

What's the Solution?

There may be some of us who are tempted to skip this chapter because we think we already know God's solution to the problem of our separation from Him. We may find, however, as we consider the context of God's solution and explore the inner-workings of God's solution together that we missed something along the way.

One of the things we seem to forget is the solution to any problem is God. Now someone's mind might jump to challenge this and quickly throw out something like, "Well, how about two plus two? The answer isn't God, it's four, and everyone knows it!"

My point is we derive this answer because that's the way we choose to use what God created. We come to the conclusion because of the way God created all that exists at a base level. Sin, however, has influenced even our use of numbers following Adam and Eve's sins in the Garden of Eden.

Yep, sounds like a weird idea, but what we fail to remember is God's perspective is very different from the world's, and most likely ours even if we know the Lord, though perhaps to a lesser degree. When we learn about His way of looking at things, His established Reality, we may find our ideas about what circumstances mean are the opposite of God's Truth.

So, when God suddenly introduces His perspective into our already defined reality, we often have the same type of reaction. We've mentioned Death and its meaning from God's perspective. Some of us may still be thinking, "Well, that's crazy." In some way we separate the meaning of Death and God's Reality from ourselves, and mentally choose to hold onto what we think is right, or we want to be right.

Now, that's what people have been doing since the days of Adam and Eve with God's solutions. Remember their distorted perspectives concerning who was at fault for the sins each of them chose to commit? Their perspective certainly was not in alignment with God's Reality, and it's no different with us today. Even among those of us who have received God's solution to the problem we've defined in the previous chapter.

God's solution to eternal Sin and Death has transitioned through the ages. His solution builds upon its parts over time. As time passed each part of God's ultimate will does not conflict with all previous parts manifested in the world.

Does that mean there is more than one solution? No. Why not? Because God has always provided the best path to His solution that was possible at that time. God's actions are all pieces of His miraculous solution. Together they constitute a united set of pieces that form His overall solution.

How do we know that? Well, God is Perfect, so He will only provide the best solution possible. There is no question about this, because anything else is impossible. God does not withhold His best from us. He cannot because He Loves us Perfectly, and God's perfection always demands the best that is possible. This means the best perfect pieces of a whole will always fit together perfectly.

If we say we believe this about Who God is, then how does our thinking and acceptance of God's best for us, in each moment, align with this amazingly wonderful Truth? Ah, there's the rub - We can choose not to receive what He provides. We have chosen on far too many occasions not to follow God's best for us. The only person that has restricted the effectiveness of God's solution throughout history is us.

In fact, our continued attachment of trying to manage the circumstances of our existence on the earth, guarantees we are not doing what is best that God has for us most all the time. Scary thought, but don't worry the point that's critically important is not that we don't, but rather that we can act along with the Lord! Focus --- where is our focus?

Initial Look at the Solution

What is the solution to disobedience? That's right, obedience. People could and still can demonstrate their respect and worship of God through their obedience to His stated will. After the sins of Adam and Eve what God had originally desired for His relationship with people was no longer possible as first created. People could, however, please God through obedience.

At times we all seem to struggle against internal and external thoughts, emotions, and circumstances trying to do what God wants. In order to humble ourselves and choose to act obediently is very difficult for us. The answer to this problem is God. If we don't learn to depend upon the Lord for all things, we will never be obedient to God's best for us.

Our focus is usually in the wrong place with this idea of obedience. Most of us think of obedience as obeying a list of commands on how we're supposed to act. So, when a situation arises, we quickly direct our brain to come up with the rules that best apply to that situation so we know "what God wants", or "what Jesus would do".

All that information is a resource that can be used in analysis. Sometimes only reflectively, because situations change in fractions of a second and can easily get ahead of our ability to analyze what confronts us. This makes it difficult, if not impossible to consider the lists of how-to-act that we've created in our mind over time. We can't keep up, and so resort to existing patterns that come from other sources than the Lord. The greater the risk of negative results, the easier it is for this to happen.

Rule-based relationships never work. Only relationships built on Love and Trust with lots of communication can last.

Remember, all of us are tied to our circumstances in our search for meaning and purpose because that's how we've been taught to think. So, searching for the will of God, placing our trust in God and acting

accordingly, rather than depending on any part of our ability to manage our circumstances is very difficult to do. Especially with the way we think, which is driven by our perspectives.

It is, however, the path we must consistently follow faithfully. We need to change in order to do this, and that means changing the way we think. We should be acting on our trust in God on a moment-by-moment basis as we experience God's presence with us, rather than an event driven response.

A strategic success for Satan from his perspective is convincing us to take something that is sacred, and intended for God's pleasure, and use it to cause great pain for God by ignoring Him, or being directly disobedient. Then our actions probably influence others to do the same, which is a result for Satan to celebrate even more.

Our faith is not in an idea, concept, nor is it impassioned human blindness, or fanaticism. If it were we would ignore God's leading and just do whatever we want while we falsely declare our actions to be God's will. To truly know God, our faith cannot be based on us following a list of rules that we understand according to someone else's thinking, or our own creative logic.

No, our faith is not in any belief system, or animal sacrifice. Our faith cannot be centered within a "what", it must be centered in a "Who", and that is God Himself. This is key to our understanding of a faith-based relationship and demonstrating how to be in a Love-centered Relationship with God,

People have been converted to accept an idea. In the Old Testament a person might decide to follow faithfully the sacrificial processes of their time. A man might even endure circumcision in an effort to align himself with the practices initiated during Abraham's lifetime.

However, it's not the fact of obedience that resulted in righteousness, but what a person did because they trusted God and acted on that trust in accordance with what they knew to be God's will. God is more interested in our desires than the alignment with an idea.

Today we may believe that God's solution came from a person's acceptance of something as being true within their mind. That is not correct. It was about a person's faith-based relationship with God that resulted in obedience. Not about obedience that resulted in a relationship.

What God provides is always the best. But believing that is true does not mean we now have God's solution to this eternal problem. Believing in something that is true simply means we've become a supporter of an idea that may be about God's solution. This does not mean we have received God's solution.

