

The Lost Word

“A MESSAGE FROM GOD”

Written by His faithful servant, friend, and bride of peace

All scripture included has been taken from the ESV version of the Bible, except where indicated otherwise. This is the version that God prompted me to use, and is described as an 'essentially literal' translation.

Please be aware:

Anyone who asserts they were responsible for this work should not be trusted, as it is God's intention for me to remain anonymous, and His will shall always prevail.

ALL GLORY TO GOD

PROLOGUE

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1 ESV).

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14 ESV).

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:17 ESV).

Yet, in a world that ought to have been transformed by His boundless love and mercy, truths have been obscured and errors have proliferated.

But this shall not last.
For the Word of the Lord is alive and shall endure forever.

Therefore, as you take in this message from God and encounter our King of Mercy in His fullness, I pray you, like me, dedicate yourselves to His truth; entirely surrendering and living in His likeness for eternity.



THE GOOD NEWS; GOD STILL SPEAKS!

“See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven” (Hebrews 12:25 ESV).

This book is not of my own making; it is a message from the Lord. Therefore, I refrain from inscribing my name upon it, for all glory belongs to God alone.

However, to give you some perspective on its origin, during my darkest hours, when I was in immense suffering and thought that my life could not get any worse, Jesus found me. He visited me in a dream, yet it didn't feel like a dream at all; I felt completely aware and transported to a place somewhere between Heaven and Earth, a place of perfect peace. When He first approached, I didn't recognise Him; He was not the Jesus I had been familiar with throughout my upbringing. Instead, He was a man with olive-brown skin and kind, compassionate eyes. His smile felt like the warmth of the sun, and as He wrapped His arms around me, I felt an overwhelming love that I had never experienced before. In that moment, I knew it was Him. He knew me intimately; I could feel that He was aware of every thought and sin from my past, yet He welcomed and embraced me without judgement, and I wept with joy.

Still, even after this encounter, doubt lingered in my mind. Did I genuinely meet Jesus? Does He really offer me forgiveness? Why would He want to engage with someone like me? I wrestled not just with faith, as I had during my upbringing, but I also started to doubt my own sanity as I tried to silence the voice that continually called out to me. It was during this time of uncertainty that I heard my name spoken aloud, a sound so profound and tumultuous that those around me could perceive it as well. My entire household was initially frozen in fear, but that fear soon evolved into understanding and obedience. I could no longer argue against it; it was certainly the Lord attempting to get my attention, and I would be foolish not to listen. Since I have surrendered fully and embraced my calling, I have been gifted so many undeniable signs and manifestations of His presence that simply cannot be overlooked.

I was given foresight into the future, which He allowed me to share with certain individuals so they would understand that God was speaking through me. He enabled me to heal people by invoking His name. There was even a time I playfully remarked that He would soon allow me to speak in other languages, and on that very day, He placed a scripture in Portuguese in my mind. There is honestly nothing He cannot do, and there is nothing I would not do for Him. He found me in my lostness, He redeemed me, and though I'll never grasp why He has chosen me to write this book, I will spread the word of His greatness and mercy to everyone, for all time.

Since giving my life to Him, He has tested me many times to see if I would listen to His will, and I have, and I always will. I shared His words with those He desired, even when I sensed they might doubt me. I even relocated to a new home, despite my reluctance, to a place He selected for me through various signs. I told Him, He can test me as often as He wishes, but I will never fail Him; fulfilling His will is all I believe I need to do for the remainder of my life.

As I walked this path with my Saviour, I was called to relinquish many distractions, to shed the chaos that had previously defined my existence. He guided me to rise before dawn, to seek Him in the stillness of the morning. He warned me of the spiritual warfare that would ensue, and the enemy's fury at my unrelenting willingness to listen and obey.

When I first embraced my faith, the concept of a ‘spiritual enemy’ was foreign to me; I believed that this type of evil resided solely in hell, not on Earth. However, after enduring numerous spiritual attacks, I have come to recognise the pervasive presence of dark forces in our world. It astonishes me that this critical topic is not more frequently addressed within the church. In my own experience, I initially felt utterly defenceless, caught off guard and lacking the spiritual armour necessary to combat these unseen adversaries. Just as much as we celebrate and work to bring the light into the world, it is equally vital to acknowledge the darkness that seeks to obscure it. In a moment of desperation, I turned to prayer, and the Lord provided me with direction through Psalm 124:8, "Our help is in the name of the LORD," But, He didn't just instruct me to read it; He told me to hand paint and embellish the verse using watercolours, and meditate on its meaning throughout the process. What I discovered during this process is that to withstand the influence of dark forces, we must accept our reliance on God's power and guidance. With steadfast faith and trust, we forever possess the strength to stand firm and shield ourselves from the enemy's sway. Our Lord will always help us if we remain devoted to Him and glorify His holy name, and I continue to display the painting on my wall as a constant reminder of this.

In this spiritual battle that reigns on Earth, I also cannot emphasise enough the importance of calling on our blessed Mother Mary, a powerful intercessor who stands ready to advocate for us against the forces of darkness, and when we find ourselves in suffering, the rosary becomes a formidable weapon. By recognising the reality of our adversary, we can transform from easy prey to prepared defenders, equipped to confront any attack.

One morning while in prayer, I felt a sense of confusion regarding how to carry out God's will in my life. I pleaded with Him to guide me on the right path, and He answered, "You have said it." Still uncertain, I asked again for clarity on the direction to take, and He replied, "right." Initially, I did not understand, but later that morning, He revealed to me the title of this book, and the call to write (rather than to go right directionally) was placed upon my heart. He often communicates with me like this, and it brings me such joy.

He then imparted to me the scriptures to examine by providing the page numbers in the Bible or specific books and verses to look up. I was even led to uncover ancient texts that I had never previously heard of. These revelations opened my eyes to truths I could not have discovered on my own. I longed to know Jesus so intimately, and in His faithfulness, He answered my prayers, unveiling the fullness of Himself to me and filling the void within my heart with His love and wisdom. For the first time in my Christian walk, I sensed the missing piece of the puzzle falling into place.

The adversary has since tried every possible tactic to prevent me from writing this book, reinforcing my conviction that it is a vital message from God. I feel an urgency from Jesus for us to become disciples of His, rather than simply a crowd of believers; this means we must strive to learn from Him and embody His teachings to fortify ourselves against the onslaught of evil. Sin is not always a clear-cut moral failing that we can easily identify; it can also be the work of the enemy, who distorts our perception of righteousness, making it seem strange while normalising wrongdoing. You will come to know this truth when you reflect upon the teachings that God wants you to embrace in this work. It is an undoing of errors we have been deceived by for so long.

I give thanks unto the Lord, for filling me with knowledge and for providing the words to proclaim it, so that you too might come to know His will for all creation.

Blessed is the coming kingdom! Hosanna in the highest!



A PRAYER OF INTERCESSION FOR THE READER

O Lord, Our Creator,

I earnestly pray that everyone who reads this will fully embrace Your blessed Word, delivered through Your love for us, allowing Your light to break through our defences and enlighten our spirits. In doing so, we can better comprehend Your intentions for creation and our place within it. May we be receptive to Your guidance, embracing the truth that leads us closer to You.

Let us not remain complacent in our understanding, but rather strive to embrace the covenant that You have always intended for us.

In a world where many seek to satisfy their own desires, let us heed the warning found in 2 Timothy 4:3, “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,”

Please Lord, enable us to recognise the peril of turning away from Your sound teaching and assist us in adhering solely to Your will in every aspect of our lives.

Let us be faithful stewards of Your message, accepting it and delivering it with courage and compassion, so that all may find life in Your truth and grace. May we accept the call to warn both the wicked and the righteous, ensuring that we do not turn a blind eye to the consequences of sin, as echoed in Ezekiel 3:18-21, “‘If I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. Again, if a righteous person turns from his righteousness and commits injustice, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die. Because you have not warned him, he shall die for his sin, and his righteous deeds that he has done shall not be remembered, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the righteous person not to sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live, because he took warning, and you will have delivered your soul.’”

