

*Living in God's
Tree of Life*

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

All of us have to guard against knowing God in our temperament, not being transformed in our character. Let me say that again, very carefully: *We must guard against knowing God in our temperament without being transformed in our character.* Many people are deeply deceived when it comes to understanding the human soul and the individual essence of people. Recently we considered the nature of temperament and character.

My temperament is how I react in my soul under pressure. You may or may not have had a very good temperament before you were saved. You may be very stubborn, selfish, and secretly overbearing at home because of your temperament. Then suddenly, when your temperament begins to fear God, you seek to have God in your life. Still, some people never go beyond knowing God in the limitations of their temperaments.

For example, my wife and I have a friend who is a multimillionaire. He is like a yo-yo. If he doesn't have something, he wants it. When he gets it, he doesn't want it. If he loses it, he wants it back again. He doesn't know a need or desire beyond his temperament. He doesn't have a transformed character; the *whole* man has never been converted.

For a long time, Peter was not saved beyond his temperament. His temperament was impulsive; he wasn't saved beyond his temperament. His temperament could be very good; it could contribute to the church. It could even go soul winning and be very nice to be around, because it had been trained by knowledge. But Peter had not allowed the Cross to take over his temperament (Luke 22:31-32).

When the Cross comes in and a man begins to be filled with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, his character is transformed, producing a spiritual temperament. This is living in God's Tree of Life.

Chapter One

TO HIM WHO OVERCOMES

In Revelation 2 and 3, reference is made to the churches of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. To each of these seven churches, God said, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” And, to every church God said, “To him that overcometh, I will give....” In each case, He addressed only a remnant of believers—*just* the remnant. That’s all.

The church at Ephesus had left their first love. The people there had many wonderful qualities. They loved soul winning. They loved integrity. But they had ‘lost’ their first love. So, God said, “To him that overcometh”—if he will hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church—“will I give to eat of the tree of life.” God promised access to the Tree of Life in the midst of the garden of paradise for all eternity (Revelation 2:7).

I want you to really pay attention to this. Let's let the truth make us free! Let the truth set us free *indeed* (John 8:32). When we pray for each other, let's allow God to make us right, as never before.

The Tree of Life Revealed

In Proverbs 3:13-18, the Tree of Life is revealed as wisdom. The Tree of Life is knowing precise doctrine and applying it by faith in precise details, using rebound if you fail, and doing everything in the faithful eye of God's life. The Tree of Life is the historical, dogmatic, absolute, irrevocable fact that Christ died on the cross, bearing your sins, my sins—the sins of the whole world—and paying for them all.

There are three categories of sin. *Iniquity* is the pre-Creation sin of Satan—rebellion against the characteristics of God in relationship to the details of life. When I rebel against the plan of God, I'm in iniquity. When I go out and have a ball in my flesh, I'm in *personal sin*. When I crusade against a man or a ministry of God, then I enter into *governmental evil* with Satan.

People in iniquity can be forgiven, but most of the time they enter into crusades with small groups of people. Personal sins, on the other

hand, can lead a person into the government of evil, where he becomes infected all over; he becomes a slave of Satan's government and stays under it for sublimation in order to meet his emotional needs. (Remember Psalm 32:1, 2.)

The Tree of Life is Calvary *after* the fact of Jesus Christ's death and my death with Him, after the fact of His burial and my burial with Him, after the fact of His resurrection and my spiritual resurrection with Him, and after the fact of His ascension and my ascension with Him. This is the Tree of Life.

Don't ever forget what the Tree of Life is. Don't ever say with familiarity, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live" (Galatians 2:20a). Don't ever be familiar with that!

Crucified and Buried

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not [be a slave to] sin" (Romans 6:6).

We are planted together in the likeness of His death, raised in the likeness of His resurrection. Therefore, the Word of God says so clearly that we reckon ourselves "dead *indeed* unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our

Lord” (Romans 6:11). (We see that word *indeed* again).

Now, we are to yield our members as instruments of righteousness unto God, instead of instruments of *un*righteousness unto the old sin nature. We’ve been freed from being slaves to sin, so we bear the fruit of the righteous (Romans 6:13-22).

A Tree of Resurrection Life

Consider this carefully; this is a crucial message for your life. Only a remnant of believers really understand it.

