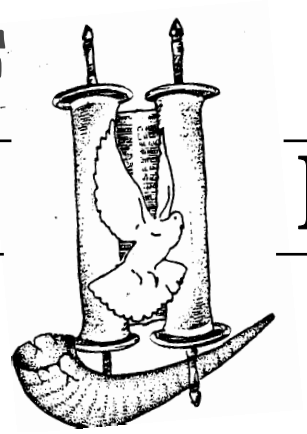
GELOOF FAITH

In Die Woord In The Word



Geloof is uit die gehoor en die gehoor is deur die Woord van God Rom. 10:17

Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Rom. 10:17

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HEILIGHEID DEUR DIE BLOED

Deur die bloed van Jesus is ek geheilig, heilig gemaak en opsy gesit vir God.
Net soos geregtigheid, word heiligmaking nie verkry deur inspanning nie, maar deur die bloed van Jesus. Om geheilig te word is om opsy gesit te word vir God. Ons behoort nou aan God; ons is onder God se beheer en beskikbaar vir Hom. Enigiets wat nie van God is nie, het geen reg om na ons te kom nie; dit word weg gehou deur die bloed.

Die **Vader mag dank wat ons bekwaam gemaak het om deel te hê aan die erfdeel van die heiliges in die lig — Hy wat ons verlos het uit die mag van die duisternis en oorgebring het in die koninkryk van die Seun van sy liefde (Kol. 1: 12 – 13).**

Deur geloof in die bloed van Jesus, is ons verwyder uit Satan se gebied van gesag tot binne-in die koninkryk van God. Die woord "*oorgebring*" beteken "oorgedra van een plek na 'n ander". In die Skrif word die woord gebruik vir 'n volkome oordrag. In die Ou Testament was daar twee mans, Henog en Elia, wat oorgedra is van die aarde na die hemel. Altwee het heeltemal gegaan. Al wat Elia agter gelaat het, was sy mantel, maar sy liggaam was weg.

Soos ek die Skrif verstaan, is dit ook vir ons waar. Ons is volkome oorgebring. Ons *gaan nie oorgebring word nie;* eerder, *ons is oorgebring* – gees, siel en liggaam. Ons is nie langer in die duiwel se gebied en onder sy wette nie. Ons is in die gebied van die Seun van God en onder Sy wette.

Ons is volkome terug gebring deur die bloed van Jesus.
In Romeine lees ons van twee koninkryke, met hulle teenstellende wette in werking. Die duiwel se wet is die wet van sonde en dood; die wet van God se koninkryk is die wet van die Gees van lewe in Christus Jesus. **Want die wet van die Gees van die lewe in Christus Jesus het my vrygemaak van die wet van die sonde en die dood (Rom. 8:2).**

Ons is nie langer in die duiwel se gebied nie, nie langer onder die duiwel se wet nie. Sy koninkryk is nie meer op ons van toepassing nie, omdat ons in 'n ander koninkryk is. Ons is oorgebring, oorgedra – gees, siel en liggaam. Hierdie handeling gebeur deur die bloed van Jesus – geheilig, afgesonder vir God, deur die bloed van Jesus.

Laat ons nou na die implikasies kyk in verband met die liggaam van die gelowige. Ek kan uit ondervinding sê waar dit werklik begin opereer, wanneer ons dit na die gebied van ons fisiese liggame bring. Oordink dit: **Of weet julle nie dat julle liggaam 'n tempel is van die Heilige Gees wat in julle is, wat julle van God het, en dat julle nie aan julself behoort nie? Want julle is duur gekoop. Verheerlik God dan in julle liggaam en in julle gees wat aan God behoort (1 Kor. 6:19-20).**

(Vervolg op bls. 2)

(Vervolg vanaf bls. 1)

Die woorde "duur gekoop" neem ons terug na die tema van verlossing. Ons is terug gekoop uit die hand van die duiwel met die bloed van Jesus. Hoeveel van ons is terug gekoop? Net ons gees? Nee, beide ons gees en liggaam behoort aan God, omdat Jesus die totale prys vir ons verlossing, deur Sy bloed, betaal het.