Accepting what God says as the Truth, as our truth, does not mean we have a faith-based relationship with God. By merely being obedient to an idea only means God's best solution remains outside of our grasp. We will find that our obedience to an idea, like the Laws of God, can never give us God's solution, it will ultimately only reveal our failure to be obedient. Thus, revealing our sins.

Paul said, the Law revealed to him his sin and he died. Meaning, he had to face the fact that he too was Dead in the power of Sin, proven by his sins.

"What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said,

'YOUSHAL NOT COVET.' But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin *is* dead. I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good." (Romans 7:7-12)

"Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin." (Romans 3:19-20)

With the knowledge of their sins people in the Old Testament were in need of having a way to account for and to be free from the responsibility for their sins. That's what the sacrificial system was about, but they were a set of processes that were to exist as the result of people's trust in and love of God.

The blood shed, however, was a temporary answer. All of the sacrifices that could be obediently made would not alter the course of God's creation that manifested the effects of the power of Sin and Death. Something more permanent was needed. Something so powerful it would be able to set people back on the track of being eternally Alive with God's Life. Just like God originally intended with Adam and Eve.

Since all of life on this earth has been trapped within Sin and Death by its very existence, any life cocreated or procreated can only produce more of what already exists, which is life trapped within Sin and Death.

So, the initial Life that God created was terribly changed to produce more Death instead of God-Life as the Lord intended. There was no way to fix that entire source of cocreation and procreation. The very seed needed to produce life had become a carrier of Sin and Death, and every person was separated from God Who is Life. Death can only beget Death.

The only way to solve this problem was for God to create a new source of Life within the world. The source of life that Adam and Eve originally possessed no longer had the capability to bring True Life, God-Life, to people who were the result of the physical union of a woman and man. So, there had to be another beginning of God-Life in the world.

Now, what did God use to create the first forms of Life? He chose to act through His Word, the Second Person of the Triune God: Father, Word, Spirit; God. So, if God was going to create a new source of God-Life on the earth He was going to use the Second Person of the Triune God again. That is His Word.

If God just spoke this new source of Life into existence on the earth it would be a man with God-Life within Him. That person would simply be another eternally-existing-human-being, and the result would have been another new human source of Life that ended up like Adam and Eve. Trapped, dominated, and a carrier of Sin and Death to any offspring born from this new genealogy.

Humankind, if it has proven anything it has proven our inability to be entrusted with God-Life and to keep it Perfect and Holy in Unity with God Who is Life. So, God had to create an entirely different kind of God-Life, a different kind of Person that could remain obedient to God in every way while on this earth.

There was only one way to do this. God Himself was going to have to be that new Source of Life on the earth.

A human-God-person would have to be the New Person Who provided a new Lineage of Life. This God-man would provide a completely different beginning from Adam and Eve. This God-Solution would provide a new genealogy created by God alone, within a woman who was a virgin.

This New Source of Life, this God-man could only keep this new Life source Holy and Righteous through perfect obedience to God the Father. Then it would be from this New-Word-Life-Source that new seed would bring forth new Life within people already on this earth.

Let's look at John chapter 1 verses 1-18:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."

"There came a man sent from God, whose name was John [*the Baptist*]. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light."

"There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John [*the Baptist*] testified about Him and cried out, saying, 'This was He of whom I said, "He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me."' For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him." [*Italics added for clarity of speaker*]

God could only fix the problem by becoming a human-being and solving this problem Himself on our behalf; in our place. Only God is Life, so only God can give Life. He did this by giving Himself to create a new lineage of Life-potential within the world.

Now how could He do this at a practical level. Yes, we know that the Word of God came into the world as a baby born in a manger in the town of Bethlehem, but how did that happen?

A New Life Source

Most of us just grab that as part of God's truth and go with it choosing to ask God for forgiveness and to live eternally with God in Heaven. And just like that we miss the point of how God did this and why He solved the problem in this specific way.

First, let's understand that the baby that would be created by God could not be the result of a man and woman coupling. Why? Because, as we've said, all the seed of humankind was a carrier of Sin and Death.

If God was going to create a sustaining form of His-Life then the person who would contain this new instance of God-Life could not have anything to do with Sin within his thoughts, words, speech, the physical body, or the use of his body. That's why the birth of Jesus had to be the birth of a baby created directly by God within the womb of a virgin.

Anyone who challenges the virgin birth of the Messiah must be devoid of this understanding or trying to ignore this great Truth to satisfy some personal agenda. Sorry, but there simply isn't the possibility of a man being involved due to what has already been explained.

The seed of any man would have made Sin retain dominion over the person who would exist within that body. A man's involvement was simply impossible given how God decided to solve the problem of eternal separation of humankind from Him. Hopefully that's clear enough for all of us.

So, God chose a woman who was a virgin. Her name was Mary. Using an angel, the Lord delivered the message to Mary that she had been chosen, and the Holy Spirit of God created the Person we know as Jesus within her womb.

How did this happen? Well it seems probably one of two ways. The Holy Spirit implanted the Word of God, Who was and is Life, into an egg of Mary's and the Person of Jesus, God incarnate, began to develop physically.

Another approach might be to suggest that the Holy Spirit implanted the Word of God within the womb of Mary who essentially acted as a surrogate for God. Then the body of Jesus developed within Mary's womb prior to His birth.

For those wondering why this is mentioned, it's to be able to say, "If we needed to know this then more specifics would have been provided within the New Testament. So, it's not important.

Regardless, since the Eternal-Being within the body of Jesus was God Himself, Second Person of the Trinity, the Word of God did indeed become flesh and lived among us. So, Jesus was born without any impact of the power of Sin in any way. Satan had no right to claim dominion over any aspect, element, or energy that constituted the Person Jesus. Truly He was the Son of God.

To read the related Scriptures that provide the record of the conception and birth of Jesus refer to the following: (Matthew 1, 2; Luke 1, 2; John 1:1-18)

Please pay attention to this thought:

What we miss that is phenomenally amazing is this:

In order for God to do what we just described God changed His actual form of His continued eternal existence forever!

Now maybe it's just me, but this humbles me into a puddle of mush. That God considered us important enough to change how He would exist for the rest of eternity just hits me like a long-line of hug earth-

moving trucks. Boom-Boom-Boom-etc., etc. And with each one my amazement just increases exponentially. My fingers can't type this without tears filling my eyes..."Father!"