What does it mean to “take up our cross daily?” It doesn’t mean suffering. It doesn’t mean a burden. It doesn’t mean being in a wheelchair, or losing a loved one. These things have nothing to do with the Cross. To take up our cross daily means we live in God’s Tree of Resurrection Life, recognizing our co-crucifixion with Jesus Christ as a fact.

Some folks have tried to bury people alive so that they will die. But you can’t bury a living person; it’s against the law! Only dead people can be buried. On my first trip to Moscow, a group of us saw the body of Lenin. It has been preserved for more than fifty years. That man is

dead and *not* buried, just as many of us in the Christian life today. We died with Christ, but we refuse to be buried.

We don't want to bury other people's pasts. We feel very self-righteous when we can remember the bad things someone has done. We may even use those things against that person, even if they're not true. Yet, every Christian was crucified and buried with Jesus Christ, pronounced dead with Him by God Almighty.

Imagine someone going to the graveyard, digging up a corpse, and saying, "Do you know what you did to me in your lifetime? You owed me money! Go back to the dust." A lot of good that would do. But, Christians are always digging up skeletons, even though Jesus Christ crucified our old sin nature, bore our sins in His body, condemned our sin in His flesh, and buried us.

God is telling us to live in Someone who has been *raised* from the dead (Romans 6:13), instead of living in sin. We are to live as one who's been raised from the dead, so we can experience a spiritual resurrection.

Chapter Two

RESURRECTION VICTORY

The Tree of Life has nothing to do with the Tree of Knowledge, where man, for the first time, entered into self-consciousness without the manifestation of God's provision or presence. When the soul grows rapidly in uncontrolled knowledge, a person can either go crazy or become partially insane, arrogant, proud, a religious hypocrite, or very confused.

What did Jesus mean in Revelation 2 and 3 when He said, "If you overcome..."?

Throughout eternity, we will frequently celebrate in the paradise of heaven, a garden made just for celebrations and godly parties. Everyone will have access to that garden—the most beautiful, precious garden ever known to man. We'll have our glorified bodies as we go into that sacred garden—the paradise of God.

In Revelation 2:7 and 22:14, however, the Lord describes who will be allowed to eat of the Tree of Life in the midst of the garden:

First, it will be those who have been under the right pastor-teacher—not just any pastor-teacher, but the *right* one.

Second, they are active members of the right local assembly.

Third, they receive Finished Work teaching.

Fourth, they understand categorical doctrine.

Fifth, they love Body life.

Sixth, they understand the Tree of Life.

Seventh, in their hearts, attitudes, and compassion, these people are committed to evangelism in their Jerusalem and throughout the world.

Eighth, they live in prayer and praise, worshipping God in spirit and in truth.

Ninth, they have a ministry of edification.

These people partake of the Tree of Life.

Hundreds and thousands will be in the garden of paradise, but only those who fulfill Revelation 2:7 and Romans 6:17 will be allowed to partake of the Tree of Life. They will be given special eternal intellects, with wisdom about eternity that no one else will have. Many in Ephesus couldn't receive it, because they had left their first love.

Living “from” the Cross

The word *overcome* used in Revelation 2 and 3 is *nikao* in the Greek text, which really means *victory*—even *winner* isn't the best translation. Here's how the phrase should read: "To him who will accept, once and for all, the post-resurrection and post-ascension victory...." This person stands in grace (Romans 5:2) and has access to God through His glory. This person understands that Jesus Christ literally did it all. Every morning, he takes up his cross. So, it clearly means *victory*. The believer is so victorious that he becomes someone who can be delivered unto the Cross so that life may flow out to others. "For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh" (2 Corinthians 4:11).

Oh, listen! The Tree of Life isn't what people think it is. Living in the Tree of Life means that I have a victory that is already won. I walk *from* the place of victory, and with it, and in it—*from* faith *to* faith, *from* glory *to* glory, and *from* grace *to* grace.

Living in the Tree of Life does not mean that I walk *toward* the Cross, trying to straighten out my marriage, heal my emotions, or get delivered from problems with drugs, alcohol, sin, or lust.

A person who does this may know the Word of God and the Finished Work but it is only “knowledge”—theological concepts and human perceptions. He walks *toward* victory, which is deception. But, a true believer walks *from* victory. A true believer doesn’t walk toward grace, he walks *from* the empty grave with the resurrection power of grace. Acts 4:31-33 says that resurrection power was there in the upper room, and “great grace was upon them all.”