Sy plan om ons heilig te maak is deur die bloed van Jesus.
Ons weet dat die woord *heiligmaking* verband het met die woord *heilige* en staan in direkte verband met die oorspronklike bybelse tale vir die woord "*heilig*". God het dit beplan dat ons heilig gemaak word.

Heiligheid is 'n unieke eienskap, tussen die ander eienskappe van God. God het baie wonderlike eienskappe – liefde, mag, wysheid ens.- maar al hierdie eienskappe het 'n kwaliteit wat indirek in mense weerspieël word. Ons het liefde van mense ondervind. Ons weet van die wat magtig is. Ons het mense ontmoet wat wys is. Hierdie kenmerke kom natuurlik in 'n baie kleiner maat by mense voor as by God, maar ons weet ten minste wat hierdie kenmerke is. Wanneer ons egter van heiligheid praat, is daar niks waarmee ons dit kan vergelyk nie. God is uitsonderlik heilig.

Heiligheid kan nie buite God gevind word nie. Tot 'n sekere mate kan jy meet hoe goed jy God ken deur hoeveel jy van heiligheid weet. Ek verklaar dit as volg: Ons dank God vir Sy goedheid, ons prys God vir Sy grootheid, maar ons Aanbid God vir Sy heiligheid. *Aanbidding* is die reaksie op die heiligheid van God.

Die inwonende Heilige Gees: *My liggaam is 'n tempel van die Heilige Gees; verlos, gereinig deur die bloed van Jesus.*
'n Baie kenmerkende aanduiding van persoonlikheid is die vermoë om te praat. Met Pinkster, toe die Heilige Gees uit die hemel neergedaal het, het Hy in "*ander tale*" deur die dissipels gepraat **(Hand. 2:4).** Hierdeur het Hy te kenne gegee dat Hy gekom het, as 'n Persoon, om Sy woonplek op aarde in te neem. Hy is nou die permanente, persoonlike verteenwoordiger van die Godheid wat op die aarde bly.

Vanaf Pinkster tot nou; elke keer wanneer die Heilige Gees kom om Sy verblyf as 'n Persoon in die liggaam van 'n gelowe in te neem, is dit toepaslik dat Hy Sy teenwoordigheid bewys deur uit die gelowige te spreek in 'n nuwe taal wat bonatuurlik gegee is. Wat Hy eintlik sê is:"Nou weet jy dat ek as 'n Persoon hier is om in jou liggaam te woon."

Om hierdie rede sê Paulus in **1 Kor. 6:19: " Of weet julle nie dat julle liggaam 'n tempel is van die Heilige Gees?"** Hy beklemtoon dat om in tale te spreek nie slegs 'n kort, bonatuurlike ondervinding is nie; dit is meer as dit dit is 'n God gegewe teken dat die Heilige Gees, as 'n Persoon, in die gelowige se liggaam woon, wat dit 'n heilige tempel maak. Hierdie waarheid plaas 'n ernstige verantwoordelikheid op elke gelowige om sy liggaam in 'n toestand van heiligheid te hou wat geskik is vir God se tempel.

My liggaam: Die Here se Tempel.
Maar die Allerhoogste woon nie in tempels wat met hande gemaak is nie, soos die profeet sê:
Die hemel is my troon en die aarde die voetbank van my voete. Watter soort huis sal julle vir My bou, sê die Here, of hoedanig is die plek van my rus?
Het my hand nie al hierdie dinge gemaak nie? (Hand. 7:48-50).