Okay....for the rest of eternity God will exist as Father, First Person of the Trinity, Who exists in whatever form He chooses. At least that's my assumption.

God also exists as the Person Jesus, in the form of His Heavenly body that followed the human form of His body when He Lived on the earth; the Word of God; Second Person of the Trinity.

While my assumption is this change will endure through eternity, we see His appearance may change some as He comes to earth within the book of Revelation. My understanding, however, is that His form remains recognizable as the Person Jesus Who was once one of us on this earth.

God also exists as the Holy Spirit, Third Person of the Trinity, Who exists as Spirit, but can probably be present in whatever form He chooses. Again an assumption of mine.

The Word of God, as the Person Jesus, continues to bare the marks of the nails in His feet and hands, and from the spear thrust into His side. These are marks of God's miraculous solution that stands out as perhaps the greatest event in the history of the world, and perhaps all of eternity.

Forever, God as the Person Jesus will have the marks of His immense suffering that will demonstrate how much God Loves us!! Absolutely amazing....forever...the Son of God...our Savior...

Sorry that took so long for me to get through. Now what else can we note about the birth of Jesus? Some of us may be wondering when we will review all of the prophetic events, people, and teachings in the Old Testament that point to this miraculous answer to eternal Sin and Death. These extend, for me, from Genesis 1 to the end of Revelation 22.

Over and over again the Old Testament holds prophecies about Jesus the Messiah. Of course, there is some variation in the number among scholars. The range goes from 350+ to 420+. The time period over which these prophecies were stated is at least from the temptation in the Garden of Eden to the birth of Jesus. So, who do you want to believe about time? Hey, it's a really, really long time. My suggestion is it's something over 4,000 years. The time period over which the Old Testament of the Bible was written is thought to be from about 1450 B.C. to 400 B.C.

So, relating to the prophecies of the Messiah the time period was about 1050 years. The Old Testament was written by 26 to 32 different authors...Scholar's opinions differ again, which is OK. The point is a large number of people wrote the books of the Old Testament over a very long period of time. What other book do you know about that has that kind of pedigree and still has the unanimity, accuracy, and consistent story line, with up to 420+ prophecies about the birth of a person up to 1450 years before it happened?

It's worth taking some time and looking up the interesting facts about the Bible to come up with your own numbers. The Bible is by its very existence a miracle of immense proportions. Another indication of how much God Loves all of us.

Clearly, this book "The Essence of Our Faith" is not the place to attempt to cover all these references in any form beyond some numbers. In my opinion people spend way too much time trying to ferret-out, or

somehow manufacture areas of mystery, possible conflict, or attempt to use the same to support some crazy idea that in turn supports their ideology.

There's nothing of this type that's ever come across my review that didn't have a perfectly normal explanation once examined, or was proven not to exist at all, which was the case nearly all the time. The manufactured stuff, in my opinion, is a waste of time.

It's amazing to me how much time people spend trying to dig up an answer to something that from a relationship perspective simply doesn't matter. They get all twisted-up-in-their-head over something that has nothing to do with how they can best strive to enjoy a deeply intimate, Love-filled relationship with God.

One more comment then I'll jump off my soapbox. [Laughing Out Loud....because it was necessary for me to grab this sentence and move it down here....but this really is the last comment]

If any of us wrote a long love letter meant to help a large family understand how we think, what we love, and how to have a wonderful relationship together with us, what would we want them to do with it. Read it?...Yep, good start.

Now what? Do their best to enter into that relationship with us, using our love letter as a guide and exploring it together with us, while coming together having a fabulous time living together? Or would we rather they spend a lot of time disagreeing over what we meant in the letter, trying to figure out all the possibilities, taking different positions so strongly that the family divides, all while seeking to develop a set of guidelines on how to have a successful relationship with us? Enough said.

How Jesus Lived

Next, we could go through the history of Jesus as recorded in the first four books of the New Testament and try to understand the key points of His Life. We'll do some of that, but it will be covered later as we explore how to Live with Jesus.

Right now, we're going to focus on what makes Jesus the answer to the main problem we've explored. That takes us to this statement:

Jesus never committed one sinful thing during His entire existence on this earth. He was sinless. Even the smallest infraction against the will of His Father in Heaven and He would have been totally unable to be the source of a new kind of God-Life to be used for new creations in the world.

Without perfection this second God-Life source would be just like every other man with His life potential being a carrier of the power of Sin and Death. "Praise God, Thank You Jesus for remaining totally obedient!" Something that none of us could ever do.

One way to express this is:

- Adam could sin and did sin
- All of us can sin and will sin
- Jesus could sin but never sinned

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond - servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5-8)

So, the next thing to look at is how Jesus functioned while He was here. Again, not what He did, but How He did it. That brings us to the verse above, which also supports what we were considering together.

- “although He existed in the form of God”
- “did not regard equality with God” something to be maintained
- “but emptied Himself....in the likeness of men”
- He came as “a bond-servant” to God His Father
- “He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Just as John wrote “the Word was with God, and the Word was God”, includes the point of the Word existing in the same form as God had existed forever. That references God’s existence eternally prior to the event of the Word beginning Life on this earth in the womb of the virgin Mary. The Word, the Second Person of the Trinity, chose to change His existence in several ways.