The Mystery of Iniquity

I don’t know why; it is a mystery of iniquity that we cannot submit to what has been won for us, once and for all. We believe Hebrews 10:10 and 10:14: “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all....For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.” We believe these verses, but, for some unknown reason, our problems are not solved.

Still, I see it over and over. I read it in letters, I hear it on the phone: “We love your tapes; we love your ministry; we love our local church; *but....*” For some unknown mystery of iniquity, these greater grace Christians can’t seem to realize that we are to go *from* a victory that is ours

forever.

In John 20:2, Mary Magdalene was weeping, yet the grave was empty. I know she didn't understand it, God bless her. Christ was resurrected—and she's weeping. She had been *told* that He would come forth from the grave. But she's confused, weeping, and the tomb is *empty*. She's weeping at an empty tomb.

Have you been weeping over problems lately? Have you been trying to “get to the Cross,” working out hard-to-settle crucial issues you can never settle anyway?

In Luke 24:18-24, Jesus was walking with two men going from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a place known for lacking peace. Cleopas didn't know he was walking with Jesus when he said to Him, “You're not aware of what's been going on in Jerusalem? About this Jesus (who, by the way, never did come forth from the grave), you're not aware of that?”

Cleopas was walking with the resurrected, glorified Christ; and yet, he was living in past defeat, with the wrong frame of reference, until his eyes were opened and he saw Jesus' hands passing the bread during communion (Luke 24:30-31). Jesus acted as if he were going to keep walking by; but instead, He went in and had

communion with them (Luke 24:28-29). Very interesting!

Walk by Faith, Not by Sight

In John 20:25, Thomas said, “Except I shall see in his hand the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Eight days later, Thomas was still walking by his feelings, by human reasoning, and by sight—just as some of us do—when Jesus came through the wall in His glorified body. Jesus didn’t go to Peter. He didn’t go to John or James. He went right to Thomas.

Have you ever felt as if your pastor doesn’t minister to you the way he ministers to someone else? The pastor goes to the person who needs him the most, to the one who’s doing the worst. Many times, I am led by God to do some “unusual” things because of what I know about certain people.

Jesus went only to Thomas that day. He said, “OK, Thomas, I wasn’t there, but I heard what you said. Touch My hands. Touch My side. Put your hand inside of the wound. It’s fresh. My wounds are fresh.” And Thomas said, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28).

In Luke 24:17 some disciples were sad because of living in the past. In John 20:24-25, Thomas was sad because he hadn't listened properly. But now, a man who lived by his reason, sight, and feelings was converted.

Chapter Three

RESTORED TO SERVE

To me, the funniest scene is in John 21. I'll never figure it out. Peter had already seen the resurrected Jesus twice. But, in John 21:3, Peter said, "I'm going fishing!"

Now, in Luke 5, Peter was told never to go fishing—for fish—again. Yet, Peter rebelled. "I'm going fishing!" Why? Condemnation. Shame. No spiritual self-image. Peter knew Christ was resurrected, but he was so ashamed. He remembered how he had denied Jesus and how the Lord turned and looked upon him (Luke 22:61-62). Jesus turned to Peter to show him compassion with His eyes, and Peter went out and wept bitterly, but he couldn't forgive himself.

Please hear me. No matter what you have done, *please accept forgiveness*. If you don't accept forgiveness, you will stay on the painful, 'death' side of the Cross. But if you'll accept total forgiveness so that you can't even recall your sin because you are so filled with the Spirit—you're on the Resurrection side.

Death totally took care of what you have done, but it also took care of who you are. Burial means God doesn't want anyone to bring up the past. Have no frame of reference with things that are dead. We live as those who have been raised from the dead as brand-new creatures, a brand new creation. Old things are definitely passed away forever; everything has become new.

A Beautiful Fish Story

Peter was ashamed. But, I think the sweetest story in the Gospels happened in John 21, when Peter went fishing all night and caught nothing. Let me illustrate it. Perhaps John said, "Peter, left side. Catch anything?" It's four o'clock in the morning. They're all tired. "Nothing," Peter says. So they cast the nets on the right side. Then, the left side. Then, the right side. They go back to the left side. (That's what fishermen do.) Still, nothing.

Then Peter said, "John, take over. I'm tired."

Peter was backslidden, guilty, ashamed, disobedient, and so tired. Even the fish would not come into the nets because the fishermen were away from their Creator.

"John," Peter said, "did you catch any-

thing?”