God woon nie in 'n tempel wat deur hande gebou is nie, maar deur goddelike werking, volgens goddelike doel. Daardie tempel is die liggaam van die gelowige, verlos deur die bloed van Jesus Christus. Soos Paulus verduidelik in **1Kor.6:13: Die voedsel is vir die maag, en die maag is vir die voedsel, maar God sal die een sowel as die ander tot niet maak. En die liggaam is nie vir hoerery nie, maar vir die Here; en die Here vir die liggaam.** In Spreuke staan: **Die regverdige eet totdat hy versadig is (Spr.13:25).** Ons wat regverdig is ooreet ons nie. Waarom nie? Omdat ons liggame die Here se tempel is en ons moet ons nie bevlek deur gulsigheid, dronkenskap, onsedelikheid of enige ander vorm van misbruik nie. Die liggaam is vir die Here en die Here is vir die liggaam. Wanneer ek my liggaam aan die Here skenk, dan het ek die regte van die Here vir my liggaam.

God se eiendom.
Die Bybel sê dat ons God moet verheerlik in beide ons liggame en gees (sien **1 Kor.6:20**), want altwee behoort aan God. Altwee is verlos uit die hand van die duiwel deur die bloed van Jesus. Geen deel van my - gees, siel

(Vervolg op Bl. 3)

en liggaam - is onder die heerskappy of beheer van Satan nie.

Laat ek dit duidelik stel dat ek nie 'n opgewekte liggaam het nie, maar'n stoflike liggaam. Maar daardie stoflike liggaam - al sy vesels, selle en weefsels - is God se eiendom nie die duiwel s'n nie. Indien die duiwel die terrein betree, is hy 'n oortreder. Deur die toepassing van ons regte in Jesus, kan ons 'n uithangbord opsit "GEEN OORTREDER". Wettiglik behoort ons liggame nie aan die duiwel nie, maar aan Jesus wat 'n spesiale doel vir hulle het. Hulle moet plekke wees vir die persoonlike verblyf van die derde Persoon van die Godheid, die Heilige Gees. Ons liggame is heilig omdat hulle die vasgestelde verblyfplek van die Heilige Gees is.

Die Skrif sê baie keer duidelik dat God nie in tempels woon wat deur hande gemaak is nie (sien bv. **Hand.7:48**). Hy bly ook nie in kerkgeboue, kapelle, sinagoges of ander huise van aanbidding nie. Hy bly in Sy mense.

Skatkis

Terwyl ons planne verbreek en elke skans wat opgewerp word teen die kennis van God, en elke gedagte gevange neem tot die gehoorsaamheid aan Christus (2 Kor. 10:5)

Ons gedagtes vorm ons. Dit bepaal ons optrede en handelswyse. Die vyand van ons siel weet dit baie goed. As hy onkruid kan plant om die Woord te versmoor, sal hy dit doen. As hy onkruid kan plant wat soos koring lyk om ons te verwar en te mislei, sal hy dit ook doen. Ons is egter nie hulpeloos en onder sy genade nie, want Jesus het reeds die geveg gewen en hom aan die kruis oorwin.

Ons ken die waarheid van God se Woord op ons vingerpunte. Elke belofte en bevel is daar om ons te bevry van die vyand se strik en ons oorvloedige lewe te gee, ons moet egter optree!

Wanneer "slegte saad" gedagtes in jou denke kom moet dit weerstaan word met die "swaard van die Gees" en dit onmiddellik kort geknip word. Om dit te vertroetel is kunsmis wat sal uitloop op verkeerde oortuigings en dan die daaropvolgende gevolge, Ons gedagtes moet in lyn kom met die denke van Christus en wanneer hulle weerspreek wat Jesus gesê het, moet hulle gaan. **As die Seun julle dan vrygemaak het, sal julle waarlik vry wees (8:36).**

Prys God vir die krag in Sy Woord wat die vyand onder ons voete vertrap.

Laat ons aan Sy waarheid vashou, dan sal ons vry wees.

UIT ONS KANTOOR

Geliefdes in Jesus,

Fil. 4:6: Wees oor niks besorg nie, maar laat julle begeertes in alles deur gebed en smeking met danksegging bekend word by God.