1. He changed His form of existence to become like a human being
2. He gave up His Authority as God to do whatever He wanted in Unity with the Trinity.
 - Instead He emptied Himself of His Godly rights and accepted the role of a man, similar to how Adam existed prior to committing sins. The key difference being that the Word would be existing as a perfect man, who could commit sins, within a Sin filled world under the dominion of Satan.
 - He would be able to always know what His Father wanted to do with Him and say to others with Him. But unlike Adam that knowledge was not naturally instantaneous. In other words, acquired without effort. Jesus had to rely on the Holy Spirit to lead Him in everything. Since Jesus was living within a Sin filled world His constant communion with His Heavenly Father would be consistently challenged. This means the experience of Jesus was similar to ours only more difficult because any small misstep would destroy His ability to be Eternal Life for all of humankind.
 - His Father in Heaven had the right to expect absolute obedience because Jesus came as a bond-servant.
 - A bond-servant could be owned by another person, or voluntarily enter into a bound-relationship in which the expectations of their obedience would have been the same for both types of servants. So, in this case it means Jesus was supposed to serve His Father without failure every moment. His Heavenly Father had the right to expect that level of obedience, otherwise there would be eternal catastrophic repercussions.
3. Even though Jesus was existing in unity with God within the conditions above, He could at any time take His own path if, as Adam did, Jesus chose to take control of His own existence on this earth and not be 100% obedient to His Father in every way.
 - Instead of taking control of anything Jesus humbled Himself and was dependent upon His Heavenly Father for everything.
 - He was obedient even when Jesus’ obedience was taking Him to a shameful, horrendous process of physical death by crucifixion, and Death from the attacks of Satan’s full power with the full effects of the power of Sin and Death. To disobey in the smallest

way would be the greatest tragedy that could occur certainly for Jesus as the Son of God, but also a tragedy for every human-being born into this world.

What had to happen is the following:

- Jesus needed to remain totally obedient as we've seen above
- Jesus as one of us could act on behalf of every member of humankind legitimately
- Jesus as the Word-God was God-Life and therefore brought God-Life into the world as an entirely new source of God-Life potential.
- Jesus as that New Source of God-Life would need to retain all of His-Life-Potential to be used to bring unity between God-Life--Himself, and each of us [eternally-existing-spirit-persons]. He would become Eternal Life available for every person that existed, or would exist within every human body cocreated until the God-given creative process between God, and men and women on this earth ends.
 - This means, among other things, that Jesus never engaged in any cocreative processes as a man on this earth. He couldn't because that was not what His Father in Heaven wanted Him to do.
 - Presumably, if He did then the resulting person would possess God-Life but would ultimately lose it as Adam did because that person would not be God. Also, the entire potential genealogy that could come from Jesus would be destroyed as a solution to Sin and Death.
 - Jesus was not here to create an earthly kingdom of a new race of people to establish Himself as the supreme ruler. Satan tempted Him with that and other temptations during the period of forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness. (Luke 4:1-13)
 - So, His physical seed was maintained within His body so it could be transformed into a type of Spiritual Seed within the ascended Jesus, following His death and resurrection. (cf. 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 3:9)
- Jesus would need to be the Holy Sacrifice for the entire human race. An animal could not serve in this role. No perfect animals existed on the earth. No animal could fill this role because this wasn't a substitutional process where an animal could be used as a way to seek God's forgiveness. Jesus would totally replace any sacrificial system. He alone could serve as God's sacrifice in the world, for all of humanity. Not to seek God's forgiveness of sins, but to utterly destroy the power of Sin and Death, and any sins committed on this earth by people. Jesus was not here to somehow placate God, but to be God's Perfect Source of God-Life that could not be touched by Satan or affected by the sinful behavior of people ever again. This was accomplished through Jesus as a finished work, absolutely complete in every way. The choice to be set free from Sin and Death and have the destruction of sins applied to any person, would be their choice. They need only receive God's gift of the New-Jesus-Life created by God through Jesus Christ. Jesus became this New-Eternal-Life by His Death, burial, and Resurrection.
- Jesus was to shed His blood as the Eternal Sacrifice because blood is that which contains the life of a person. So, Jesus was not just killed. His death was indeed a bloody business, and His shed blood proved that His Life was given to potentially set all people free of all guilt and responsibility for their sins. Again, it would be their choice to receive this freedom or not.
- Jesus was not here to become the hero-warrior who was stronger than Satan-Sin-Death so it could be kept from controlling the eternal destiny of people. Jesus came to earth to become Sin on our behalf, so that the power of Sin could be utterly destroyed by the Resurrected-God-Life

that Jesus became. By Jesus becoming Sin and allowing Satan-Sin-and-Death to cause His Death and then conquering Sin and Death (Satan) by His Resurrection, Jesus used Satan to destroy Satan's own dominion over all of humankind. The Eternal-Word, Jesus, was given the authority to overcome Sin and Death through His Resurrection by God. (John 2:18-22)

- Jesus needed to accept full responsibility for all the sins committed, or that would ever be committed by any person that ever existed, or would ever exist on the earth as a human-being.
- Jesus needed to pay the complete price that God's Justice could ever demand to be paid for all of the sins committed by any person ever, from the beginning to the end of the world.
- Jesus' suffering not only had to include everything mentioned thus far, but He also had to bear all the guilt and shame that could be related to all the sins of all people, for all time. His death could not be seen by the world as the tragic death of a hero-martyr, but as God-man-Jesus giving Himself to be put to death by His own Hebrew people through a miscarriage of what His people called justice.
- Jesus needed to be transformed into a form of God-Life that could never be touched by Satan, Sin or Death ever again.

Jesus accomplished all of this and much more while He existed on this earth, died by crucifixion, was buried and arose from the grave. He continues to serve in this capacity today at the right-hand of His Father, and by dwelling within us by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. All of this and more while He is awaiting the time when He shall return to this earth again.

So, How Did God Go About Doing All This for Us?

As we've seen the existence of this Person had to be accomplished by God within the womb of a virgin woman who was Mary, the mother of Jesus. This was not an event within the history of the world. It was an advent that cannot be accounted for within the realm of humanity.

Many of us know this, but as a virgin about to be married there were huge cultural issues with Mary becoming pregnant before marriage to her husband Joseph. The people of His community that remained alive during the life of Jesus on this earth would not have forgotten that he was a child born out of wedlock. Sorry to say this, but those people most likely thought of this in terms that were more harsh, and that demonstrated the cruelty of people's attitudes toward Mary and her son Jesus.

Maybe it's just me but it is easy to imagine someone from Jesus' hometown thinking when He was crucified, "Well, I knew nothing good would come from him, just consider how his life started outside of marriage. Too bad he ended up being crucified, but it's not much of a surprise." Surely just a speculative use of my imagination, but it just jumps out at me like a sore thumb.

It is not unusual for God to approach things 180° differently than the way people would think He should. For Jesus it might have been similar to what we sometimes call "starting out with three strikes against you."