“No.”

“Cast the net over to the other side.” Peter waited. “Did you catch anything?”

“No.”

Finally, the sun came up, and the voice came from the shore: “Children, do you have any meat?”

Peter thought it was a Galilaean.

The voice said, “Cast your net on the right side!”

You know what happened: They couldn’t haul the net for the abundance of the catch, and John knew instantly who it was on the shore.

“It is the Lord!” he cried. “*It is the Lord.*”

Peter jumped from the boat and splashed to the shore ahead of everyone else—guilt and all. He was ashamed, but it was early morning; he was tired, sick of defeat, sick of frustration, and sick of guilt. Peter went to shore.

Of course, Jesus had His own fish; but He took some of their fish and cooked breakfast for the disciples. Then, three times Jesus asked “Peter, Do you love me more than these? Feed My sheep.... Feed My lambs.... Feed My sheep” (John 21:15, 16, 17).

Commissioned Afresh

The Lord recommissioned this backslider to preach. He recommissioned this guilty, sad specimen of an apostle. Jesus related to Peter and his sins from the resurrection side of the Cross. Peter was still living over there, going toward the cross instead of living *from* it. But Jesus treated him from the resurrection side, saying, “OK, Peter, I’ve paid for your foolishness, and you really won’t become what you should be until you’re older. But, that’s all right. You’ll make your mistakes, but feed my sheep. Feed my lambs. Grow as you go, and go as you grow.”

Chapter Four

THE OVERCOMER'S REWARDS

Throughout the remainder of Revelation chapters 2 and 3, the Lord clearly spells out the rewards that will be given to the remnant of overcomers in each of the remaining six churches.

“And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation....be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life....He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death” (Revelation 2:8-11).

The church of Smyrna was told, “You’re not going to be hurt in the second death. You’ve suffered mightily; but, I’ll give you the crown of life.” The crown of life is a fantastic decoration given to the believer who suffers without compromising or quitting. The crown of life reveals three kinds of suffering: You suffered for Christ; you suffered with Christ for the Kingdom; and you suffered with your own problems—and,

you didn't quit. You simply said, "I accept the victory by grace through faith. I accept the Cross as a provision for resurrection today. I'll walk by faith and not by sight. I accept the fact that I'm in Christ, hid with Christ in God." Smyrna was a crowd that didn't quit.

Hidden Manna, White Stones

Next, we'll look at the church at Pergamos. Pergamos has a lot to do with Satan: "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is,...where Satan dwelleth" (Revelation 2:13). Jesus Christ spoke about the depths of Satan, meaning, Satan's entrapments, his seductions, his projections, his thought transference, his environment, his supernatural armies, his supernatural administration, his supernatural orchestration, his supernatural invasion of the soul.

But, the Lord said to Pergamos, in Revelation 2:17, "To those who have accepted My victory, I will give hidden manna: I will give you doctrine that is precise, categorical, and so fantastic that the devil can't touch your mind." In Exodus 16, it was manna that came down as bread from heaven. Hidden manna is the Word of God given by the Holy Spirit. It is received by meek-

ness in faith.

“...And [I] will give him a white stone...” That means that you become purified completely (Acts 15:9) by faith. “...And in the stone a new name written....” Nobody will know it but you and me. In other words, God said, “I’m going to have a personal relationship with you on the basis of your obedience to the Finished Work. You’re going to have a name that is going to be so intimate, just between us. You and I will be the only ones who will know your heavenly name—all because you walked on the resurrection side of the Cross instead of living in all the strife of the other side.”

Authority to Rule: The Morning Star

The Word of God says to the church at Thyatira, “And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:...and I will give him the morning star” (Revelation 2:26-28)—to him who is a victorious Christian, overcoming through the Cross, death, burial, and resurrection. To the Christian who is victorious through the grace of God, the love of God, the mercy of God, and through the Resurrection power of God, Christ will give authority to rule over nations. Even as

Jesus received authority from His Father to rule over nations, He said, “If you'll just walk on the resurrection side of My cross, you will rule with me, and not over *one* nation, but over *nations*; and, I'll give you divine authority to rule.”

I don't want to fool around with pettiness or with the flesh. I don't want to fight a battle that's been won, nor deal with something that's been condemned. I don't want to live in the old life that's been crucified, nor dig up what has been buried and live in vain. With God's authority, I want to rule over nations.