May those who hear Your words find themselves enlightened, while I pray for those who might choose to turn away, remaining in the shadows of ignorance, that they may one day seek the light of Your truth.

In Jesus’ name, Amen





PROPHECY AND PARABLES

“All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet:

‘I will open my mouth in parables;
I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world’” (Matthew 13:34-35 ESV).

I place my complete trust in the Lord, with every part of my being, and ‘The Parable of the Sower’ is the parable that He has commanded me to present at the start of this book.

May it convey truth to you as it has to me, and may you also come to be like a seed in good soil.

“The Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: ‘A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear’” (Matthew 13:1-9 ESV).

“For this people's heart has grown dull,
and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed,
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them” (Matthew 13:15 ESV).

“The Parable of the Sower Explained

‘Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty” (Matthew 13:18-23 ESV).

Many of us, often without realising it, are akin to the seeds scattered along the path, hearing the word yet failing to grasp its significance. Similarly, we may resemble seeds sown in rocky soil or among thorns, where our hearts and minds become resistant to the truth. This resistance often stems from a preference for personal interpretations and understandings, which can cloud our ability to receive the correct wisdom that God wishes to impart.

God's intention is not to cast judgement upon us; rather, He desires to redeem us and for us to embrace His will. There is no reason to dwell in shame from our previous ignorance and unintentional sin. We should instead, see it as a chance to reconcile with Him, ask for forgiveness and seek His grace. He perceives the sincerity of our hearts and the depth of our love, and those who genuinely love God will have been striving to obey Him to the best of their understanding. However, as you delve into the teachings within this book, you are called to awaken to the truth, which now demands adherence . It is essential to pray for the ability to receive His wisdom, asking that our eyes, ears, and hearts be opened to the revelations that await us.

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2 ESV).

Faith is not merely a belief; it is an active engagement and a way of life rooted in the Word of God. To truly embody faith is to follow the teachings and principles given to us from God, allowing them to guide our actions and decisions. Should we fail to do so, we would certainly be engaging in sin, as illustrated in scripture:

“For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins” (Hebrews 10:26 ESV).

“For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt” (Hebrews 6:4-6 ESV).

“For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: ‘The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire’” (2 Peter 2:20-22 ESV).



THE BIBLE

During my new journey of faith, after my encounter with Jesus, and prior to opening the Bible, I felt an instinctual connection to Him. It was as if I already knew Him in my heart before I began to read the scriptures. In actual fact, I felt as though every teaching from the Bible had been placed within my heart by simply knowing Him.

The bible is the story of God's relationship with the masterpiece of His creation - people. Each passage holds significance, but not every word should be accepted naively. As you uncover more of God's plan for humanity through this book and aim to deepen your relationship with Him, the essential truths that God desires you to interpret from scripture will become clear.

The ongoing debates surrounding biblical interpretation are not without merit; they stem from the complexities of understanding a text that has traversed centuries and cultures. The multitude of meanings associated with various words, along with the subtleties of language and historical context, present challenges that can result in differing interpretations of the same scripture. Consequently, many translations now reflect the personal biases and decisions of the translators rather than faithfully conveying the original author's intent, whether this is done consciously or not.

This is why God urges us to know Jesus, to feel the holy spirit within us that will help us know the Word of Truth that we have been given, as it will only be goodness and light, not darkness, and not from this Earth, but from His spirit.

We are called to be His true disciples, not mere onlookers or imitators of others. We must not allow ourselves to be bound by human customs sown in our minds as a result of not employing our conscience to evaluate our actions. As we know Him, the light will shine through, the darkness will fade, and we will discover the true kingdom that God longs to establish. As dedicated followers of Jesus, we shall learn to mirror His likeness in all that we do.

From the Old Testament to the New, God guides us, His children, to love and obey Him above all else. Indeed, in one of my conversations with God, He revealed that if I wished to encapsulate His message in one word, it would be 'obey'. And I tell you, this is not without its trials. Personally, I have taken steps I would have never chosen, yet I have come to realise through my experiences that life is meaningless unless we fully yield and align with the will of Our Father.

God is ever speaking; the commands He wishes for us to heed, He will share with us. His method of communication may vary among us but He knows each of His children intimately and the plans He has for them.

We find this in the Scriptures, for the Bible was formed through the insights granted by God to a multitude of people in countless ways, just as this book is being penned by Him through me. Indeed, we are called to embrace the wisdom shared by God with all of humanity, as He endeavours to continuously guide us in the way of righteous living.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV).

The Bible in its entirety allows us to discover important truths and teachings that have come from God, guiding us in our understanding of Him and His intentions. It also permits us to witness how, as the world evolves, so does His relationship with humanity. For instance, some of the covenants established in the Old Testament are not relevant to how He wishes us to conduct our lives now.

“In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away” (Hebrews 8:13 ESV).

It was only when God sent Jesus, in human form, that we were able to fully hear the Truth we need, which was not shaped by human interpretation but came directly from Him during His time on earth.

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power” (Hebrews 1:1-3 ESV).

To grasp this eternal covenant - the salvation of humanity through Christ - the Lord first led me back to the very beginning, since they are interconnected through our reconciliation with God.



IN THE BEGINNING

Before I wrote this book, I had not read the Bible, and I still have not read it in full. God continues to provide me with or point me to the words I need at the right time. This serves to further affirm to both you and I that it is He who is steering this work.

As I sought to understand His will through the writing of this book, He directed me to Genesis. He then instructed me to read ‘The Creation of the World’ and to pay special attention to a certain part of The Our Father as I did so. This part was:

“Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

Thus, Jesus, our Everlasting Covenant, clearly conveyed that we should pray for God's will to be fulfilled on Earth, just as it is in Heaven.

Now, what we do know about Heaven is that it is a place of perfect happiness where we dwell with God, unseparated by sin. Just as it was in the Garden of Eden prior to the loss of paradise; a realm of fellowship with Him where shame is non-existent.

Indeed, wherever it is cited in scripture, Heaven is depicted as a dwelling place where our relationship with God has been repaired and restored. This concept is reiterated in the book of Isaiah, with Isaiah's vision symbolising a state of perfect peace, joy and harmony, where former disobedience will not be remembered or come to mind.

“*New Heavens and a New Earth*
‘For behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered
or come into mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever
in that which I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,
and her people to be a gladness.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and be glad in my people;
no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping
and the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not fill out his days,
for the young man shall die a hundred years old,
and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labor in vain
or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD,
and their descendants with them.
Before they call I will answer;
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
and dust shall be the serpent's food.
They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain,'
says the LORD”

(Isaiah 65:17-25).

Evidently, a creation in which God will rejoice in is one characterised by peace, free from turmoil and conflict, and full of His knowledge, enabling all beings to coexist in harmonious unity.

In the story of creation, we also see that we were made in the image of God. As such, we are perfectly designed to represent His nature and will in the world.

“So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them”
(Genesis 1:27 ESV).

While we are made in His likeness, God has also given us the wonderful gift of free will, which brings with it the susceptibility to temptation. In His earthly form, Jesus represented the perfect likeness of God - sinless and fully dedicated to carrying out His will. This is the ideal to which we are beckoned. We should continuously be striving to embody His image and purpose, reflecting the love and grace that radiates from the Trinity.

In this ideal, He instructed us to exercise dominion over all living beings, “And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth’” (Genesis 1:28). What a blessing the Lord has bestowed upon us! Yet, it comes with immense responsibility. We are entrusted with the task of ruling over creation by nurturing it and seeking its flourishing, just as a righteous sovereign would desire the well-being of their kingdom. Entrusted with stewardship, we must remember that acting in any other way would lead us away from embodying His likeness!

His beautiful creation, unmarred by sin, was deemed good by God, and it is this pinnacle of greatness we must strive to manifest on Earth to carry out His will. For, why would we not long for God to once again regard creation as good?

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31 ESV).

Our relationship with God has been repaired through Jesus, yet we still appear to be wandering in darkness, prioritising our own desires instead of glorifying God by following His commands.

As humans, we have either greatly misunderstood what it means to have dominion over the earth or we are simply choosing to disregard this command.