My vriend, God wil nie hê dat jy vreesagtig, ergerlik of angstig moet wees nie. Inteendeel Hy wil hê dat **"jy oor niks besorg moet wees nie, maar laat julle begeertes in alles deur gebed en smeking met danksegging bekend word by God."**

Wanneer jy dus 'n sorg of bekommernis het, verander dadelik daardie sorg of bekommernis na 'n gebed. Dit is smeking. Wanneer jy 'n sorg of bekommernis het waarvoor jy nie weet hoe om te bid nie, bid in die Gees of tale. In daardie gebed, dank God dat Hy reeds jou genesing, sukses en oorwinning is. Dit, geliefde is danksegging.

Hoe lank behoort ek te bid as ek oor iets bekommerd is? Hou aan met bid. Bid in die Gees totdat die bekommernis lig of verdwyn, "en die vrede van God, wat alle verstand te bowe gaan, sal julle harte en julle sinne bewaar in Christus Jesus (Fil. 4:7).

Geliefdes, julle is vir ons van onskatbare waarde en ons het julle lief en bid gereeld vir julle. Baie dankie vir julle ondersteuning deur gebede, emails, oproepe en finansies, want sonder julle sal ons nie die Woord vanuit die Sentrum kan versprei nie. Ons bid dat God julle in Sy liefde sal toevou, beskerm, genees en seën.

Liefdegroete

Meg en die Gebedspan

KENNISGEWING

Ons het 'n lys beskikbaar van boeke en Cd's met hul pryse. Indien u meer inligting verlang oor wat beskikbaar is of 'n bestelling wil plaas, kontak ons asseblief sodat ons die lys na u kan E-pos. Dit het ook volledige inligting hoe om 'n bestelling te plaas, bank inligting ens.

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WE NEED NOT FEAR DEATH

The underlying fear, regarding all fears, is usually the fear of death, so when we overcome this ultimate fear, we will gain victory over the other related fears. Consider the fear of flying in a plane – it is basically fear of an accident that will cause death. Again, consider the fear of swimming in the sea, death by drowning is the cause of the fear. Fear of sickness and disease, is none other than the fear of eventual death through the illness. And fear of the darkness relates to fear of the unknown which holds the threat of death. Satan is well aware of this fact and will use it to its fullest extent if we allow him to do so. However we can overcome this particular fear, because as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we know that He has overcome death, hell and the grave and He lives for evermore. Jesus is the Head of the Body of Christ, and He is resurrected and alive, therefore we as part of His Body, have resurrection life, and will live with Him for all Eternity!

The child of God KNOWS that Jesus has triumphed over death and so he has no reason whatsoever to fear death. So, if he does not need to fear death, then he does not need to fear ANYTHING ELSE either.

We read in Rev 1:17,18 – "The He (Christ) **placed His right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One. I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."** The resurrected **Jesus assures us in this passage of scripture NOT TO BE AFRAID**. Not to be afraid of what? Not to be afraid of DEATH because He has triumphed over death and we therefore HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR. He has already conquered death on our behalf. **O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? (1 Cor. 15:55)**

Paul, speaking of God and our calling in Him and His plan of salvation for us through Jesus Christ, says in **2 Tim 1:9-10: Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, WHO HATH ABOLISHED DEATH, AND HATH BROUGHT LIFE AND IMMORTALITY to light through the gospel:**

In God's plan of redemption for man, He sent sinless, perfect Jesus from Heaven to Earth, to become a living human sacrifice to make atonement for the sin of man. He was the perfect, once and for all time sacrifice, that God would accept for the reconciliation of sinful mankind, thus making our salvation possible. We read of this one time sacrifice in Hebrews: By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all.* And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, (Jesus) **after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; (Heb 10:10-12)**