Garments of Light

In Revelation 3:1-6, the Lord deals with the church of Sardis: “I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead”—you have a name, but you're dead. Many churches have a “name,” a reputation, but they're as dead as they can be. Watch this:

“Thou hast a few names...which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white [a bright, fantastic light]....He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment [white garments of light]” (Revelation 3:4-5a). In other words, if anybody overcomes in this church of Sardis, I will give him degrees of

glorified light over his glorified body.

That means that if you can accept victory in this type of dead church (it was a devastatingly dead church), then every time you suffer and glorify Christ, every time you go through a trial and become positive in your volition, He will give you a degree of light in your soul and in your glorified body that will never be taken from you.

Degrees of light! You will have degree upon degree of light, in 1 Peter 1:7-9—and you'll get all of these degrees of light in your soul body (which would go directly to heaven if you were to die now). At the same time, you will receive all these degrees of light in your glorified body. Indeed, you will be ruling with Jesus Christ.

Pillars of the Church

In Revelation 3:7-13, we have the church of Philadelphia. In verse 10, “thou hast kept the word of [God’s] patience.” They had a “little strength,” meaning, divine strength, and they “kept the word of [God’s] patience.” And God gave a promise there that was written to all Christians (not just to the apostles, mister! as some people misunderstand, misquote, and mis-teach). He was speaking to the church of

Philadelphia.

“To him that overcometh...,” He said, “If you walk on the victorious side of the Finished Work and live in that realm where I cause you to triumph—where you are *more* than a conqueror, because I love you and you receive My love—then I will write your name in the pillar of the temple. I’ll write My name upon you, and I’ll write the city of God upon you, and you will go out no more” (cf. Revelation 3:12).

If you study this in context, the Lord was saying to the church of Philadelphia that in the New Jerusalem, there will be two things written about the believer who keeps the Word, who walks on the Finished Work side of the Cross, who takes up his resurrection power, identifying in the purpose, plan, and Person of Christ and the provision of God’s grace. First, God writes the story of that believer’s salvation, then, a story of his life on earth and how his name became a part of the temple of God for all eternity. Read it for yourself, in Revelation 3:12. That’s the word to the church of Philadelphia.

The Overcomers of Laodicea

Finally, we hear what the Spirit is saying to the church of Laodicea—the lukewarm church

that was neither hot nor cold (Revelation 3:14-22). It had been hot, but became cold. They were saved, but grew cold. They did not live in overt sins; they just never received the Word of God in meekness. They lived in familiarity, in atmospheric spirits; they were carnal, materialistic, and worldly.

Jesus says, "Listen, I am at the door, knocking. If any man open the door, I'll come in and sup with him, and he with Me. Together we will have a banquet with doctrine. And, what's more," He said, "I will grant him to sit on my Father's throne with me, even as I was granted to sit on my Father's throne."

He said, "In this Laodicean church, if you happen to be a Christian who lives in the victory that has already been won, you will sit with Me upon my Father's throne." Now that's pretty good!

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:4).

Chapter 5

DEFEATING THE ACCUSER

In Revelation 12:9-11, I read that the Devil, that old serpent, is out to deceive the whole world; he accuses the brethren from morning to evening. Satan constantly accuses, and he tries to frustrate the purpose of God by accusations. But, the Bible also says that though he may try to deceive the whole world, “they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb.” Do you see it? The blood of the Lamb. The blood of the Lamb. They became conquerors by the blood of the Lamb! *Conquerors*—by the blood of the Lamb, “and by the word of their *testimony*,” which means, the characteristics of Christ.

Every city is ruled by a specialized host of demons (Daniel 10; Ephesians 6:12). Wherever you are called in God’s perfect geographic will, be careful that you don’t make light of the characteristic sin that targets the region. For example, here in Las Vegas, you have to be careful

that you don't make jokes about gambling. This is sin city, mister!—sin city! Obviously, there are many other places that are also “sin cities.” And thank God, He has servants here; God bless you. As you serve God, you're right in the will of God. But, remember where you are. Don't ever trifle with words. Don't live in foolish jesting. This is an evil, wicked, unbelievably hell-bound city. Multitudes are here.