In any case, we must ensure that The Word does not fade away after it has been present among us; we need to correct these mistakes and strive to care for and safeguard the earth and its creatures, rather than harm or destroy them.

The Garden of Eden symbolises the perfect condition of humanity, a joyful and bountiful existence, as evidenced in other scriptures too, such as;

Ezekiel 36: 34-36, “And the land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by. And they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.’ Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the LORD; I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.”

Isaiah 51:3, “For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.”

These mentions of Eden symbolise a revival to a state of divine blessing and prosperity, just as in The Garden of Eden, the garden of The Lord, where existence flourished in harmony.

In fact, the account of Adam and Eve in The Garden Of Eden is a meaningful lesson, and certainly, the entire Bible is a lesson for us to follow God's commands out of genuine love for Him, and to know His voice from the enemies.

Life on earth is a spiritual battle. The enemy, with his devious schemes, is eager to lead us astray from God's will, presenting himself as a source of light and trust. We must remain watchful to ascertain that what we follow is genuinely from God Himself. To God alone should our obedience be given, for this is the path to becoming fruitful and partaking in the blessings of the land.

Isaiah 1:19 declares,
“If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land;”

The Lord assures blessings to those who choose to follow His commands with a willing heart. His teachings, rooted in love, express a desire for our well-being; and one of the first commands God bestowed upon us, after instructing us to govern the Earth, was what we should have for food.

“And God said, ‘Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.’ And it was so” (Genesis 1:29-30 ESV).

To do the will of God and to see His will fulfilled on Earth as it is in Heaven, we must adhere to this. This is His longing for creation, that we care for it and partake in what He has graciously given us since the beginning.

However, despite the fact that God fashioned humans in His likeness, instilling in them a natural tendency towards righteousness, humans have chosen to pursue many schemes, resulting in a deviation from God's intended design and a disconnection from His purpose for mankind.

“See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes” (Ecclesiastes 7:29 ESV).

In this way, whether intentional or not, the imperfect world we live in today arises from this ongoing disconnection from the wisdom and direction of our Lord.

There is hope though, for our God is a compassionate, loving, and faithful God. He doesn't just have a love for humans but all of His creation and remains intimately involved in the world He has made.

“The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made” (Psalm 145:9 ESV).

We are undeniably experiencing a time of rebellion, with much of humanity in opposition to God. Because of our current societal norms, there is a widespread justification of sin, with much of it being encouraged and presented as positive, ultimately leading to the world's ruin. It feels like The Word has been lost; our Jesus feels absent. Yet, He is our only hope. The only solution lies in believing in Him, our Saviour, and by walking in the grace of God, adhering to the way He instructed us to live.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, leading us back to righteousness.



“GOD WITH US”

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel’
(which means, God with us)”
(Matthew 1:23 ESV).

To live in the likeness of God, there is no better guide than Jesus, our God in human form. In Him, we find the clarity to know God's purpose, which is uncomplicated; to serve Him with obedience.

The book of Philippians illustrates that being a Christian involves viewing your life as a vibrant reflection of Jesus. Paul urges believers to embody humility and adopt Christlike attitudes. Although our ultimate home is in Heaven, we can experience a deep relationship with Jesus and a consciousness of His love and presence on Earth, which offers us hope and purpose even in the most challenging times.

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:5-11 ESV).

In the New Testament, there are numerous accounts of Jesus' teachings and deeds. In these stories, we observe His immense compassion and love, especially for the less fortunate and oppressed.

When He came to Earth, God was with us, when He left God was given to us through the Holy Spirit. We have everything that we need to know Him, and When we know Him, we have all we need for salvation. When we know Him, we have all we need to walk through this life in a relationship with Him for He is the way, the truth and the life. If we know Jesus we know Our Father.

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him’” (John 14:6-7 ESV).

In all that we do, it is vital to have Jesus residing in our hearts; He must dwell within us. We must come to know Him as intimately as His apostles did.

Therefore, we cannot just be passive observers; we must be diligent students, following Him in all His ways. Only then can we become His disciples, learning from Him and imitating His actions and teachings. We must take in all of His wisdom as if our lives depend on it, because they do.

“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1 ESV).

When we come to know Him, truly know Him, we will also know Our Father, and His will shall be written on our hearts.

As we deepen our relationship with Him, it becomes simpler to identify sin from virtue, and falsehood from truth. He is our guiding light; if Jesus would not do something were He in our position, we should refrain from it as well. Hold this thought close in all your endeavours. Ask yourself, would Jesus approve of this? If the answer is no, then it is not acceptable.

For we cannot navigate our existence through our own understanding or interpretations of the world around us. He is the only way, the One we must turn to and emulate. For Jesus is the definitive confirmation of God's will and the new and eternal covenant with us. Anything that He proclaims or reaffirms is what God desired for us to know.

Jesus is not just a messenger of truth; He is the truth itself.



JESUS OUR EVERLASTING COVENANT

From the very beginning, Jesus was the plan laid out. He is our everlasting covenant.

The True Covenant.

Scripture directs us to Him and foretells His coming countless times. Every aspect of His life was predetermined by God, there were no coincidences or accidents; only the perfect will of God. Each detail of His life held significance and purpose. From the location of His birth and being placed in a manger to His suffering and death on a cross. He came to introduce something new, not to mend the ancient ways. This is the very message of the gospels, though it is a notion that many find challenging to embrace.

“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17).

The life and ministry of Jesus brought to completion the narrative of the Old Testament, demonstrating how God's plan for humanity was being realised.

He laid down his life on the cross, fulfilling the Law of Moses by obeying it in its entirety, embodying the spirit of love for God and for one another, and through His sacrificial death, established the New Covenant.

Hence, the teachings of old covenants should be assessed through the framework of Christ's fulfillment, to discern how their relevance may have shifted. By this means, we will find both the orders we are called to observe and those that we are freed from following.

This instruction is beautifully emphasised in Hebrews 7:11-28 which states unequivocally that Jesus is the guarantor of a better covenant that draws us near to God,

Jesus Compared to Melchizedek

“Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him,

‘You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.’

For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God. And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him:

‘The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind,
‘You are a priest forever.’

This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.” (Hebrews 7:11-28)

In Jesus, we find our hope and our eternal covenant, who intercedes for us with perfect fidelity; therefore, we ought to surrender ourselves completely to Him.

Right now, Jesus is in the midst of restoring the world, and until He returns to bring that restoration to its ultimate completion, we are His ambassadors on earth, and we can honour Him by living according to His teachings.

“Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9 ESV).



JESUS THE LAMB OF GOD

In the Old Testament, the act of sacrifice held a deep significance: it was a heavenly teaching aimed at instilling in God's people the paramount importance of obedience. The act of sacrificing animals was not merely a ritual; it was a reminder of the cost of sin. For the people of that time, animals were integral to their existence. Therefore, each sacrifice was a tangible representation of the gravity of their transgressions, illustrating the weight of sin and the need for atonement. Yet, beneath this practice lay a deeper intention, one that transcended the physical act itself.

God's true desire was never for the blood of animals but rather for the hearts of His people. He sought a transformation that went beyond ritualistic offerings; He yearned for hearts that were fully surrendered to Him. The sacrifices were meant to lead the people to a place of humility and recognition of their need for Him. The ultimate goal was a relationship rooted in love and obedience, where the act of sacrifice would symbolise a genuine turning towards God, rather than a mere obligation fulfilled. This longing for authentic connection is woven throughout the fabric of the Old Testament, where God expressed His disdain for insincere worship devoid of heartfelt devotion.

“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD;
I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of well-fed beasts;
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.

‘When you come to appear before me,
who has required of you
this trampling of my courts?
Bring no more vain offerings;
incense is an abomination to me.
New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations -
I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.
Your new moons and your appointed feasts
my soul hates;
they have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.
When you spread out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.
¹Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,”

(Isaiah 1:11-16).

Then, in Jeremiah 7: 22-26 we observe the deep desire of God for His people to listen to His voice and follow His commands, along with the repercussions of failing to do so, “For in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to your fathers or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. But this command I gave them: ‘Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.’ But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward. From the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day. Yet they did not listen to me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.”