Then the miraculous birth of Jesus happened within a set of miraculous circumstances. Most may know this story well, but if you need to read it, or remember it, refer to the following: Matthew 1; 2; Luke 1; 2. We'll look at how God accomplished what was necessary, through scriptures of events in Jesus' life, key things that He said, and Truths we need to understand. Still it is a small collection. To pass up many other scriptures is difficult for me, but it's what needs to be done at this time.

What the Scriptures Say

Next are a very few Scriptures that it seems should be included here, with some comments from me::

“Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, ‘You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.’” (Luke 3 :21-22)

- Jesus was obedient to the desires of His Father always. Here Jesus humbles Himself before John the Baptist, acknowledging that John’s mission was from God, and after being baptized Jesus receives the Holy Spirit demonstrating His dependence upon His Father for everything, and confirming Who He was in a manner to be witnessed within the world by others before He went to be tested in the wilderness. This does not mean the Holy Spirit was not in Jesus prior to His baptism. While Jesus emptied Himself as a God-man He is was totally Unified with God the Father and Holy Spirit at this time, yet totally dependent upon Them for everything.

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him,…” (Matthew 4:1-3a)

- Note that the Scriptures tell us that Jesus was led by the Spirit. He didn’t just go into the wilderness because it was the right thing to do. He was depending upon the Holy Spirit for leadership, and would depend upon the Spirit for all things while Living upon the earth.

“Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’

“Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?’ Jesus answered, ‘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. Do not be amazed that I said to you, “You must be born again .” The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.’”

“Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can these things be?’ 10 Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.’”

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” (John 3:1-17)

- Being born again by the Spirit of God is not symbolic of our salvation in Christ. We are saved by actually being born spiritually by the power of the Holy Spirit, for the first time being Truly Alive with Jesus-Life in us. We become a new creation in Jesus the Christ.

“Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.’”

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” (John 5:19-24)

- Again, Jesus acknowledges His dependence upon His Heavenly Father Who is present with Him at all times. Jesus is explaining to people how He knows what to do and say, so they would know that all He does comes from God. Jesus will one day Judge all. Everyone who accepts Jesus’ words, trusting what Jesus said was straight from God, and allowing their meaning to become a part of who they are by receiving Jesus-Life will pass from Death into Life. The Words of Jesus are to be experienced, not just acknowledged as being the truth. Knowing God is an experience not just agreement with what Jesus teaches. Anyone who truly receives the Words of God, will be choosing to receive Jesus-Life, the Word of God, and will right then pass from Death to Life. We only consider this as happening when we physically die. Jesus was talking about something real that would happen while people were still existing on the earth once they receive Him.

“I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” (John 5:30)

- Similar as above.

“He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.” (John 12:48-50)

- Again, telling people how He knows what to say. His Words come straight from God. Advising them that they should pay attention to His Words because they have an eternal impact.

“Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.’” (John 14:9-11)

- Here is a clear and distinct teaching by Jesus about His Oneness with His Heavenly Father, which clearly implies that He is God, but exists here as an obedient servant of His Father. So, much so

that He acknowledges that the power demonstrated through Him is not His own but is from His Father in Heaven. This moves our understanding of Jesus' dependence upon His Father to an even greater degree.

"Martha then said to Jesus, 'Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to Him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.'" (John 11:21-27)

- As with each of these verses, so much could be written. Jesus very clearly stated that He is the Resurrection and the Life. That's Who He is, not just something He will do. It's important to note what Jesus says next about death and life. Anyone who believes, fully receives the complete meaning of His Words, will Live again even if they die physically. Next, He adds that everyone who accepts Him, thus His Life, will be truly Alive, thus they will never Die even though their body dies. This demonstrates Jesus' awareness of the world's view of life and death, and the difference between that and God's Truth, which Jesus was in the Flesh.

Realize this: If we exist on this earth, we are Dead, because we are dominated by Sin and Death. If we physically die while we are still Dead, because we've never received Jesus-Life, then we will be Dead forever. If, on the other hand, we do receive Jesus-Life while we exist on the earth, then when we physically die, we will just keep on Living in and with Jesus, and because we have been freely given oneness with Jesus Who is Life.

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.'

'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.'" (John 14:16-20)

- Really, really brief... Jesus is telling His followers that after His death and resurrection he will send the Holy Spirit Who will be in them forever. He will become a part of them forever because the Spirit will not just be with them, He will be inside their eternally-Living-person. Jesus will not only send the Holy Spirit but they will know Jesus Who will be forever in His Heavenly Father (they are One), we will exist within Jesus (we will be one with Jesus Who will be everywhere present around us), and Jesus will also exist within us. (Jesus will be one within us forever)

"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 15:5)

- Just as Jesus was dependent upon His Heavenly Father for everything, we are to be dependent upon Jesus for everything. Jesus is our example because He emptied Himself before being placed within the womb of Mary. Jesus was and is God, but while on this earth He had to be obedient to God in every way without committing any sins. What we cannot do Jesus did. He Lived as a sinless person through obedience to His Father. If we receive Jesus-Life, however, we

too can be obedient in every way to God within our oneness with Jesus. Yes, the possibility exists. It's just that none of us do this with any consistency after we are one with Jesus and have the Holy Spirit within us to help us. This will never be done during our walk with Jesus while we are on this earth unless we believe it can be done. (more later)

“But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, “Where are You going?” But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.’

‘I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.’” (John 16:5-15)

- Aren't these Scriptures amazing?!... It's so interesting that Jesus told His followers that it's better for them to each have the Holy Spirit within them, then it is to have Jesus physically with them on this earth. Many people have said within my hearing that they wish they could have been a follower of Jesus while He was on this earth. Now we know that we are better off to have the Holy Spirit within us then to have been with Jesus on this earth. Why would that be the case? We'll discover more about that in following chapters.

It is interesting that the Holy Spirit, within the Lordship of Jesus, will do for us what He and the Father did for Jesus. The Spirit will do this by providing us with what Jesus and the Father want us to know, and what we need to do what Jesus wants to do with us. All of this will serve to glorify Jesus by manifesting Jesus within the world. How amazing it is to work in partnership with Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Father to help other people in this world to know about Jesus, Who He is, and how they can receive Jesus-Life. There is no miracle greater than receiving Jesus-Life that happens on this earth today. To be a part of these miracles of Dead people becoming Alive for the first time should humble us and excite us as nothing else can do.