This city will be judged just like Sodom and Gomorrah. Thank God for the Christians who are going to address the remnant, those who will be saved. Certainly, many have been saved, and many have tremendous needs. You are in the perfect will of God. But I want to say this:

“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb....” You need boldness. You need a precise purpose, a precise plan, a very precise strategy, a precise prayer life, a precise light, a precise love, a precise patience, a precise understanding, a precise application of doctrine to be able to overcome. Enter into the Finished Work resurrection side of the Cross. Operate from the place of victory so you can invade the areas saturated with demonic traps and seduction.

God hates iniquity. He loves righteousness, but He hates iniquity (Psalm 45:7). God cannot

even look upon sin (Habakkuk 1:13). He is holy. And when I'm filled with the Holy Spirit, I will not play games with trivial language, foolish jesting, and inappropriate little remarks among my friends. I will want to confess Jesus and be separated unto the integrity of God's nature, the integrity of God's purity, the integrity of God's character.

To one of those seven churches, Jesus said, "Because you're victorious, I'll confess you to the Father" (cf. Revelation 3:5). Another church suffered more than the others, for "ten days," speaking of the ten separate periods of history appointed to them. Before the Father, they will receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

Thinking on Things Above

Here is a most beautiful principle to understand: "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have all been made to drink into one Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). Therefore, we are members of His body, flesh, and bones (Ephesians 5:30). "But, he that is joined

unto the Lord is one spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:17). Christ is the head, and we are His body (Ephesians 1:22-23). Watch how this goes:

We’re in union with the Conqueror, that One who has conquered all things, and that’s why we’re more than conquerors! We’re in union with Him. All we have to do is to set our affection, our minds, on things above, moment by moment (Colossians 3:2). “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7).

So, set your mind on things above—things above!—and let your conversation be in heaven (Philippians 3:20). I’ve watched what happens when Christians talk carelessly. Our conversation *must* be from heaven—not from a worldly, cosmic advantage, but from heaven, “from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.” We walk by faith, moment by moment, and we keep being filled with the Holy Spirit. God keeps us by His ability, by His power, by His presence, by His omniscience, by His omnipotence, by His omnipresence (1 Peter 1:5).

God keeps His children from falling (Jude 24). If you understand that, you will not be careless nor reckless. You’ll be a man or a woman who has made a decision, through an eternal purpose, to live inside the Kingdom of God,

with that Kingdom controlling your inner soul.
This is something to get excited about!

Change with a Purpose

Ametamelatos is a verbal adjective in the Greek, defined as something that is done “without change of purpose,” which brings no repentance. Without a change of purpose, there is, therefore, no repentance. Judas cried, but he didn’t repent. Esau cried, but he didn’t repent. Oh, they were sorry; they wept; but they didn’t repent. Judas eventually killed himself, and he went to his own place—*hell* (Acts 1:25).

Consider this carefully. *Ametamelatos* signifies that no matter how much the truth is acknowledged, there’s no change in purpose. Without a change in purpose, a person’s priorities, habits, relationships, strategy, and tactical warfare will not be right.

Acts 20:21 says our repentance must be toward God, and our faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” The word for repentance is *metanoia*, which means a change, or turning, of the mind toward God. Then comes “faith toward Jesus Christ.” We let *God* turn us. We let Him change us—and it happens on the resurrection side of the Cross.

CONCLUSION

There are many denominations and belief systems, including legalism, that preach the Finished Work but do not live from the resurrection side of the Cross. Oh, they love an occasional message on the resurrection side, but they live always working toward victory. They're working toward deliverance, toward changes, using Finished Work "language" with no results.

We were crucified.

We were condemned.

We were buried.

Our lives have been paid for, bought with a price, once for all. The history of Adam is over and now we are on the resurrection side. There is One who has raised people from the dead, and He will again. By the grace of God, that same Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is enough to quicken our mortal bodies.

The problem we face is that too many Christians have become familiar with their fallen per-

sonalities and their natural temperaments, saying, “Oh, that’s just a part of being human.” Shame on you! I don’t want to hear that. Yes, you are human. But we are to live as people who have faced an empty tomb, people who have the power of divine ability, the power of God that can make a man live forever and give him a perfect glorified body.

Let’s have new minds every morning, through the mercies and compassion of God. Let’s have new lives, new beginnings, new hearts, new motives, new premises, new pre-suppositions, new conclusions, new friendships, and new relationships out of the old ones.

Leave the old-ness of the ‘letter’ and simply live as a new creature in the new creation from the New Covenant with a new life.

Divine justice cannot forsake the integrity of God’s righteousness in the believer. Let God permeate and penetrate your human soul with this truth.