Let us pray together friends,

Heavenly Father, we lift up the entire world to You, recognising that we are all flawed and in need of Your guidance. We pray that we do not regress into our old ways but instead choose to follow Your teachings and heed Your every command. Through Your sacrifice of Jesus, we are called to embrace Him as our everlasting covenant, for He came to mend the divide between humanity and You. As exemplified in Hebrews 10 (*below*), by Your son doing Your will, we have been sanctified and for this we offer You our eternal praise. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, we pray You have perpetual mercy on us and on the whole world.

Amen

“Christ's Sacrifice Once for All

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.

Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’

When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), then he added, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will.’ He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Hebrews 10:1-10).

As the Lamb of God, Jesus rendered the need for displeasing offerings obsolete. By willingly giving His life, He established a new covenant. As the Lamb of God He takes away the sins of the world.

“Behold, the Lamb of God

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’” (John 1:29 ESV).

The disruption of the animal sacrifice within the temple serves as a powerful testament to Jesus' commitment to this transformative principle.

“Jesus Cleanses the Temple

And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, ‘It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers’” (Matthew 21:12-13 ESV).

By overturning the established customs, He illustrated not only His authority but also His strong conviction that the slaughter of these animals and the consequent misuse of the temple were displeasing to God. This marked a declaration of His mission to do away with the necessity for such sacrifices through His imminent death, as He was always destined to be the ultimate sacrifice and the complete atonement for our sins.

For Jesus, the fulfilment of this purpose was of utmost importance, as it signified the dawn of a new, restored relationship between God and humanity, one that had been broken by sin. Through His death He joined the end to the beginning, creating a covenant anchored in love, grace, and the promise of eternal life accessible to all.

A passage that highlights just how important this new covenant is to Him is found in Mark 12:29-34, when He was asked by a scribe which commandment is the most important of all? “Jesus answered, ‘The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.’ And the scribe said to him, ‘You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.’ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.”

So Jesus perceived this man as wise and not far from the Kingdom of God for articulating the futility of burnt offerings and sacrifices. He was not far from the Kingdom of God through understanding that the old customs of the former covenants did not satisfy God's expectations, and that valuing the most important commandments of love held much greater importance.

Being part of a new and superior covenant calls for us to apply our wisdom also, ensuring that the love of God and each other remains central in everything we do.

Our relationship with God has been restored, yet we find ourselves living in ways that do not align with His vision of goodness. We are no longer bound by old covenants, instead, we are called to embrace the new covenant, which invites us to, above all else, love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, and strength. But what does this love truly entail? Can we profess our love for God while choosing to disregard His commands? Can we claim to cherish Him while clinging to outdated practices that no longer serve His purpose? How can we say we love Him if we do not follow the example of His Son, the One He sent to save us and whom He commanded us to listen to?

“He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him’” (Matthew 17:5 ESV).

It is essential to reflect on these questions, for they challenge us to examine the authenticity of our devotion and the sincerity of our faith.

If we truly love God, we should desire to obey Him, trust Him, and please Him. Therefore, it is illogical to claim we do so while not striving to restore His creation to its original goodness in His sight.

We simply cannot claim to love the Creator while turning a blind eye to the responsibility He has entrusted to us as stewards of the earth. This stewardship is not merely a duty; it is an expression of our love for God, manifesting in our actions towards His creation.



GOD OUR CREATOR AND PROVIDER!

God loves ALL of His creation, not solely humanity.

Creation is a reflection of His love and goodness.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son” (John 3:16 ESV).

The World. Not just humans.

When we acknowledge that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, we must also recognise that this love is inclusive of every creature and element within it. Our hearts should mirror His compassion, prompting us to act with kindness and respect towards all forms of life.

If He possesses love and care for all creatures, then we ought to reflect that love in our hearts.

Certainly, our love for God takes precedence, yet the lessons we can gain from our loved ones are invaluable. Personally, I find immense joy in prioritising their needs and desires, often placing them above my own. The trust they bestow upon me is something I deeply cherish, and as a result I am committed to safeguarding anything they entrust to my care. This commitment is especially significant when it comes to items that hold sentimental value for them; I would never dream of harming or neglecting something they have placed in my hands. Instead, I would attentively absorb any guidance they offer regarding the proper care and maintenance of these cherished possessions, ensuring that I honour their wishes and uphold the love that underpins our relationship.

Given that God, whom we hold above all else, has entrusted us with His entire creation, we must love His world as He loves it, wholeheartedly, and care for it using the directions He gave us.

Throughout the scriptures, we find numerous instances of this, where God speaks to and cares for all creatures, highlighting His deep love for the entirety of the natural world. This inclusive love serves as a reminder that every creature, from the smallest insect to the largest mammal, holds significance in His eyes, for they are His.

“For every beast of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.
I know all the birds of the hills,
and all that moves in the field is mine”
(Psalm 50:10-11 ESV).

By acknowledging this truth, we can begin to appreciate the interconnectedness of life and the importance of every element within creation.

As already touched upon in a previous chapter; in the book of Genesis, humanity is granted dominion over the earth, but this authority should not be misconstrued as a justification for harm or exploitation. It should be understood as a sacred responsibility. The manner in which we treat all living things should echo the love and mercy of Jesus, and the love that God has for us, it should serve as a chance to nurture a peaceful coexistence that honours our Creator’s intent.

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD!” (Psalm 150:6 ESV).

For every creature that walks the Earth is His, and they all turn their eyes to Him, our great provider.

If we truly love God, we should desire to obey Him, trust Him, and please Him. Therefore, it is illogical to claim we do so while not striving to restore His creation to its original goodness in His sight.

We simply cannot claim to love our Creator while turning a blind eye to the responsibility He has entrusted to us as stewards of the earth. This stewardship is not merely a duty; it is an expression of our love for God, manifesting in our actions towards His creation.

“O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
Here is the sea, great and wide,
which teems with creatures innumerable,
living things both small and great.
There go the ships,
and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.

These all look to you,
to give them their food in due season.
When you give it to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground”

(Psalm 104:24-34 ESV).

A further verse that reveals the connection of all creatures on the earth and in the seas to God is found in Revelation 5:13,

“And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

These passages highlight the everlasting bond that all of creation shares with the Lord, demonstrating that we all turn to our Creator for sustenance and are spiritually united with Him.

Yes, the Lord sustains all of creation, and holds it dear, desiring that we mirror this care. In Proverbs 12:10, it is written, “Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast,” reminding us that our righteousness is reflected in our compassion for the creatures entrusted to us.

Another scripture that shows how much He wants us to be mindful of animals is found in Exodus 23:12, ““Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest,”

This instruction reflects God's concern for the health and happiness of all His creatures, not just mankind. As does the fact that the covenant God established in Genesis was made not only with Noah, but with every living creature of every kind, a point that is reiterated many times.

“When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh” (Genesis 9:14-15).

Additional proof of God's care for His creations can be found in the narrative of Balaam in the book of Numbers, where a donkey is granted the ability to speak. This extraordinary event serves to reveal the donkey's sentience and the divine message that even the most humble of creatures are valued in the eyes of the Lord. It is a story that perfectly underscores the moral obligation to treat animals with respect and compassion and is a moment that illustrates the importance of recognising the inherent worth of all living beings, who God may even work through to get our attention.

The teachings of Jesus further reinforce the notion that God is intimately aware of even the smallest creatures, as seen in Luke 12:6 where He notes that not a single sparrow is forgotten by God, “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God.”

This proclamation brings to light the consideration afforded to all parts of creation. God perceives all that occurs to every single being, and this is certainly a reason to extend mercy to all.

Once again in Matthew 6:26 Jesus urges His followers to observe and gain wisdom from God's affection for all creation, particularly the birds of the air, which are provided for by their Creator, “Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

As we ponder the attentiveness of God to all His creations, it is apparent that we are likewise called to embody an agape love for animals, for we are made in His likeness; and with this agape love extending to all of creation, shouldn't it also naturally guide our choices in what we eat?

In the beginning, God's design did not encompass the taking of life for nourishment; rather, it was a vision of harmony and abundance, where all creation thrived together. If we sincerely seek to fulfil His will upon this Earth (something many of us pray for everyday through the Our Father) then our conscience, guided by the Holy Spirit, would surely lead us to reject any notion that contradicts this sacred intention.

