scripture is made more real and revelation flows by the Holy Spirit. They, the scoffers, are right on time. Lord help their unbelief. The so called educated today are having their eyes blinded and their hearing stopped because they believe the scriptures

should catch up with the 21 century. Nonsense. You will not find a more up to date book on the market today than the Bible. Other books, concerning moral issues, are not written by the influence of the Holy Spirit. They are written by persons who have turned away from God, who think that their intellect will get them an audience and sometimes it will. The scripture calls this – the blind leading the blind. They have some learning for some 10 to 20 years and then believe they have the moral answers. They do not! I am not talking here about the skills being taught by men and women of science who have invented the many practical products we enjoy today. I am talking here about the moral issues that will not change no matter what man says. The Bible says in many places that they that have eyes, let them see and those that have hearing, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. Sodom and Gomorra would not hear and you know the rest of their story.

The Local Elder:

If you need help in your Christian walk, talk to your elder, call your elder. He is your Shepherd, you are his sheep. He wants to protect you against all harm, whether it is self inflicted or comes from the outside. The elders in the church are sometimes not recognized for who they are. They are your fathers and they love you. They are not just brother so and so that you have known all your life and they just won't understand. Talk to them, try them, see if they can help and if they can't, they can ask one of the traveling brethren to help with a solution (with your permission). Elders have talked to individuals but the person is either too shy or too afraid to say what the problem is. The elders are chosen by God to be in that place of responsibility. So fear not, the elders can also bring their wives in on the conversation if you desire. The elder and his wife do not gossip about this. They want to give you Godly advice and help. Do not bypass your elder or elders for someone else's advice. But you can ask them if you can council with others because of the private nature of the problem and the answer will

likely be yes, we understand. It could be that it is a child of an elder and they need someone else. Not because the elder could not help but it may be very personal. This is not a loop hole. This is showing respect. Some people have been asked over and over what the problem is and will not "come clean" so to speak and then all of a sudden the whole problem explodes in everyone's face. Please have confidence in your Shepherds, the elders in the church. They too, must live as they speak or they will lose their mantle.

How much more can be said. You can add many more words to what has been said. You can pray and ask God, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, how can I expand on what has been said? Open my eyes, open my ears, open my heart lord and tell me more. Am I ready?

May the Great Creator, God Himself, be your portion today and every day that you live.

CALLED HOME

Shirley Germaine - Antigua, April 2, 2014

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