For this reason, Jesus had to be fully man and fully God, He was God in the flesh paying the price for man whom He had created. He was 100% God and 100% man. The Scripture tells us that for this to be accomplished, a body was prepared for Him in order for it to be sacrificed on our behalf.**(Heb 10:5) Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared Me:** Jesus shared in our humanity in order to pay the price for our sin that we could never pay. We were destined to die in our sin, but Jesus made it possible for us to have Eternal life through believing in Him, and therefore we need never fear death ever. We read this in **Heb 2:14-15 : "Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil – AND FREE THOSE WHO ALL THEIR LIVES WERE HELD IN SLAVERY BY THEIR FEAR OF DEATH."**

FEAR OF DEATH IS A FORM OF SLAVERY but, in Jesus Christ, God freed His children from this slavery because in Jesus Christ we never die, but LIVE ETERNALLY. This is what the Word of God assures us! If we have Jesus living within us by His Holy Spirit, then we have Eternal Life, because HE IS ETERNAL LIFE! We read in 1 John 5:11-13:And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. **Have you received Jesus as your Saviour and Lord? Then God assures you that YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, because it is in His Son Jesus. You have nothing to fear. Satan KNOWS the instant that we no longer fear death, and then he is no longer able to taunt us with fear of any kind. When the devil realises that we** know **that we have the victory over the WORST FEAR that he can use against us,(because of our faith in God's Word which promises), he knows that his hold over us has been broken. He knows that we know that we have eternal life and therefore no longer does the thought of death cause fear within us. When you accepted Jesus as Saviour and Lord of your life, you prayed the prayer of salvation according to Romans 10:9: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.** God raised Jesus from the dead, hallelujah! You must believe and confess that God raised Jesus from the dead as part of your confession of salvation. If you do not believe that Jesus, after dying, was buried **and raised from the dead**, you cannot be saved.

You must believe that He was raised from the dead, as part of your confession of salvation. Believing in the resurrection is vital to your salvation. We read this truth in **1 Co 15:14: And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain.1 Co 15:17: And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins.**

The resurrection of Jesus is our guarantee that we, who are united with Him by faith, will also be resurrected as He was. He, the Head, has already come forth. We the body, will follow in due season. Jesus promised in **John 14:19…. because I live, ye shall live also.** His life is our life.

Paul, in writing to the Corinthian Church, says in **1Co 15:3-8: For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, He was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all He was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.** Jesus appeared to Paul as the living, risen Christ on the road to Damascus when Paul was called into the service of the Lord. And Luke says the following in the book of Acts: The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which He was taken up, after that He through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom He had chosen: To whom also He shewed Himself ALIVE after His passion (suffering death upon the cross) **by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: (Act 1:1-3)** It is an historical fact that Jesus was seen by numerous people after His resurrection, people who could witness to Him being alive after He had died and was buried. This passage of scripture says that He appeared to His disciples over a period of forty days after He had been pronounced dead. At the moment of Jesus' death, the temple veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies, was torn in two indicating that Jesus had made it possible for us to enter right into the very presence of God because of His Blood sacrifice. At the time of His resurrection, others also rose from the dead. **And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. (Matt. 27:51-53)** These Old Testament saints who were resurrected, were those captives who could only be released from their place of holding, after Jesus had completed His total work of salvation. Now righteous believers no longer have to go to a place of waiting after death, but are immediately "present with the Lord" **(2 Cor. 5:8) We are confident, *I say,* and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

When Jesus spoke to Martha at the tomb of her brother Lazarus, who had already been dead for four days , we read in **John 11:23-26: Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto Him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?** I ask you this same question today. Do you believe this? If your answer is "Yes!", as it should be, then you have no reason to fear death. Absent from the body means being present with the Lord.