“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.” (John 17:6-8)

- It would be hard to state this more clearly than Jesus does in this prayer to His Father. Jesus said to His followers exactly the words the Father gave Jesus to say to them. The meaning of His followers receiving Jesus' words from the Father means much more than hearing or listening carefully. It means they allowed the words of Jesus to penetrate their beings, becoming a part of them, with the full respect of Jesus as the Son of God, and with the intent to be obedient.

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.” (John 17:20-21)

- How will the world know that Jesus was and is the Son of God? What will prove this to the world? Read it above and note the answer, carefully and completely.
- Also note that Jesus is praying for every person that will ever receive His Life because of their words, which is the ministry of the followers of Jesus extending from the ministry of those who were with Him at this time. This includes us, and all who would ever receive Jesus-Life.

“The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 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. Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.” (John 17:22-24)

- The glory given to Jesus by the Father included being the messenger from God, the One Who declared the Word of God within the world. It was to manifest Who God really is, what God Thinks, what He values, Why God sent His Son into the world, and how much God Loves everyone. Also, it included telling and showing the world Jesus as the Eternal Way, the Eternal Truth, and the Eternal Life of God, by God having solved the Sin and Death problem that had separated the people from God, and providing the Free Gift of Jesus-Life to them if they believe in Jesus and receive all that He represented.

Also, it is clear that we receive that glory by receiving Jesus into us to be one with us, in the same way that Jesus and His Father were one. Through Jesus' oneness with us we will come to understand and obey God by serving Jesus and the Father faithfully, and one day we will be with Jesus in Heaven.

“Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, ‘Are You the King of the Jews?’ Jesus answered, ‘Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?’ Pilate answered, ‘I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?’ Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.’ Therefore Pilate said to Him, ‘So You are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’ Pilate said to Him, ‘What is truth?’” (John 18:33-38a)

- This passage is shared here as an example of the fact that Jesus was not establishing His kingdom in this world, and why He was here. The interchange between Jesus and this Roman leader is very revealing. Here is a clear example of the difference between God's perspective, and the perspectives of the world. Pilate asks the question, “What is truth?” when the Eternal Truth of God, His Word, stood before him. Never expect the wisdom of the world to help you know God. It will only make you blind to the Truth.

Seven Things Jesus Said on the Cross

To even attempt to review these seven statements of Jesus while on the cross would require an entire book. They are provided here for our consideration with some additional thoughts.

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

Luke 23:34

- Asking for His Father's forgiveness of the people causing Him to be crucified, and those carrying out His crucifixion demonstrates the true nature of God, His Love for us, and the purpose of Jesus with a clarity that cuts across all time, drawing people unto Jesus. Humility is the natural result of Living with God Who is truly amazing, and this act should humble every one of us. We treat this as a piece of information when it is God Himself doing something we can only begin to understand while on this earth. Lord God help us to see as You see, and to experience You fully.

"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:43

- This Jesus said to one of the thieves being crucified with Jesus after he acknowledged the sinlessness of Jesus and unjust punishment He was undergoing. Surely this thief heard Jesus asking His Father to forgive the people and calling God His Father. How much was understood by this thief is not known to us but be sure of one thing it was fully known by Jesus and His Father. Again, it's what the true intent of a person is that matters to God. It is not our place to judge anyone at all as followers of Jesus. We are never given the authority to act in behalf of Jesus in this way, Jesus told us never to judge, and obviously we don't know what is in the heart of a person as God does. This happens so frequently among people who say they are followers of Jesus that it is a travesty. It is an act of evil and is destructive beyond measurement by us.

"Jesus said to his mother: 'Woman, this is your son.'

Then he said to the disciple: 'This is your mother.'"

John 19:26-27

- This is such a tender moment between Jesus and His mother, and John one of His disciples. Here while Jesus is in such terrible pain and suffering He considers the pain, suffering, and needs of His mother. What a demonstration of Love by Jesus! Jesus has cared for His mother, and now He ensures the continued care of His mother by John. Also, He gives John as a son to Mary to help the healing of her loss of Jesus. Just considering this fully can bring a tear to our eyes.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34

- What does this mean?
 - In my mind this question asked while Jesus was suffering on the cross is especially filled with the passion of Jesus. This is the heartbroken pleading of a Son being denied the presence of His Perfect Father. Something that had never been experienced by Jesus before. The sense of being complete as a Person was ripped from His grasp. The Peace God is, even in the midst of turmoil, was torn from His inner-being, thus leaving Him to

face the full burden, shame, and suffering of all the sins of every person in the history and future of the earth.

- Here is a loneliness that goes beyond anything any other person has ever experienced. Why? Because none of us have ever been experientially aware of being absolutely one with God the Father for eternity up to this point. After all Jesus knew what it meant to be the Word of God, the Second Person of the Triune God. The tragedy of this separation could not be borne by any other person in the history of the world.
- Jesus had His Perfect Relationship with His Father, Who had been His everything while living on this earth, stolen from Him by our sins. We should thank God that none of us will ever experience such suffering because Jesus has already done so on our behalf. Those of us who remain Dead on this earth, however, will know absolute separation from God to a degree none of us can imagine. Experience physical death while on this earth we are not just Dead, we become Death forever.
- How can we describe what is perhaps the greatest miracle that could ever occur? As the power of Sin and Death were allowed to bring eternal Death upon and within Jesus, He cries out asking a question for which He clearly had known the answer. He had told His followers and others that He was going to die, and He fully understood the reason for His sacrifice. His death, however, could not be understood by those who followed Him.
 - Now, suddenly, Jesus asks the question, “Why?” While within the grip of Sin and Death Jesus seeks to understand why this is happening to Him. Only Sin can bring such confusion within the mind and heart of Jesus, the Son of God.
 - Probably all of us have been stuck in the middle of a crisis and wondered why this was happening to us. We know what it means to be filled with confusion about our circumstances that brings a sense of helplessness, desperation, sadness and fear. What Jesus experienced was exponentially greater than anything we can know, increased by the number of people who will ever have existed during the existence of the earth.
- For me the mystery of the cross is found within this verse as Jesus is separated from His Heavenly Father for the first time in all of eternity up to this point. So, how can God separate Himself from part of Himself? How can God exist if God the Father and Holy Spirit lose their Unity with the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity? Still God Who is perfect cannot retain a Unity with Sin or sins and remain Perfect. Yet His Perfection had to be retained because God was not just perfect, God is Perfection.
 - One view is that before the moment Jesus bore the Sins of the world the Spirit-Person of Jesus, Who was God’s Son, was separated from the personhood of the man Jesus. Thus, by this process the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit retained His Triune Unity as one God.
 - Obviously, this assumes that God would never, or could never separate His Second Person, Jesus, from Himself and still be God. This assumes it’s not possible for a part of God to become Sin on our behalf, and then be able to reunite after the fact of this occurrence.
 - So, only the man Jesus bore our sins, and died at the hands of Sin and Death, but then the Word-God was reunited with the man Jesus, which is what caused Jesus to resurrect from the dead. In this way the Eternal God Jesus provided a complete solution for people as the God-man Jesus Who was the Son of God.