God has graciously blessed us with a bountiful harvest from the Earth, a testament to His generosity and regard for us, ensuring that we need not resort to actions that go against His heavenly purpose. In embracing this, we synchronise with the true spirit of His love, nurturing not only our physical selves but also the world around us in a spirit of benevolence and reverence.

Tragically, throughout history, people have often prioritised their own interpretations of ancient covenants and scripture, leading subsequent generations to miss the true purpose of God's design for our existence. The teachings of Jesus serve as a guiding light, leading us back to that peaceful beginning. Through His message we are reminded of our connection to God and the importance of aligning our lives with His will.

By following His example, we can rediscover the joy and health that comes from living in accordance with our divine design, a revelation we can attain by uniting with the Holy Spirit that dwells within us and knowing our Lord.

Since I came to know God fully, my heart has been heavy with sorrow for the brokenness of His creation. Each day, I find myself weeping for a world that has strayed so far from the perfection intended for it. After the sacrifice of Jesus, who bore our sins, it pains me to witness how many continue to sin unknowingly, trapped in a cycle of disconnection from Him. The stark reality of our fallen state is evident in the suffering and oppression that permeates the Earth, where countless lives are marred by violence and death. It is an immense tragedy that our beautiful planet, once a reflection of God's glory, now bears the scars of humanity's choices. In His mercy, God promises to renew this world, to restore it to its original splendour, and it is this hope that sustains me amidst the darkness.

Heaven, as described in Revelation, is a realm of perfect harmony, a sanctuary reminiscent of the Garden of Eden, where suffering is absent and joy abounds. In His omniscience, God observes the turmoil we inflict upon His creation, and He beckons us to turn away from our sinful ways, offering us a path to salvation. We are living in critical times, and it is imperative that we do not remain ensnared in our transgressions when Jesus returns. It is important we show mercy not only to our fellow humans but to all of creation, which includes the animals that share this world with us. They, too, are part of God's magnificent design and join in the chorus of praise to our Creator.

God, I pray, through the grace of Your Son Jesus, that You grant us the wisdom to see our flaws and the courage to transform our actions. Assist us in our efforts to live in a way that is acceptable to You, honouring the sacredness of all life and the beauty of the world You have made.

Amen



“I AM THE ONLY FLESH AND BLOOD THEY NEED”

It’s hard to fathom that there was a time when I believed I could navigate life without Jesus.

Reflecting on that period, I often recall the words, ‘I once was lost, but now I’m found, was blind but now I see’ My existence felt empty and devoid of purpose until I encountered Him; I had been spiritually dead, and through His grace, I was brought to life. Each day, He nourishes my spirit so much.

One of the most valuable practices that He instructed me to adopt is to set aside time for prayer at 3 o’clock each day. Remarkably, as I wrote this line, my 3 o’clock alarm sounded. Oh, how I love You, Jesus!

I have noticed, however, that the regularity of these ‘coincidences’ has lessened my surprise towards such occurrences. Nevertheless, I am always deeply thankful, as they remind me of the constant companionship of my best friend and saviour, Jesus. Also, let us also consider this a sign that this practice holds great importance.

As I was saying, I find myself reflecting on His sorrowful passion at this time daily because it serves as a constant reminder of His immense love and sacrifice. In fact, since doing so, the depth of my affection for Him has grown so strong that the thought of sinning now brings me genuine pain.

My desire to honour Him is a driving force behind my writing, yet it has also been a source of doubt. As I worked on this book, I often questioned whether I was truly capable of conveying His message effectively. There were moments when I procrastinated, even contemplating abandoning the project altogether. My lack of confidence in my abilities weighed heavily on me, but this struggle was not meant to last. In His infinite wisdom, Jesus recognised my turmoil and provided reassurance at just the right moment.

He spoke to me through a scripture delivered by someone unaware of the work I was doing for the Lord, a reminder that I was not alone in my efforts.

“for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13 ESV).

Friends, it is God who works within us to fulfil His good purpose!

This timely message reignited my faith and encouraged me to persevere, reminding me that my efforts are not my own. I am grateful for His presence in my life, which continually inspires me to move forward with confidence and purpose.

In a deeply personal moment of reflection with Jesus, I found myself yearning for more tangible evidence to share with others, convinced that what I was receiving might not be sufficient to inspire real change in their hearts. I grappled with the fear that my words might fall short, that I wasn’t delivering His teachings with the clarity and strength they deserved. In my desperation, I implored Him to reveal further proof that He is indeed instructing His followers to refrain from inflicting suffering upon God’s creatures.

Again, I had no need to doubt and He spoke to me telling me to write down His words, which were,

“My precious daughter, your words do not require greatness, for the truth already abides in them; they are in Me, and I am in them. I am the only flesh and blood they need.”

I have never heard more true words than these!

Beloved Jesus, You are the Lamb of God, sent to take away our sins, our Sacrificial Offering, our Redeemer. When we eat Your flesh and drink Your blood, You fill us completely and make us whole. There is no necessity for animal flesh because God has already supplied us with all we need. Had it been required for us to eat flesh, He would have appointed it to us from the very beginning. But it wasn't God's original intention; it wasn't something deemed very good by God. Rather, it arose as a result of sin, and continues to exist within a corrupted world that has opted to embrace falsehoods rather than the truth, allowing darkness to overshadow light and turning a blind eye to God's will in doing so.

Jesus, You are our heavenly sustenance, and the Earth is overflowing with nourishment to meet our physical needs. In surrendering Your body and blood, we are able to perceive the immense depth of God's love for us. To partake in the flesh of other beings is not a demonstration of love; their flesh and blood does not unite us with You or feed our souls.

The flesh You provide is the bread of life, Your living heart, Jesus, and any other flesh is death. It does not nourish the spirit, but instead causes disease and demise.

Jesus, I see that Your intention is to assist those who are sinning by unintentionally embracing misunderstandings; You do not want people to feel condemned, but rather You wish to end the suffering of all creation through Your truth.

You long for us to embrace the fullness of life that You offer, urging us to turn away from what causes harm and to find refuge and healing in Your presence.

Friends, in our journey towards righteousness, we must consider the effects of consuming the flesh of God's cherished creatures, for the Scriptures remind us that our bodies are sacred temples, designed to glorify God within us.

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ESV).

In the same way that Jesus purified the temple from corruption, He desires for us to keep our own temples of the Holy Spirit as sanctified as can be.

When we engage in the act of eating meat, we should consider the suffering and oppression endured by these innocent beings, created by God. Are we truly glorifying Him by contributing to their pain and death? It really is essential to examine our choices and their alignment with the teachings of love, compassion, and stewardship that Jesus exemplifies.

If He is love, if His message is love, then we need to do everything with love, including eat with love, as love reveals itself through our willing obedience.

Consuming products derived from animals that have endured suffering is far from an expression of love or compassionate eating. When we frame it in this light, it becomes abundantly clear that to embody the teachings of Jesus, we must refrain from consuming foods that are the direct result of violence and pain. The New Covenant, which Jesus established, does not grant us the liberty to partake in the flesh of animals. Instead, it invites us to embrace a higher calling - one that encourages us to pray for the fulfilment of God's will on Earth, mirroring the harmony of Heaven. This covenant beckons us to reflect on our choices and their alignment with the principles of kindness and mercy. As a matter of fact, the eating of animal flesh is not honoured in any scripture, and even in old covenants was bound by rules and consequences from God. It was never His ideal, as further evidenced by the language of lust, craving, and disordered desire employed when discussing this practice.

It really is an immense disconnection from God that enables us to treasure a select few of His creatures as dear family members while ignoring the suffering and value of others.

Would we ever think about sacrificing our beloved companions for a meal? If the answer is no, then we need to face the moral consequences of permitting such disrespectful deaths to happen among other beings who share our Creator and Father.

Our love should not be limited; it ought to extend to all beings, appreciating their worth as the Lord does, and the sacredness of all life.