Jesus became our life when we gave our life to Him, we became born again of the Spirit of God, a new creature in Christ Jesus by the power of God the Father. Your spirit and mine became alive within us. Jesus said to Nicodemus in **John 3:3-7…. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* 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. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. This was the purpose of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. He is now our inner source of Eternal Life. Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1Pet. 1:3)**

Ecclesiastes, puts it in a nut shell, we read in chapter 12 and verse 7**: Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.** And when Stephen was being stoned to death for his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, he committed his spirit into the Lord's hands. We read in **Act 7:55-60 But he** (Stephen)**, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God,* and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.** And **His spirit went to be with the Lord.**

When Jairus approached Jesus, asking Him to come and heal his sick daughter, we see that on the way to minister to her, news came to say that she had died, and we read in **Luke 8:49-56: While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's *house,* saying to him, Thy**

daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. But when Jesus heard *it,* He answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole. And when He came into the house, He suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden. And all wept, and bewailed her: but He said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed Him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. And He put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. AND HER SPIRIT CAME AGAIN, and she arose straightway: and He commanded to give her meat. And her parents were astonished: but He charged them that they should tell no man what was done.

The Apostle Paul reports in **2 Cor. 12:2-4: I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (WHETHER IN THE BODY, I CANNOT TELL; OR WHETHER OUT OF THE BODY, I CANNOT TELL: GOD KNOWETH;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.** This portion of scripture tells us the following truths: First, that there is a third heaven, the abode of God and His angels and where Jesus sits at His right hand. Second that the man could have been caught up in his body, or out of his body, which means, his spirit. Third, that heaven holds wonderful things in store for us, which are indescribable.

Paul tells the believers in the Church of Philippi that it would actually be in his own best interest, or as he puts it, **"gain"**, for him to die and go and be with Christ, but because he lives to do Christ's will, it is better for their sakes for him to stay "in the flesh", meaning in his body, so that he can be with them, as they still had need of his teaching and ministry. It seems by his deliberation however, that Paul was torn between staying with them, whom he loved, or going to be with Christ, which he says "would be far better!" **Php. 1:21 -24: For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.** Paul was longing to leave his earthly body to go and be with Jesus. Paul says to the Corinthian believers, Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: We are confident, *I say,* and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. (2 Cor. 5:6,8)

Paul, speaking to the Church at Thessalonica, spoke of what would become of our bodies when Jesus returns. He says in **1 Thess. 4:13-17: But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

Praise the Lord! This is our hope and destiny in the Lord.

We are all looking forward to the coming of the Lord, as He promised He would return, and we are longing with eager expectation for the rapture to take place. Paul tells us exactly what will transpire with our earthly bodies when we ascend with the Lord when He comes. **Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? (1 Cor. 15:51-55)** Paul assures the believers that this temporary, mortal body will be replaced by an immortal, glorified body, a heavenly body that is eternal. Just imagine having a new body that will never suffer sickness, pain or weakness of any kind, a body that is eternal. How wonderful that is going to be. Paul says that our earthly body must be sown (put into the ground), in order for our new spiritual, eternal body to be raised at the resurrection, just as occurred with Jesus' earthly body. He says in **1 Cor. 15:42-44: So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.** And because Jesus lives, we, who are His disciples, believing and obeying His Word, will never die, but live with Him for eternity. Meditate on these words of Jesus: **And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this? (John 11:26)** If so, you need have no more fear of death!

ENTERING HIS REST

There is certain FEAR which the Word of God speaks of as being beneficial to us, and that fear is the fear of the Lord. Now this does not mean that we should be frightened of the Lord, regarding God as a tyrant who is just looking for an opportunity to punish us and destroy us, but rather in the context of being in awe of Him, of who He is, of His power and His glory, and respecting Him, not only for His mighty attributes, but also for who He is - the Creator of the universe and all that it contains. We, His created beings need to approach Him in humility having a contrite spirit. God says in His word; **For all those *things* hath Mine**

handmade, and all those *things* have been, saith the LORD: but to this *man* will I look, *even* to *him that is* poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word. (Isa. 66:2)

We are also told that; **The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding. (Prov. 9:10)**

The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom; and before honour *is* humility. (Prov. 15:33)

Psalm 111:10 says that: **The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *His commandments:* His praise endureth for ever.**

The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom! The fear of the Lord also gives us understanding and produces knowledge of Him, His will and His ways. When we walk in the fear of the Lord, we display understanding and are being wise, for in so doing we are blessed. It has great benefits and produces Life to our body, soul and spirit, as we see from the following scriptures: **Prov. 2:5-6: Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of His mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding. Prov. 14:26-27: In the fear of the LORD *is* strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD *is* a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.**

Prov. 22:4: By humility *and* the fear of the LORD *are* riches, and honour, and life.