- From my perspective this is a theological solution to a problem people have created by their own logic, limits God's capabilities according to human logic, and does not provide a sufficient solution to the problem.
- For me it is necessary for Jesus, the complete person consisting of a miraculous human body, the linking soul of Jesus, and the Spirit-Person of Jesus Who was the Second Person of the Triune God, to have retained His unique existence as a complete person when He was separated from His Heavenly Father and the Spirit of God Who remained United.
 - Sure, the logical conflicts that we assume would come into play are known to me. So, how is it that this possibility is being proposed? That's simple. God does not operate within the boundaries of our logic and understanding. We are supposed to Live within God and function within His limitless capabilities of being all powerful, everywhere present, and all-knowing by His essential nature.
 - The idea of the Son of God actually bearing all of the sins of all people for all time, and really becoming Sin on our behalf makes perfect sense. Even the reality of the Son of God being separated from God the Father and Spirit makes sense to me. Just because it isn't clear to me how God could do this it doesn't mean it didn't happen. This just makes the miracle of salvation through Jesus that much more amazing. It really does retain the mystery of the cross, which makes me no less celebratory about the risen Jesus as the Savior of humankind.
 - In my opinion this action by God better retains the integrity of God within this sacrificial process and resurrection of Jesus, born of God from the womb of a virgin name Mary. This means that God as the Person Jesus bore our sins and became Sin on our behalf in a manner that clearly makes Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, a new form of God-Life. To fully redeem us we must be completely redeemed as an eternal-spirit-person united with an eternal soul, existing within a human body. Because Jesus experienced Death completely, we can be a completely redeemed eternal-spirit-person united with an eternal soul, which exists within a human body.
 - From my perspective at this time Jesus as a complete person in this world, but not from this world consisted of three parts.
 - 1) the Eternal-Spirit-Person; the Word of God; the Second Person of the Triune God; which includes an Eternal Mind, Emotions, which also constituted His Eternal Will. His Spirit Person was completely united with His Soul.
 - 2) an Eternally-Existing-Soul that functioned as that which binds together the Eternal-Spirit-Person and the Body of Jesus, functioning as the means through which the Spirit-Person of Jesus related to His body, and the world around Him. His Soul retained direct access to the mind of His Spirit-Person that in turn functioned within the framework and limitations of His human brain. The same was true of Jesus' emotions. These two aspects of the Person Jesus were again what worked together to be expressed as the Will of Jesus. The Will of Jesus, as with us is the result of the ability to make an independent choice, which

happens as a person's mind and emotions works together. This can be the consistent choice of doing the Will of God with God, or anything other than total dependence upon God for everything, which of course would be a sin.

- 3) a body that is united by its use with the Eternal-Spirit=Person of Jesus through His Soul. The body using the capability of the brain functions with the will to survive. The mind and emotions of the spirit-person do have the ability to directly impact the ability of the soul and body to function together. It is possible for our spirit-person and soul to lose the will to continue to exist on this earth resulting in the eventual physical death of our body. This too was possible for Jesus, but never existed within the Person of Jesus in any manner. We do see, however, the body of Jesus excreting drops of blood like drops of sweat due to the mental and emotional stress of knowing the physical death, and Death resulting from becoming Sin and bearing the sins of all humankind. Jesus was not losing His will to Live, He was not giving-up, but rather grieved nearly to the point of physical death Jesus asked if this complete Death could be avoided as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Still He asked that not His will, but the will of His Father be done.
- God now consists of two types of Eternal Life. His original form of God-Life as seen during the creation of the world. The Second is Jesus-Life Who is the Life that has suffered from our sins, and the full affects of Sin and Death. Yet Jesus arose from the Dead Victorious over Satan and free from any claim of dominion within the control of Sin and Death. Therefore, this unique form of Life that Jesus is has the capability to set us free of all our sins, and free of any effects of Sin and Death. Satan is already defeated for all eternity by Jesus, and the Life, Who is Jesus, like-wise gives us this eternal Victory of Jesus over Satan. This means that once we are one with Jesus-Life we are already Victorious over Satan right along with Jesus.
- This is why Jesus holds the complete authority to both give His-Life to each of us that asks for forgiveness and to receive eternal Life, as well as the right to judge any person who rejects the free Gift of God that comes only through Jesus Christ, God's only Son. We must remember, however, that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are One God.

"I thirst."

John 19:28

- Please think about Jesus' visit with the Samaritan women at the well. Jesus told her that anyone who drinks His water will never thirst. Of course, Jesus was talking about the Life He would give to people who believe in Him as Savior and Lord. That conversation, which included this concept of "thirst" make this statement of Jesus stand out all the more. After separation from His Heavenly Father Jesus thirsts for His Father's presence, and the God-Life the Father was for Him. This was a thirst of eternal proportions. The people who end up being separated from God forever will be overwhelmed by this desperate, suffering thirst for God. Truly tragic...

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished;" and he bowed his head and handed over the spirit.

John 19:30

- It seems that Jesus was talking about the price being paid, and His work on earth being completed. Having accomplished the task for which He was sent He now could personally choose to hand over His true spirit Person to His Father in Heaven for His purposes.

Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

Luke 23:46

- Same as above. Also this clearly demonstrates that though Jesus had suffered separation from His Father, which was the result of bearing the sins of all people for all time, thus becoming Sin and suffering Death still Jesus reached out to His Father in Heaven, never having lost His identity and purpose regardless of His separation from God and His terrible suffering.

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

- Here Paul goes beyond the sacrificial purpose of Jesus to bear all of our sins on the cross paying the price for those sins. Paul deals with how Jesus broke the actual power of Sin to claim us in any way by becoming Sin and destroying its power over Jesus-Resurrected-Life as the only source of Life that had been redeemed, reconciled to God, justified, made holy, perfected, free from Satan's dominion completely. Victorious Life, Life that overcomes all barriers to God the Father, Life we could receive as a Free Gift, Life that makes us one with God forever, Jesus-Life!

"So also it is written, 'The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.' The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven." (1 Corinthians 15:45-47)

- This simply states what's already been shared concerning Jesus being like a Second-Adam bringing a new original source of Life into the world from God in Heaven.

"After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body. Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there." (John 19:38-42)

- Jesus was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

"Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.' So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and

came to the tomb first; and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. So the disciples went away again to their own homes.”

“But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. And they said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?’ Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means, Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God. ‘ Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord,’ and that He had said these things to her.” (John 20:1-18)

- Jesus’ resurrection in all of its glory. There is so much here we’ll just keep this simple and move on..

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.” (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

- This serves as a summation of the Gospel message about Jesus. Note especially the statement about Jesus appearing to so many people as part of His appearances after His resurrection from the dead.

“So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.” (Mark 16:19-20)

- People wonder about all kinds of things. Like those heard to ask, “Well if Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God in heaven, then how can He also be in each of us?” This question demonstrates how we sometimes apply our idea of a person on earth to God incorrectly. Jesus can indeed sit at the right hand of God in Heaven, and still enter into us as Eternal-Life Second Person of the Trinity. When Jesus ascended into Heaven He did so as the glorified Christ within His Heavenly body, but also with the capability of God to be everywhere present at the same time. While there’s more than one way for this to be the case any attempt on our part to clearly define how this happens would be speculation. Also it wouldn’t contribute materially to our ability to have an Eternal-Love-filled-relationship with Jesus with us existing in unity with Him and one another. We do know, however, that the Holy Spirit comes into us when we receive the

Life of Jesus, and that the Spirit's presence brings the presence of God within us. God is one, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, so where the Spirit dwells so does the Father and Son; God.

“And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising God.” (Luke 24:50-53)

“And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.’” (Acts 1:9-11)

- In both this and the previous passage we see the followers of Jesus filled with the joy of knowing without any doubt that Jesus Lived! Their joy overflowed into continued worship of Jesus as Lord, both in and out of the temple. Today, we can clearly see the effect of the power of Satan within the church, the body of Christ in the world, due to the absence of joy within some believers unless encouraged with music or some other form of outside stimulus. Christ in us is the hope of glory!

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4)

- Just as Jesus promised His followers in the scriptures above He sent the Holy Spirit who entered into them and became one with their eternally-existing-person and made them truly Alive with Jesus-Life for the first time in their existence. God always keeps His promises. Note that the next verses shared below that confirms the Truth about the Holy Spirit coming into the believer, and the resulting behavior that should be demonstrated by us.

“But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:17-20)

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)

- No comment needed, obviously. Praise God for His glorious work within us through Jesus His Son!! May we each receive this great Truth in its fullness and power.

Getting Ready for Our Relationship With Jesus

We'll look further into some of these scriptures in chapters ahead. Right now, my assumption is we are familiar with several aspects of Jesus' existence on this earth, and His relationship with His Heavenly Father. These are important because they lay the foundation for us about Jesus as a way to have a relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Jesus was and is the solution to the problem. Why? Because the only way to solve the problem of Satan: Sin and Death was for God to take on the responsibility of creating a new lineage of God-Life on the earth. The Word of God became flesh like us.

It was necessary for the Word to come into the world like us with a human body so that our flesh could be redeemed as well as our eternally-existing-person; the real us as a person. Some will ask, "well, if we can exist as a spirit person with a mind, emotions, and will then why worry about a body?"

God did not change His form of existence to do things half-way. When He created Adam and Eve He gave them a body, and as we've considered already He desired us to enjoy His creation in ways that would otherwise be impossible. Also, it provided both God and humankind the ability to enjoy one another within oneness that would not be possible without a body. As much as anything it would provide us the ability to cocreate new eternally-existing-persons in partnership with God.

God did this because this was to be the pinnacle of His creative efforts in all of eternity up to that point in His existence. Please stop thinking about whatever else may be bouncing in and out of our conscious awareness and read this together carefully.

Satan has been very successful in his attack on God's perfect and most special creative manifestation. How so? Besides Satan gaining dominion over everything, we have accepted as truth a perspective that massively lowers our sense of how special each one of us is within the context of eternity.

Someone will think, "Well I don't know about that some people's ego's grow into a delusional idea of importance. How can their idea of self-importance be less than what's accurate?" It is absolutely less because it is based upon an absolute lie. There is nothing accurate about the foundation of their ego, or the delusional heights to which it rises.

Because we are so convinced that our perspective is reality, even though we may know differently, it is extremely difficult for us not to adopt our personally created idea of truth, as the truth. So, while the knowledge may exist, we may never accept the fact that most of the way we approach thinking about ourselves and the world around us is based on a blatant lie from Satan.

We may reject this idea outright, but to view our reality from the perspective of God's Eternal Reality changes most everything. Why? Because God's perspective is based upon Eternal Truth with no impact from Satan's lies at all.

"So, what are we missing?" we may ask. How special we and all of creation really is to God. The power of Sin always works to oppress and diminish our true importance and value to God within our self-perspective and the societies within which we exist.

By adopting and continuing to rely upon the perspectives we learn within the world we can easily miss most of what God wants for us on this earth after we have received Jesus as our Life, Savior, and Lord.

If we can understand the Truth about the Relationship we have become with Jesus, then there is no reason for us to pass up the Holy existence we are in Unity with God, and all of the eternally abundant Life Jesus wants to Live with us right here, right now!