Should you find it difficult to accept this truth or sense a defensive spirit rising within you, call upon our Good Shepherd, Jesus, who will make the right path evident; for He wishes for you to hear His voice and to know Him and follow Him.

In the course of writing this chapter, a deep sorrow grips me. As I reflect on the darkness of this unacknowledged sin that envelops the world, obscuring the light of God, my heart feels as though it is breaking. I feel a physical pain within me, a pain I can only imagine Jesus feels too, which intensifies my suffering. How can it be that the enemy has made this way of living seem so normal, while the most righteous path appears so wrong? How could we have failed to see through his schemes?

Let us pray, dear friends, that from this day forth, through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, we will always be equipped to perceive the adversary's tactics that make sin appear ordinary and righteousness seem flawed. Amen.



JESUS THE GREAT CORRECTOR

“Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners” (Matthew 9:13 ESV).

The precise definition of mercy is: compassion or forgiveness shown to someone who it is within one's power to punish or harm, and in this passage Jesus clearly indicates that mercy is what He wants.

For me, this verse is particularly meaningful, as it emphasises Jesus's compassion for everyone and His mission to help sinners, calling us to turn away from sin.

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10 ESV).

Though His mercy has poured over the Earth, the world finds itself in darkness today, for we continue to stray from God's path and neglect His will.

Yet, our Saviour Jesus, the ultimate guide, continues to speak to us and desires to rescue us, by encouraging us to draw close to Him.

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded” (James 4:8 ESV).

He wishes for us to deliberately and actively seek to deepen our relationship with Him, accompanied by a genuine desire to serve Him. We cannot serve both God and our worldly cravings. To get closer to God, we must acknowledge our sins and turn away from them; our hearts need to be purified. By submitting to God, we can resist the enemy's influence.

Through our closeness to God, we will be better positioned to discern His will, recognise sin, and extend mercy to all of creation. In doing so, we will embody His likeness as it was intended from the beginning.

Yet, if we do not, He is unafraid to correct us, as illustrated many times in scripture, such as in the Gospel of Mark.

“But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man’” (Mark 8:33 ESV).

In today's fast-moving world, it's all too easy to get swept away by worldly things, and choose to align with societal expectations instead of the path that God has designed for us.

It is easy to become defensive, to justify our actions by thinking that if everyone else is doing it, we cannot be sinning. However, as you deepen your relationship with Jesus, you will come to understand the behaviour He expects from us all. We must let go of our pride and the need to be right, acknowledging that our journey may have included unintentional sins.

Rather than feeling guilty, we should take responsibility, repent, and make a change. For if we do, God will rejoice! He calls us to turn away from our evil ways.

In Proverbs 21:3, we are reminded that,

“To do righteousness and justice
is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.”

To put it simply, righteousness means being morally right and justifiable, prompting us to reflect on whether we can defend our actions as being right in the eyes of God. Justice, on the other hand, signifies fair treatment and behaviour towards others. As we navigate our lives, I pray that each person who reads this finds their own path of righteousness and justice, striving to ensure that our actions resonate with the perfect example set by the Lord.

Let us aspire to perfection in our deeds, embracing the courage of Paul as we acknowledge our shortcomings and sins.

“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost”(1 Timothy 1:15 ESV).

Perfection is beyond the reach of any of us, and even the most devout on this earth commit sins. However, by adhering to the teachings of Jesus and honouring His sacrifice for us, may we all aspire to attain it and earnestly work to avoid sinning intentionally after coming to know the truth, as seen in Hebrews 10:19-31,

“The Full Assurance of Faith

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, ‘Vengeance is mine; I will repay.’ And again, ‘The Lord will judge his people.’ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Let us not forget dear friends, that judgment is inevitable for us all, and may we amend our ways to bring delight to our Lord. When we sin, let us earnestly pray for His infinite mercy, for His compassion is boundless.

Our sweet Jesus wishes to correct us, save us, and wash His mercy over us; He even extended His mercy to those who put Him to death when He said in Luke 23:34, “And Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.’”

We must, therefore, reflect on the gravity of our actions when we have been made aware of our transgressions. It is in this awareness that we find the call to repentance, urging us to turn back to Him with contrite hearts, seeking His loving embrace and the cleansing power of His mercy.

In each moment we are presented with the choice to embody the teachings and characteristics of Christ, or turn away from them.

The saying "What would Jesus do?" (WWJD) is often mentioned in a light-hearted manner, but I believe it serves as a crucial guideline that can reshape our actions and interactions. If we consider whether Jesus would engage in certain behaviours, and decide that He would not, then we, as His followers, should also avoid such actions. This contemplation extends to our dietary choices, particularly when faced with the decision to support the slaughter of God's creatures or to opt for the wholesome foods that God has graciously provided for us. In this light, we must ask ourselves: what would Jesus do? By aligning our decisions with the compassionate and respectful values that Jesus exemplified, we not only honour His teachings but also contribute to a more ethical and humane world that God desires.

While navigating a world filled with moral ambiguity, the influence of those around us can make it challenging to uphold our values. However, we must resist the temptation to adhere to the prevalent practices of society, or seek validation at the expense of our fundamental values; our foremost aim should be to live in a way that honours Jesus.



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

A special soul who lived in a way that honoured Jesus is Saint Francis of Assisi.

I was not familiar with this Saint before writing this book, and being shown all the good deeds he accomplished during his earthly life is yet another wonderful blessing from God. I am so thankful that He provides us with such inspiring souls to guide and watch over us.

This caring and compassionate man illuminated the world with truth and kindness. He is a reminder that, no matter how lost the world may seem, there is always hope, goodness and beauty surrounding us.

His deep love for all creation was central to his ministry and I wish to share a quote that reflects his strong conviction about humanity's responsibility to exhibit compassion towards all of God's creatures:

“Not to hurt our humble brethren is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission - to be of service to them whenever they require it.” - Saint Francis of Assisi

He regarded animals with the same reverence that God does, acknowledging their worth as beings created by Him, blessed by Him, and looked after by Him, just as humanity is.

Another enlightening quote from him demonstrates how our treatment of animals is a reflection of our moral character.

“If you have men who will exclude any of God’s creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men.” - Saint Francis of Assisi

If we disregard the need to show kindness to all of God's creations, particularly to those who are suffering, it is a vital signal for us to look within and strive for personal growth with God's assistance until we foster compassion for all.

Jesus illustrated care and dignity towards all, and we are urged to emulate His actions in our daily lives. By adopting His compassionate approach, we can turn our world into a place of perfect peace. So, let us endeavor to serve as instruments of God to foster this peace, as expressed in Saint Francis's prayer for peace.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is error, the truth;
where there is doubt, the faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

In addition to his compassionate teachings, he once said something that really touched me:

"If God can work through me, He can work through anyone."

I too, am just an ordinary, imperfect person who found life through Christ, and I sincerely hope that anyone who encounters this work will feel encouraged to open their hearts and see that God can work through them as well. Together, we can all spread peace, love, pardon, truth, faith, hope, light and joy for His glory.



TRUTH IN PLACE OF ERROR

When God first revealed Himself to me, as I knelt before Him, still burdened by my sins, He called me His daughter of thunder. Yet, in the midst of my suffering, He still called me to write this book, assuring me that by doing His will, I will, upon its completion, be a bride of peace - a title I take very seriously.

Now, as an instrument of my Lord and a messenger of peace, I aspire to spread truth in place of error, no matter the cost.

A parable that God has prompted me to share here, is: The Parable of the Weeds.

“The Parable of the Weeds

He put another parable before them, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn”’ (Matthew 13:24-30 ESV).

In this parable, the weeds represent those who disregard or fail to adhere to God's Word. It illustrates that wrongdoing will ultimately face consequences, emphasising the necessity for personal transformation upon realising one is not fulfilling God's will. We must actively choose to align our actions with God's intentions rather than our own desires or societal norms, lest we become like the weeds.

As we grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, let us not be swayed by the errors of others. Instead, let us approach the Scriptures with humility and a yearning for clarity, seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance to reveal the truth and shield us from the dangers of misunderstanding.