The Word tells us exactly what the fear of the Lord is in fact: **Psalm 19:9: The fear of the LORD** is clean, enduring for ever: It is pure and sincere, hating evil. It is free from pride, and is trusting, kind, shows mercy and is peaceable. We read in **Prov. 8:13; The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the forward mouth, do I hate**.

The Lord Himself speaks of the fear of the Lord, as recorded in Job 28:28: And unto man He said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom; and to depart from evil *is* understanding.

When Jesus came to this earth, even though He was God manifest in the flesh, He walked in the fear of the Lord concerning His Heavenly Father, He was obedient to Him and in reverence of Him. Isaiah spoke of this in **Isa. 11:1-2: And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch** (Jesus) **shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;**

If Jesus, God's Son, understood the importance and the value of having the fear of the Lord, then we, His disciples would do well to do the same. In a nut shell, walking in the fear of the Lord, is simply walking in humility, obedience and trust. When we trust Him, respect Him and obey His Word, we enter into the "rest of the Lord".

In the book of Hebrews we are warned of failing to enter the "rest" which He has provided for those who belong to Him. The Lord has promised that we can enter a place of rest, a place of peace, during our time here on Earth, and that is really good news for anyone suffering from fear and anxiety! However, it is up to you and me to take that step forward and enter that place of rest that is available, because the Word tells us that, although it is available to all, some come short of it. Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. (Heb. 4:1)

How is it possible for us, God's children, to miss such a wonderful gift of "inner peace" which the Lord has intended for us to experience? People who suffer with fear say that they would give anything to be able to have this kind of peace of mind, so how is it obtained? For the answer to this, let us look at God's Word and see why His people in the Old Testament missed out on entering His rest, and hopefully we will learn from it and not make the same mistake. We read in **Heb. 3:15-19: While it is said, Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was He grieved forty years? *was it* not with them that had sinned, whose carcases fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware He that they should not enter into His rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.** Here we see that when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, it was God's plan of deliverance for them, and He brought them out of slavery by a series of amazing miracles of which they were all a part. They witnessed their miraculous escape from Egypt, the equally miraculous crossing over the Red Sea, God's supernatural supply of food (manna) from Heaven and water from a Rock ! God even supplied quails for them when they "desired meat", He provided a pillar of fire for them by night and a cloud by day as He guided them and supplied all their needs during their time in the wilderness. Their shoes and clothing did not wear out, and they were aware of His presence as they journeyed towards the Promised Land. And although He made every provision for them as His people, they were disgruntled, they murmured, they even turned away from Him to worship a golden calf, and in general were disobedient to His instructions which He had given for their benefit and well being. We read what the Lord says in **Psalm 95:7-11: For He *is* our God; and we *are* the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. Today if ye will hear His voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, *and* as *in* the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted Me, proved Me, and saw My work. Forty years long was I grieved with *this* generation, and said, It *is* a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known My ways: Unto whom I sware in My wrath that THEY SHOULD NOT ENTER INTO MY REST.**

You may say to me, "well, that was how the Israelites behaved, but how does that affect me?" Paul speaking, says in **Hebrews 4:2: For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto**

them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it.* This says that they heard God's Word, they knew what He said, but because they did not receive it in faith and act it, it could not produce God's desired results in their lives. **It did not profit them because they did not mix it with faith.** However, the same is true for us, because this verse begins with the words, "For unto us was the gospel preached". We are just as guilty as they when we hear the Word of God and do not act upon it, because that is an indication that we do not really believe it, we have no faith in what He says. The next verse says, that those who do believe God's Word and act upon it, do enter His rest. **Heb 4:3.6-7 For we which have believed do enter into rest.. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:... Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.**