Let us use our understanding of Jesus to avoid interpreting certain scriptures in a shallow manner or deliberately decontextualising scriptures to fit our personal desires, which may lead to a grave misapplication of their true teachings.

Let us evaluate all our current behaviors that we have justified through scripture, ensuring they are not leading us to our own destruction.

The essence of each story in the Bible, lies not in the minutiae, but in the overarching lessons and teachings they convey. By prioritising the spiritual truths behind the details, we can cultivate a more profound understanding of how these teachings apply to our lives.

To navigate this complexity, it is essential to concentrate on the fruitful lessons and the broader messages that God seeks to impart through individuals, rather than getting caught up in societal contexts that may have shaped the original writing. It is vital that we allow the Spirit to guide us in living according to the Bible's teachings, focusing on their relevance now, rather than clinging to outdated details that no longer serve us. We must recognise that we are not bound by the circumstances of the past; instead, we should reflect on how Jesus would guide us to apply these teachings now. Our purpose is to become like Jesus, so the question we ought to ask ourselves is; how can we embody the principles of Christ in the situations we face today?

When discussing Paul's letters in 2 Peter 3:16-18, Peter points out the critical importance of advancing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, so that the scriptures can be interpreted correctly:

“There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen” (2 Peter 3:16-18 ESV).

It is essential to understand that God desires us to embrace a sense of peace regarding the complexities of scriptural interpretation. It serves as a reminder that we have been endowed with the Holy Spirit, who guides us toward the truth. Those who have a genuine relationship with Jesus are equipped to discern and resist misleading influences in every aspect of life.

“Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual” (1 Corinthians 2:12-13 ESV).

If you're struggling to discern His will or understand scripture, take a moment to ask God to communicate with you and provide clarity. It's important to seek His guidance rather than relying solely on your own understanding. Let go of any pride or personal desires, and be ready to accept His answers with a willing heart. Embrace the journey of wanting to fulfil His will, choosing truth in place of error, regardless of the outcome or direction you receive.



THE LOST WORD

God urges us to come to know Him. I know I have reiterated this many times, but I cannot overstate its importance: we must not form our understanding of how to live by looking to other humans.

The wisdom of God is a treasure that is readily available to each of us; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Just as God spoke to the world in the beginning, He continues to reach out to us today, offering a personal and intimate experience that is tailored to our individual hearts. This dialogue can take many forms, and it is essential for us to engage in conversation with Him, remaining attentive to His responses.

By dedicating time to prayer and private time with Him, we open ourselves to the myriad of ways in which God may choose to respond, assuring us that He hears our pleas, and desires to connect with us deeply.

Listen attentively to the Holy Spirit that resides within you, and as you grow in your understanding of God, let this relationship inform your decisions across all aspects of life, for it is a matter close to God's heart. Embracing His guidance can lead us away from the pitfalls that have historically beset us, steering us toward a life that reflects His love and purpose.

Jesus lives in us and we live in Him so we already have everything we need to live a godly life.

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:3-8 ESV).

The Bible, while regarded as complete in its teachings, clearly does not encompass every event or lesson from Jesus' life. This is made clear in various scriptures that acknowledge the limitations of the written word in capturing the fullness of His ministry and message.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now” (John 16:12 ESV).

“Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written” (John 21:25 ESV).

“I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face” (3 John 1: 13-14 ESV).

The Bible also references letters that are not included in its texts, such as the one mentioned in Colossians 4:16, highlighting the existence of other writings that once circulated among early Christians.

“And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea” (Colossians 4:16).

Many works from the Early Christian period, though not included in the canon, offer rich insights into the faith and teachings of Jesus. Authenticating these texts can be a daunting task due to the complexities of human nature, but once you have a relationship with Jesus, it becomes much easier to differentiate between truth and fabrication.

Despite my desire to unveil these works, I must have faith in the wisdom of my Lord, and I will not include them, allowing His hand to remain at the forefront of this work and to prevent any controversies over authenticity.

I have, though, been asked to share one small excerpt that originates from Eusebius's Church History, also known as Ecclesiastical History. So this must be of great importance to God and something He wants us to be aware of and contemplate on.

This work is a cornerstone in Christian historiography, detailing the initial growth of Christianity from the time of Jesus through to the early 4th century.

Within it lies evidence of the strong faith, morals and diet of James, referred to as the Brother of the Lord, which were likely quite conventional in the earliest Christian circles.

Friends, as we embark on this journey of discovery, let us stay resolute in our pursuit of truth and knowledge of God, ever mindful of the sacred legacy bequeathed to us by those who preceded us.

“Chapter XXIII.—The Martyrdom of James, who was called the Brother of the Lord.

2. Leading him into their midst they demanded of him that he should renounce faith in Christ in the presence of all the people. But, contrary to the opinion of all, with a clear voice, and with greater boldness than they had anticipated, he spoke out before the whole multitude and confessed that our Saviour and Lord Jesus is the Son of God.

4. “James, the brother of the Lord, succeeded to the government of the Church in conjunction with the apostles. He has been called the Just by all from the time of our Saviour to the present day; for there were many that bore the name of James.

5. He was holy from his mother’s womb; and he drank no wine nor strong drink, nor did he eat flesh. No razor came upon his head; he did not anoint himself with oil, and he did not use the bath.

6. He alone was permitted to enter into the holy place; for he wore not woolen but linen garments. And he was in the habit of entering alone into the temple, and was frequently found upon his knees begging forgiveness for the people, so that his knees became hard like those of a camel, in consequence of his constantly bending them in his worship of God, and asking forgiveness for the people.”

Oh, James the Just, may our faith remain steadfast like yours, even during uncertain times. May we endeavor to follow your example as we aspire to reflect the holiness of your sweet brother Jesus. Please intercede for us, James, as we humbly ask for forgiveness for our unholy ways. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.

Much like James's decision to adopt such a holy lifestyle, historical evidence suggests that many early Christian communities also embraced these principles, including a diet devoid of flesh, a commitment they held with great passion. This choice was not simply a matter of dietary preference but rather a manifestation of their values and spiritual convictions.

Values and spiritual teachings imparted by who? Well, this reality that early Christians, including the Brother of the Lord, adhered to vegetarianism raises a compelling question. If James the Just, who was considered holy from his mother's womb, lived in this manner, what about Jesus, our perfectly pure, morally sinless, and holy Saviour? When analysed in this light, it is very logical to conclude that Jesus would have engaged in the same holy eating habits, aligning His dietary choices with His teachings on morality and compassion. And, if Jesus did indeed advocate for such a lifestyle, it is reasonable to believe He would have actively encouraged it among His followers, reinforcing His messages of love and kindness towards all living beings.

Still, these remain speculative points, and a major reason for the scepticism surrounding this, is that the Bible illustrates Jesus allegedly eating fish and distributing fish to His followers.

While it is tempting to delve into discussions about potential inconsistencies, mistranslations, misinterpretations, and symbolic meanings within these texts, it feels more productive to focus on what can be substantiated. Even if some people question the likelihood of Jesus adhering to a vegetarian lifestyle during His earthly existence, the more crucial question is whether He would be one in our present day? Certainly, Jesus would always choose the most moral, ethical, and righteous way to eat, which today would mean adopting a plant-based diet.

It is this Jesus who seems to be lost in our world.

This message from God certainly calls for a revival of these foundational practices, emphasising the significance of compassion in our choices and the need to reconnect with a way of eating that imitates Jesus, and respects the sanctity of all life.

Unfortunately, few people appear to reflect on Him and strive to emulate Him in their eating and drinking practices, actions we partake in multiple times daily. The Word has been dwelt among us, but His teachings, which are essential for our salvation, appear to have been overlooked in this aspect of life.

Even if Jesus did consume fish, this cannot justify the unethical meat and dairy industries established by humans, which devastate God's creation and all that exists within it.

Like I touched upon before, we must approach scripture with a mindset aimed at fulfilling God's will and learning from Him, rather than one that seeks to justify our own choices. Each verse should be examined not for how it can be manipulated to support our desires, but for the greater spiritual truths it imparts.

So, let us all endeavour to reconnect with Him, embracing God's will with a renewed spirit, a softened heart, and a mind willing to confront our faults and change to mirror His likeness.

In doing so, may we all avoid the temptation of taking our eating into our own hands, and instead trust and follow the instructions Our Father has given us. Our Creator has provided a world that is both fruitful and harmonious, with food granted to all His creatures in its rightful season. A world that showcases the peace and harmony of Heaven. An ideal beautifully expressed by Pope St. Clement I in his Letter to the Corinthians which I shall end this chapter with.

“The First Epistle of Clement

Chapter 20. The Peace and Harmony of the Universe.

The heavens, revolving under His government, are subject to Him in peace. Day and night run the course appointed by Him, in no wise hindering each other. The sun and moon, with the companies of the stars, roll on in harmony according to His command, within their prescribed limits, and without any deviation. The fruitful earth, according to His will, brings forth food in abundance, at the proper seasons, for man and beast and all the living beings upon it, never hesitating, nor changing any of the ordinances which He has fixed. The unsearchable places of abysses, and the indescribable arrangements of the lower world, are restrained by the same laws. The vast unmeasurable sea, gathered together by His working into various basins, never passes beyond the bounds placed around it, but does as He has commanded. For He said, Thus far shall you come, and your waves shall be broken within you. Job 38:11 The ocean, impassable to man and the worlds beyond it, are regulated by the same enactments of the Lord. The seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter, peacefully give place to one another. The winds in their several quarters fulfil, at the proper time, their service without hindrance. The ever-flowing fountains, formed both for enjoyment and health, furnish without fail their breasts for the life of men. The very smallest of living beings meet together in peace and concord. All these the great Creator and Lord of all has appointed to exist in peace and harmony; while He does good to all, but most abundantly to us who have fled for refuge to His compassions through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom be glory and majesty for ever and ever. Amen.”



THE LOST WORLD

We live in a world that has fallen, having strayed far from its intended course, a planet marked by our failure to adhere to God’s Word, the Lost Word we were unaware we were meant to follow. The evidence of our disconnection is all around us, proof that we have been deceived by subtle seductions, leading us away from the ideals of a harmonious existence.

Yet, in spite of our waywardness, we are not forsaken; God has not abandoned us and continues to strive to teach us through fatherly discipline that we should learn from.

Often, we encounter lessons that are meant to steer us back to a state of grace, and it is vital that we recognise these lessons and learn from them, as they are the key to restoring our relationship with God.

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.
For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.’

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:5-14 ESV).

“See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, ‘Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.’ This phrase, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:25-29 ESV).

The consumption of meat has come under increasing scrutiny in our current world for a variety of reasons, particularly concerning its impact on health. Numerous studies have linked meat consumption to various health issues, including cancer and other chronic diseases. And, the detrimental effects of eating meat extend beyond individual health; they also contribute to broader public health crises. For instance, the rise of zoonotic diseases has been attributed to the practices within the meat industry, highlighting the urgent need to reconsider our dietary choices for the sake of our well-being and that of future generations.

Let us then perceive the discipline of our Lord, which is ultimately for our benefit, and realise that consuming animal flesh is contrary to His intentions. The repercussions we encounter arise because our bodies, designed by Him, are not suited to consume the creatures we were meant to steward. God has abundantly supplied us with the food we are intended to eat, just as He does for every creature, revealing the beautiful interdependence and flawless operation of creation.

Moreover, the environmental consequences of the meat and dairy industries are alarming. These industries are significant contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and water pollution, all of which exacerbate climate change and threaten biodiversity. Considering our responsibility to care for the Earth, this practice is definitely not in line with God's will.

Even with these factors aside, the ethical implications should be enough for us to stand against it, and in contemplating these issues, we should reflect on the teachings of Jesus and the values He espoused. The principles of compassion, mercy, and peace do not match up with the practices of the meat and dairy industries, ultimately undermining a life dedicated to His teachings.

As we evaluate our choices, it is important to consider if our actions align with the teachings of our Lord and the love and kindness He exhibited to all. Ultimately, embracing a more compassionate and sustainable lifestyle is not solely a personal choice; it is a testament to our faith.

Friends, if our beloved Jesus would not condone it, we should not partake in it.

God's will, no matter how improbable it may seem, will come to fruition, and the return of Jesus is imminent. The question is, when He arrives will you be deemed the weeds or the wheat? The decision lies with you.

“So then each of us will give an account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12 ESV).





THE KING OF MERCY

Jesus, our King of Mercy, offers a path of redemption that is always open, no matter how far one may have strayed.

It is never too late to turn back to Him and seek forgiveness. His mercy is boundless, and He longs to rescue and heal every one of His lost sheep.

“For this people's heart has grown dull,
and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed,
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them”

(Matthew 13:15-17 ESV).

Unfortunately, some choose to remain blind to their own shortcomings, believing that change is impossible. I sincerely hope that you, dear reader, are not among them. Only those with a compassionate heart will truly understand the depth of this message, and I will keep you in my prayers, intervening in your journey toward transformation.

As you navigate the challenges of breaking free from long-standing habits and sins, remember that you are not alone. The Lord is always with you to grant you the strength you need, especially when the burden feels too heavy.

“Cast your burden on the LORD,
and he will sustain you;
he will never permit
the righteous to be moved”

(Psalm 55:22 ESV).

As I neared the conclusion of this task for the Lord, I sought His guidance, asking if there was anything more He wished for me to convey.

His final message, intended for both me and you in this journey, dear friends, is: “I have given you everything you need.”

It seems that the only thing left is to have faith in His guidance, obey, and let His mercy direct you toward a brighter and more rewarding path.

Accepting wisdom, and following God's will necessitates being open to the messages He conveys, often through the actions and words of others. He is still speaking; so come to know Him and hear Him so that you do not deny yourself the gift of salvation.

“Warning Against Neglecting Salvation

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it” (Hebrews 2:1 ESV).

“A Rest for the People of God

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,

‘Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
on the day of testing in the wilderness,
where your fathers put me to the test
and saw my works for forty years.
Therefore I was provoked with that generation,
and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart;
they have not known my ways.’
As I swore in my wrath,
‘They shall not enter my rest.’

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said,

‘Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion”’

(Hebrews 3:7-15 ESV).



CONCLUDING PRAYER

Oh Lord, we come before You, seeking Your guidance and support.

With the newfound understanding You have provided, we recognise that any contribution to the suffering of Your creatures is a sin, but one that has been normalised in our society.

We can now see it is a practice that casts a dark shadow over the world, overshadowing the compassion and empathy that should illuminate our actions. We acknowledge that Your teachings are clear and straightforward: if we trust and obey You, Lord, our deeds will align with goodness and righteousness.

Father, we ask for Your forgiveness, for any ignorance that may have clouded our judgment. As we take time to reflect on our past choices, we earnestly pray for Your mercy and for transformative change within us.

May this journey lead to the healing of Your children and all creation, inspiring us to adopt only holy practices that promote kindness and virtue. Let us strive to move forward in peace, embracing a way of living that is just and loving, aligning our lives with Your will.

Lord, as we desire to progress, please give us the strength we need to avoid falling back into habits that cause harm. We ask that You help us to recognise the adversaries that seek to lead us astray. We open our hearts and ears to Your voice, pleading for Your continued guidance as we seek to create a brighter future.

Allow us to walk humbly with You, Lord, as we pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

GO FORTH TO LIVE AND LOVE LIKE JESUS

Through my personal journey towards eating as God intended, I've discovered that when I set aside the desires of the flesh and the cravings of the sinful body, and instead strive earnestly to live in accordance with the spirit, I feel the most pure and alive. My mind is more receptive to the guidance of The Holy Spirit and the will of God, and I have never felt closer to Jesus than I do now.

The only way to avoid sin is to live and love like Jesus did.

Therefore, with your new knowledge, do not allow our true Jesus to be hidden by the enemy's tactics; seek Him, understand Him, and follow His path. Ask the Spirit to guide you to the truth.

He is returning soon!

While we await His arrival, we must embrace the opportunity to collaborate with Him to manifest His kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven.

Know that I am interceding for each of you, praying for God's mercy to shine upon you and the whole world.

Peace be with you, friends.



Thank you for reading



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