We can only enter the rest that God has for His people when we are receptive to it and we do not harden our hearts and resist it in doubt and unbelief. This portion of scripture goes on to say: **Heb 4:8-11: For if Jesus had given them rest, then would He not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from His. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.**

Very often, people who are continually "on the go" and do not know how to relax, are more inclined to be anxious and fearful. Such people have to keep themselves busy with one thing after another and never seem to stop. If we feel that we have to continually "make things happen" , we usually end up by doing things in our own strength, and very often these activities in which we become involved, are not initiated by God. When this happens, we are using up valuable time and energy in vain, even though we may want to hide behind, and justify our frantic life style. Being continually busy, becomes our identity and our way of escape. If you find yourself falling into this category, and you are a sufferer of fear, I plead with you to stop and assess your situation truthfully. God never intended His children to be continually occupied by running around from one chore to the next, hardly stopping to take a break, bragging about their busy lives and how much they have been able to cram into the last 24 hours. You would not desire this for your children, and neither does He. We may have many excuses as to why our life is a roller coaster, but the Lord did not intend it to be so. Jesus said: **Come unto Me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke *is* easy, and My burden is light. (Matt. 11:28-30)**

We read in Gen.2:2 that even God rested after He had completed His work of creation**. (Gen 2:2) And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made.** Our Heavenly Father knows that we have need of a time of rest every week. He knows how valuable a holiday is, a time when we can wait upon Him and be restored spirit, soul and body. Of course He desires us to be diligent and to use the gifts and talents that He has given to us, because He says in His Word: **For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. (2 Thess. 3:10)** However, He also desires that we rest and enjoy the fruit of our labour, just as He did. **For He spake in a certain place of the seventh *day* on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all His works. And in this *place* again, If they shall enter into My rest. (Heb 4:4-5)** You see, it requires faith on our part to rest from that with which we are always so busily engrossed, and spend time with the Lord, with our families and loved ones, or just enjoying the beauty that surrounds us. I suggest that you make a quality decision to take time to do that. God has given us so much to enjoy, and if we do not take time to appreciate it and enjoy it, it saddens Him, and it robs us of partaking of the blessings He intended for us, His children. I ask you this question; **What takes more faith? To work or to rest?**

Trust Him and believe Him, do not harden your heart in unbelief, and you will enter His rest, free from fear and anxiety. His promise to you is this; **There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. (Heb. 4:9)** That place of perfect peace, is for you to have a childlike trust in your Heavenly Father.

In conclusion, you need to give special attention to God's words in Proverbs, which declare: My son **(and daughter)**, attend to My words; incline thine ear unto My sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they ***are* life unto those that find them, and healing** to all their flesh. (Proverbs 4:20-22)

So, because God's Words are Spirit and Life, it is essential for your deliverance that you proclaim them out loud and from a believing heart. Declare them with conviction and confess them daily. Begin right away, right now where you are, because God's word is your medicine to be taken at least once a day – and preferably three times a day! Proclaim now with conviction:

"I AM FREE FROM ALL FEAR BECAUSE I KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH HAS MADE ME FREE. The truth is that Jesus Christ, Son of God, died on the cross and because I have received Him, I have ETERNAL LIFE. For this reason I AM NOT AFRAID. I am filled with God's Holy Spirit Who knows NO FEAR, and Who manifests His power, love and self-control through me. I am the temple of the Holy Spirit and the GREATER ONE indwells me. I can do ALL things through Christ Who strengthens me, and because He overcame fear and death, and gave me His peace, I have the victory in Him! Fear no longer has dominion over me, I am free from fear! Amen." (John 8:32, John 3:16, 2Tim.1:7, 1 Cor.6:19, Philipp. 4:19, Rev.1:18)

.... And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, FEAR NOT; I am the first and the last: *I am* He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. (Rev 1:17-18)